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Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	DWR
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	4VAC15-240
VAC Chapter title(s)	Game: Turkey
Action title	Ch. 240 - Aug. 2025 off-cycle
Final agency action date	10/23/2025
Date this document prepared	10/30/2025

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

Section 70:

Final amendments to the section remove the cap of two turkeys maximum that could be harvested in the fall (thus increasing fall opportunity to all 3 turkey tags if desired), and places a limit of only 1 beardless (female) turkey that can be harvested in a license year season in order to protect population numbers. This is a result of concern expressed by DWR Board members regarding beardless (female) harvest numbers. This is non-mandate because it involves seasons and/or bag limits, and impacts zero mandates.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

Section 70:

Public concerns over lower than desired turkey populations in some regions of the state prompted members of the DWR Board of Wildlife Resources to request a reduction in the harvest of beardless turkeys. The proposed reduction in the bag limit for beardless turkeys is intended to protect additional females from harvest, thereby enhancing their potential reproductive output and potentially increasing turkey population. Additionally, this regulation amendment expands the fall hunting bag limit, enabling fall hunters to take all three of their annual bag limit for turkeys in the fall season, if desired.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) that the agency has "adopted final amendments" to the regulation; 3) the name of the agency taking the action; and 4) the title of the regulation. A suggested statement is, "On [insert date] the Board/Department of [insert name] adopted final amendments to the [title of regulation(s)]."

On October 23, 2025, the Board of Wildlife Resources adopted final amendments to above sections within Ch. 240 – Game: Turkey.