

AGENDA

Board of Wildlife Resources
Law Enforcement Committee
7870 Villa Park Drive, Board Room
Henrico, Virginia 23228

January 21, 2026
2:00 pm
OR
Following adjournment of the Finance Committee

Committee Members: Mr. Will Wampler, Chair, Mr. James Edmunds, Mr. George Terwilliger, Mr. James Maclin, Mr. Michael Formica

DWR Staff Liaison: Colonel John Cobb

1. Call to Order and Welcome
Mr. Wampler
2. Approval of October 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes **Final Action**
Mr. Wampler
3. Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item
Mr. Wampler
4. Law Enforcement Training Overview
Captain Jody Blackwell
5. Update on Recruitment and Hiring Process
Captain Kopelove
6. Law Enforcement Chief Update
Colonel John Cobb

7. Director's Report
Mr. Ryan Brown
8. Chair's Report
Mr. Wampler
9. Additional Business/Comments
Mr. Wampler
10. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Mr. Wampler
11. Adjournment
Mr. Wampler

Draft Meeting Minutes
Law Enforcement Committee
Board of Wildlife Resources
7870 Villa Park Drive, Board Room
Richmond, Virginia 23228

October 22, 2025
1:45 pm

Present: Mr. Will Wampler, **Chair**, Mr. George Terwilliger, Mr. James Maclin, Mr. James Edmunds and Mr. Michael Formica, (absent); **Board Members in attendance:** Mr. Lynwood Broaddus, Ms. Laura Walters, Mr. Woody Woodall, Mr. Jon Cooper, Ms. Marlee Dance, Mr. Parker Slaybaugh; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan J. Brown; **Deputy Directors:** Ms. Becky Gwynn and Mr. Darin Moore; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. George Braxton, Colonel John Cobb, Ms. Stacey Brown, Ms. Shelby Crouch, Mr. Paul Kugelman, Mr. Michael Lipford, Mr. Bob Smet, Ms. Rebecca Lane.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted for the record that there was a quorum present for the meeting.

Meeting Minutes: The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2025, committee meeting. Mr. Terwilliger made a motion to approve the August 20, 2025, committee meeting. Mr. Edmunds seconded the motion. Ayes: Wampler, Edmunds, Terwilliger, Maclin

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item: The Chair called for Public Comment – Non-Agenda Item.

- Mr. Gary Kimberlin spoke regarding Hound hunting

The Chair thanked Mr. Kimberlin for his comments.

VLEPSC First Re-Accreditation: The Chair called on Captain Rob Ham for a presentation.

Captain Ham gave a presentation on VLEPSC on the First Re-Accreditation for Law Enforcement.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked Captain Ham for his presentation.

Operation Midnight Express (OME) Summary: The Chair called on Major Ryan Shuler for a summary.

Major Ryan Shuler gave a summary of Operation Midnight Express (OME) Summary.

After comments and questions, the Chair thanked major Shuler for his Summary.

Law Enforcement Chief Update: The Chair called on Colonel Cobb for an update.

Colonel Cobb reported:

1. Recruitment Effort for 15th Basic Academy (February 25)
 - 13 officers in the Field Training Program (14 weeks)
 - We are 12 vacant positions below 172 sworn officers
 - Completing background investigations and polygraphs (~45 left)
2. W3 Natural Resources Training Academy / Facility Progress Update
 - WFV have determined the potential building site / Continue discussions with County Zoning / Detailed Proposal for DWR Board Consideration expected during the first half of 2026
 - Awaiting Major Power Company “no cost” Proposal for Solar Panel installation to reduce operating cost of this potential building
 - NWTF Potential W3 Partnership – To assist with furnishing this potential building (discussed them funding all the furniture in the 32 dorm rooms at a cost of \$80,000 + \$20,000 for W3 programming); in addition, they would have some interest in renting this facility
 - Continue to build W3 Business Plan to include a detailed list of dorm room rentals that can be expected if this training facility opens
3. NAWLEA (North American Wildlife Law Enforcement Accreditation) Update
 - As the Board Chairman, I will have the honor at the SEAFWA Awards Banquet next week to formally present first accreditation certificates to:
 1. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 2. Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

After comments and questions, The Chair thanked Colonel Cobb for his update.

Director's Report: The Chair called on Executive Director Ryan Brown for his Director's Report.

- Congratulated the Law Enforcement graduates and complimented how well organized and what a nice venue the graduation was, appreciated the Law staff on their work and efforts.

Chair's Report: Mr. Wampler thanked the Law Enforcement Division for the work they do around the state.

The Chair announced the next Law Enforcement committee meeting will be Wednesday, January 21, 2026, and asked if there were any additional comments, hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Frances Boswell



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Wildlife Resources

Stefanie K. Taillon
*Secretary of Natural
and Historic Resources*

Ryan J. Brown
Executive Director

To: Members of the Board

From: Major Ryan M. Shuler

Date: January 14, 2026

Subject: LE Committee Report on Hound Hunting Related Data and Operational Initiative

This memorandum provides an overall summary of hound hunting-related enforcement data collected and reported by the Law Enforcement Division between January 5, 2025, and January 3, 2026. It also includes a summary of the Directed Enforcement Effort conducted by Conservation Police Officers in counties where the use of dogs to hunt deer is permitted.

Directed Enforcement Initiative:

- The Law Enforcement Division implemented a Directed Enforcement Effort during the last two weeks of the 2025–26 hunting season, focused on areas of the Commonwealth that experience higher-than-average hound hunting complaints. To maximize effectiveness and efficient use of staffing, Regional Law Enforcement Managers developed and executed operational plans that provided clear direction and guidance. Overall, these efforts were effective in detecting violations and served as a strong deterrent to future noncompliance.

Directed Enforcement Effort Summary:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Total # of Man Hours | 3182 |
| Total Calls-for-Service (CFS) | 1744 |
| Total HDOGS CFSs | 308 |
| Total HVDOGS CFSs | 36 |
| Hunters Contacted | 4234 |
| Total Violations Detected | 264 |
| Summons Issued | 99 |
| Written Warnings Issued | 33 |
| Hunting Incidents Investigated | 7 |

2025/26 Hunting Dog Data Summary

HDOGS Incident Code: This call type will be utilized when the complaint being made does not involve a violation of law, such as hunting dogs running at large across private property.

| 2024/25 | | 2025/26 | |
|---|------|---|------|
| HDOGS CFSs | 1072 | HDOGS CFSs | 1276 |
| Chasing Deer | 639 | Chasing Deer | 675 |
| Chasing Bear | 16 | Chasing Bear | 30 |
| Dogs running across prohibited property | 976 | Dogs running across prohibited property | 1153 |

HVDOGS Incident Code: This call type will be used when a hunting-related violation involving a hunting dog is reported. An example would be a hunter retrieving his dog while carrying a firearm on prohibited property.

| 2024/25 | | 2025/26 | |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| HVDOGS CFSs | 272 | HVDOGS CFSS | 163 |
| Chasing Deer | 161 | Chasing Deer | 115 |
| Chasing Bear | 17 | Chasing Bear | 15 |
| Dogs running across prohibited property | 131 | Dogs running across prohibited property | 66 |

Hound Hunting Case Data:

| 2024/25 | | 2025/26 | |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Total Hunting Cases w/charges placed | 2006 | Total Hunting Cases w/charges placed | 2396 |
| Hound-related cases w/charges placed | 163 | Hound-related cases w/charges placed | 158 |
| Total Hunting Cases w/warning given | 972 | Total Hunting Cases w/warning given | 769 |
| Hound-related cases w/warning given | 75 | Hound-related cases w/warning given | 41 |

January 5, 2024 – January 3, 2025 HDOGS & HVDOGS Call Counts

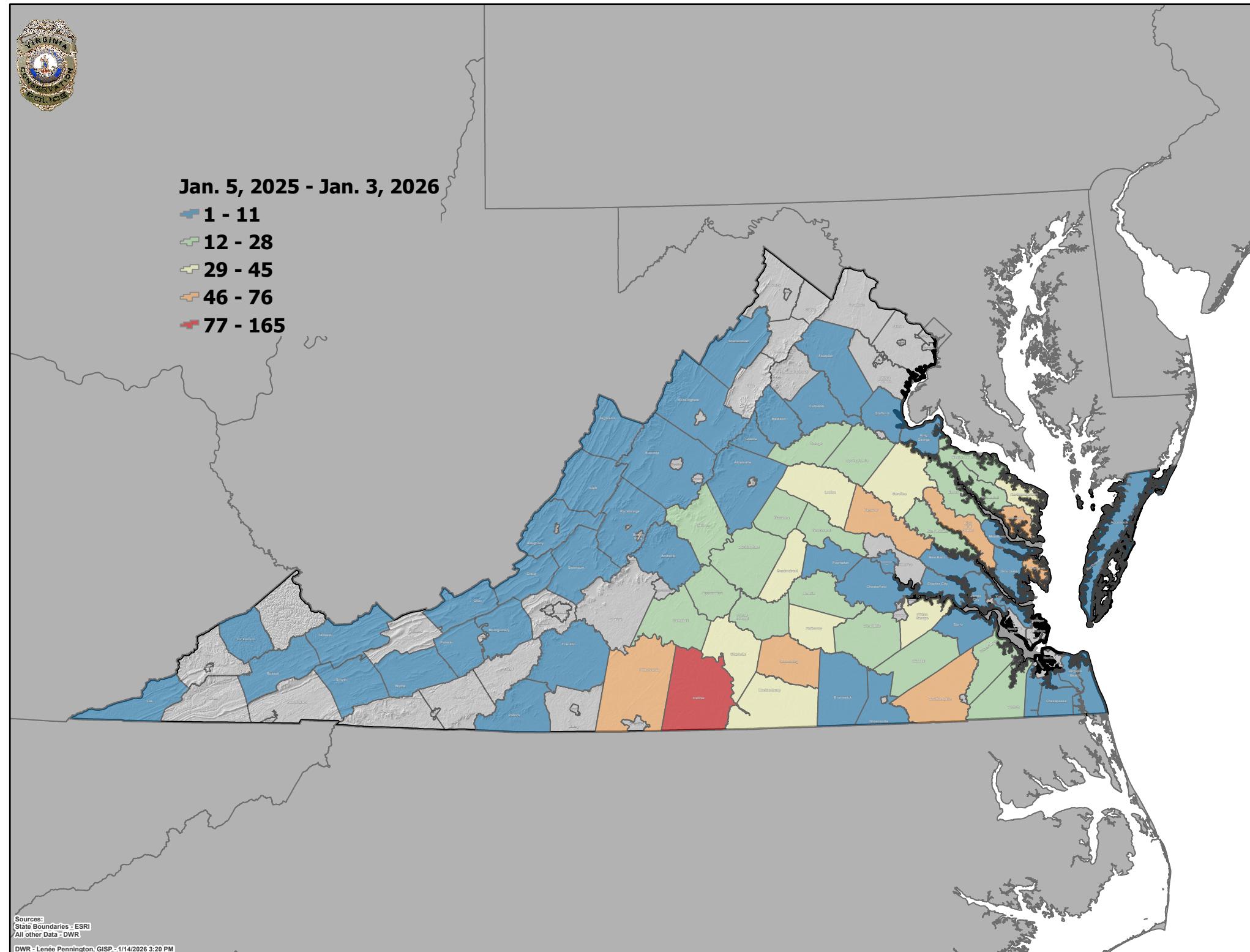
| County/City Name | Number of Calls |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | |
| Accomack County | 6 |
| Albemarle County | 5 |
| Alleghany County | 2 |
| Amelia County | 15 |
| Amherst County | 6 |
| Appomattox County | 24 |
| Augusta County | 1 |
| Bath County | 1 |
| Botetourt County | 3 |
| Brunswick County | 11 |
| Buckingham County | 28 |
| Campbell County | 23 |
| Caroline County | 38 |
| Charles City County | 5 |
| Charlotte County | 43 |
| Chesapeake City | 6 |
| Chesterfield County | 1 |
| Craig County | 3 |
| Culpeper County | 5 |
| Cumberland County | 45 |
| Dickenson County | 2 |
| Dinwiddie County | 21 |
| Essex County | 13 |
| Fauquier County | 3 |
| Fluvanna County | 24 |
| Franklin County | 7 |
| Giles County | 1 |
| Gloucester County | 9 |
| Goochland County | 21 |
| Greene County | 2 |
| Greenville County | 11 |
| Halifax County | 165 |
| Hanover County | 52 |
| Highland County | 1 |
| Isle of Wight County | 15 |
| James City County | 1 |
| King and Queen County | 76 |
| King George County | 1 |
| King William County | 19 |

| County/City Name | Number of Calls |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Lancaster County | 56 |
| Lee County | 2 |
| Louisa County | 42 |
| Lunenburg County | 53 |
| Madison County | 6 |
| Mathews County | 61 |
| Mecklenburg County | 42 |
| Middlesex County | 3 |
| Montgomery County | 2 |
| Nelson County | 13 |
| New Kent County | 4 |
| Northampton County | 1 |
| Northumberland County | 39 |
| Nottoway County | 34 |
| Orange County | 25 |
| Patrick County | 1 |
| Pittsylvania County | 65 |
| Powhatan County | 6 |
| Prince Edward County | 28 |
| Prince George County | 41 |
| Pulaski County | 1 |
| Richmond City | 1 |
| Richmond County | 18 |
| Rockbridge County | 4 |
| Rockingham County | 2 |
| Russell County | 2 |
| Shenandoah County | 4 |
| Smyth County | 1 |
| Southampton County | 68 |
| Spotsylvania County | 14 |
| Stafford County | 1 |
| Suffolk City | 21 |
| Surry County | 3 |
| Sussex County | 26 |
| Tazewell County | 1 |
| Virginia Beach City | 2 |
| Westmoreland County | 28 |
| Wythe County | 1 |
| York County | 1 |



Jan. 5, 2025 - Jan. 3, 2026

- 1 - 11
- 12 - 28
- 29 - 45
- 46 - 76
- 77 - 165

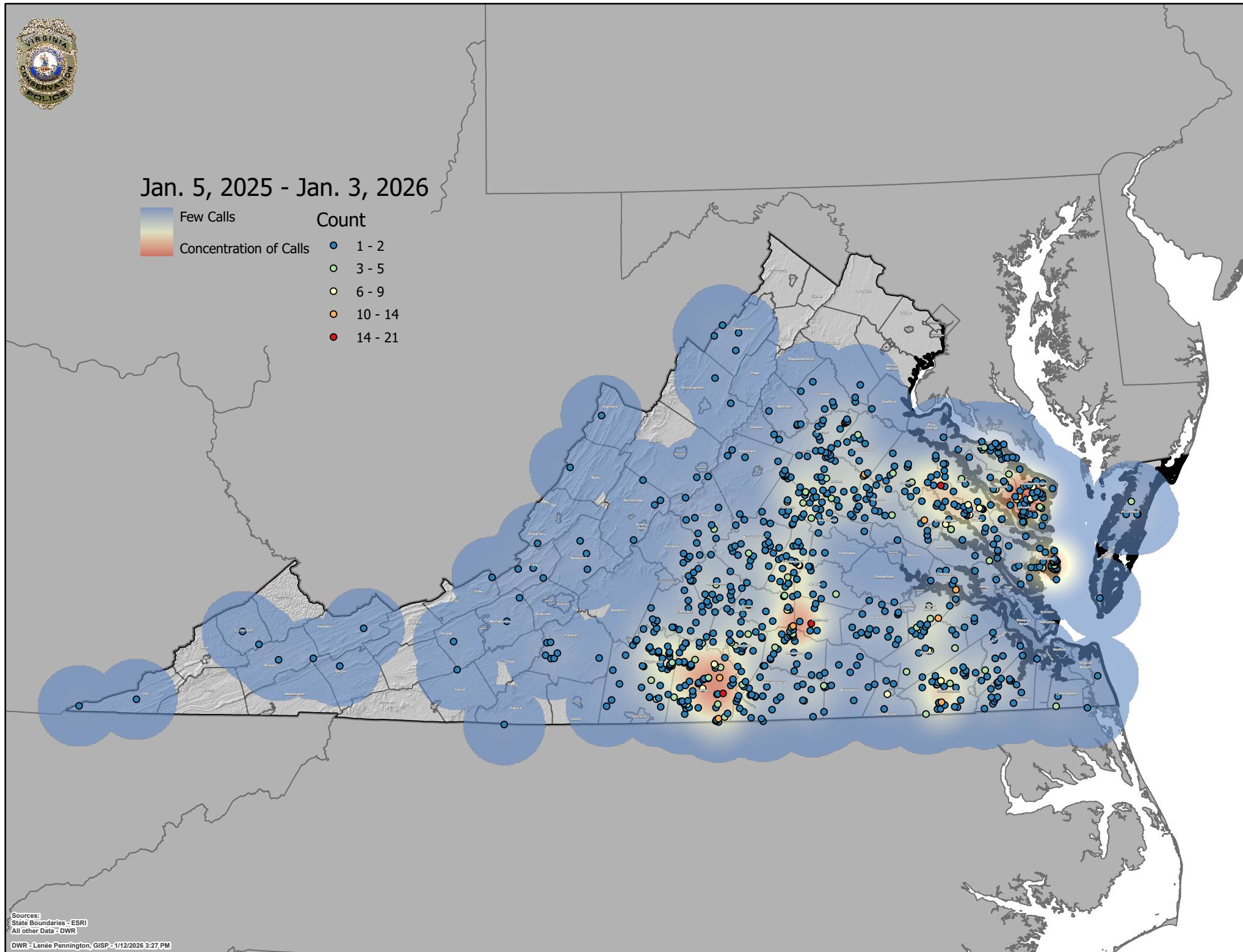
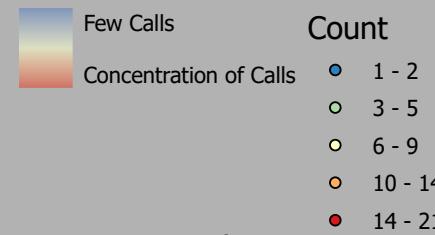


Sources:
State Boundaries - ESRI
All other Data - DWR

DWR - Leanne Pennington, GISP - 1/14/2026 3:20 PM



Jan. 5, 2025 - Jan. 3, 2026



Sources:
State Boundaries - ESRI
All other Data - DWR

DWR - Lenée Pennington, GISP - 1/12/2026 3:27 PM