HOUSE BILL NO. 678

Offered January 21, 2000

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-868.1, relating to presumption that reckless driver and vehicle owner are the same.

Patrons—Weatherholtz, Albo, Landes, Louderback, O'Brien, Sherwood and Wardrup; Senators: Hanger, Miller, K.G. and Schrock

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-868.1 as follows:

§ 46.2-868.1. Presumption that driver and vehicle owner are the same person.

When a violation of any section of this article is prosecuted and it is proved beyond a reasonable doubt that (i) the motor vehicle described in the warrant or summons is the actual vehicle alleged to have been operated in violation of the section, (ii) such motor vehicle was operated in violation of the section, and (iii) the defendant was at the time of such violation the registered owner of the vehicle, it shall be rebuttably presumed that the defendant was operating the vehicle when the violation occurred.