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HOUSE BILL NO. 991

Offered January 24, 2000

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 4.1-305 and 18.2-259.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the monitoring of restricted licenses issued to drug offenders and to persons convicted of illegally purchasing or possessing alcohol; penalties.

Patrons—Robinson and Almand

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 4.1-305 and 18.2-259.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted, as follows:

§ 4.1-305. Purchasing or possessing alcoholic beverages unlawful in certain cases; exceptions; penalty; forfeiture.

A. No person to whom an alcoholic beverage may not lawfully be sold under § 4.1-304 shall purchase or possess, or attempt to purchase or possess, any alcoholic beverage, except (i) pursuant to subdivisions 1 through 7 of § 4.1-200; (ii) where possession of the alcoholic beverages by a person less than twenty-one years of age is due to such person's making a delivery of alcoholic beverages in pursuance of his employment or an order of his parent; or (iii) by any state, federal, or local law-enforcement officer when possession of an alcoholic beverage is necessary in the performance of his duties.

B. No person under the age of twenty-one years shall use or attempt to use any (i) altered, fictitious, facsimile or simulated license to operate a motor vehicle, (ii) altered, fictitious, facsimile or simulated document, including, but not limited to a birth certificate or student identification card, or (iii) motor vehicle operator's license, birth certificate or student identification card of another person in order to establish a false identification or false age for himself to purchase or attempt to purchase an alcoholic beverage.

C. Any person found guilty of a violation of this section shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor; and upon conviction, (i) such person shall be ordered to pay a fine of at least \$500 or ordered to perform a minimum of fifty hours of community service and (ii) such person's license to operate a motor vehicle in the Commonwealth may be suspended for a period of not more than one year. The court, in its discretion and upon a demonstration of hardship, may authorize any person convicted of a violation of this section the use of a restricted permit to operate a motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions of subsection D of § 16.1-278.9 or subsection E of § 18.2-271.1. *The court shall require a person issued a restricted permit under the provisions of this subsection to be monitored by an alcohol safety action program during the period of license suspension. The alcohol safety action program shall report to the court any violation of the terms of the restricted permit, any condition related thereto or any failure to remain alcohol-free during the suspension period.* However, the sentence imposed pursuant to clause (i) of this subsection shall not be suspended.

D. Any alcoholic beverage purchased or possessed in violation of this section shall be deemed contraband and forfeited to the Commonwealth in accordance with § 4.1-338.

E. Any retail licensee who in good faith promptly notifies the Board or any state or local law-enforcement agency of a violation or suspected violation of this section shall be accorded immunity from an administrative penalty for a violation of § 4.1-304.

§ 18.2-259.1. Forfeiture of driver's license for violations of article.

A. In addition to any other sanction or penalty imposed for a violation of this article, the (i) judgment of conviction under this article or (ii) placement on probation following deferral of further proceedings under § 18.2-251 or subsection H of § 18.2-258.1 for any such offense shall of itself operate to deprive the person so convicted or placed on probation after deferral of proceedings under § 18.2-251 or subsection H of § 18.2-258.1 of the privilege to drive or operate a motor vehicle, engine, or train in the Commonwealth for a period of six months from the date of such judgment or placement on probation. Such license forfeiture shall be in addition to and shall run consecutively with any other license suspension, revocation or forfeiture in effect or imposed upon the person so convicted or placed on probation. However, a juvenile who has had his license suspended or denied pursuant to § 16.1-278.9 shall not have his license forfeited pursuant to this section for the same offense.

B. The court trying the case shall order any person so convicted or placed on probation to surrender his driver's license to be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of § 46.2-398 and shall notify the Department of Motor Vehicles of any such conviction entered and of the license forfeiture to be imposed.

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60 C. In those cases where the court determines there are compelling circumstances warranting an
61 exception, the court may provide that any individual be issued a restricted license to operate a motor
62 vehicle for any or all of the following purposes: (i) travel to and from his place of employment; (ii)
63 travel to a screening, evaluation and education program entered pursuant to § 18.2-251 or subsection H
64 of § 18.2-258.1; (iii) travel during the hours of such person's employment if the operation of a motor
65 vehicle is a necessary incident of such employment; (iv) travel to and from school if such person is a
66 student, upon proper written verification to the court that such person is enrolled in a continuing
67 program of education; or (v) such other medically necessary travel as the court deems necessary and
68 proper upon written verification of need by a licensed health professional. No restricted license issued
69 pursuant to this subsection shall permit any person to operate a commercial motor vehicle as defined in
70 the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.). The court shall order the surrender
71 of such person's license in accordance with the provisions of subsection B and shall forward to the
72 Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles a copy of its order entered pursuant to this
73 subsection. This order shall specifically enumerate the restrictions imposed and contain such information
74 regarding the person to whom such a permit is issued as is reasonably necessary to identify such person.
75 The court shall also provide a copy of its order to such person who may operate a motor vehicle on the
76 order until receipt from the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles of a restricted license,
77 but only if the order provides for a restricted license for that period. A copy of the order and, after
78 receipt thereof, the restricted license shall be carried at all times by such person while operating a motor
79 vehicle. *The court shall require a person issued a restricted permit under the provisions of this*
80 *subsection to be monitored by an alcohol safety action program during the period of license suspension.*
81 *Any violation of the terms of the restricted license or of any condition set forth by the court related*
82 *thereto, or any failure to remain drug-free during such period shall be reported forthwith to the court*
83 *by such program.* Any person who operates a motor vehicle in violation of any restriction imposed
84 pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a violation of § 46.2-301.