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HOUSE BILL NO. 1383

Offered January 22, 2004

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-208 of the Code of Virginia, relating to release of information by the Department of Motor Vehicles to persons who conduct insurance claims investigations, or perform rating and underwriting activities.

Patron—McDougle

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 46.2-208 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 46.2-208. Records of Department; when open for inspection; release of privileged information.

A. All records in the office of the Department containing the specific classes of information outlined below shall be considered privileged records:

1. Personal information, including all data defined as "personal information" in § 2.2-3801;
2. Driver information, including all data that relates to driver's license status and driver activity; and
3. Vehicle information, including all descriptive vehicle data and title, registration, and vehicle activity data.

B. The Commissioner shall release such information only under the following conditions:

1. Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, medical data included in personal data shall be released only to a physician as provided in § 46.2-322.

2. Insurance data may be released as specified in §§ 46.2-372, 46.2-380, and 46.2-706.

3. Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, information disclosed or furnished shall be assessed a fee as specified in § 46.2-214.

4. When the person requesting the information is (i) the subject of the information, (ii) the parent or guardian of the subject of the information, (iii) the authorized representative of the subject of the information, or (iv) the owner of the vehicle that is the subject of the information, the Commissioner shall provide him with the requested information and a complete explanation of it. Requests for such information need not be made in writing or in person and may be made orally or by telephone, provided that the Department is satisfied that there is adequate verification of the requester's identity. When so requested in writing by (a) the subject of the information, (b) the parent or guardian of the subject of the information, (c) the authorized representative of the subject of the information, or (d) the owner of the vehicle that is the subject of the information, the Commissioner shall verify and, if necessary, correct the personal information provided and furnish driver and vehicle information in the form of an abstract of the record.

5. On the written request of any insurance carrier, surety, or representative of an insurance carrier or surety, the Commissioner shall furnish such insurance carrier, surety, or representative an abstract of the record of any person subject to the provisions of this title. The abstract shall include any record of any conviction of a violation of any provision of any statute or ordinance relating to the operation or ownership of a motor vehicle or of any injury or damage in which he was involved and a report of which is required by § 46.2-372. No such report of any conviction or accident shall be made after 60 months from the date of the conviction or accident unless the Commissioner or court used the conviction or accident as a reason for the suspension or revocation of a driver's license or driving privilege, in which case the revocation or suspension and any conviction or accident pertaining thereto shall not be reported after 60 months from the date that the driver's license or driving privilege has been reinstated. This abstract shall not be admissible in evidence in any court proceedings.

6. On the written request of any business organization or its agent, in the conduct of its business, the Commissioner shall compare personal information supplied by the business organization or agent with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the business organization or agent is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the business organization or agent with correct information as contained in the Department's records. Personal information provided under this subdivision shall be used solely for the purpose of pursuing remedies that require locating an individual.

7. The Commissioner shall provide vehicle information to any business organization or agent on such business' or agent's written request. Disclosures made under this subdivision shall not include any personal information and shall not be subject to the limitations contained in subdivision 6 of this subsection.

8. On the written request of any motor vehicle rental or leasing company or its designated agent, the

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59 Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by the company or agent with that
60 contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the company or agent is
61 different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the company or agent with correct
62 information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide the company or agent with driver
63 information in the form of an abstract of any person subject to the provisions of this title. Such abstract
64 shall include any record of any conviction of a violation of any provision of any statute or ordinance
65 relating to the operation or ownership of a motor vehicle or of any injury or damage in which the
66 subject of the abstract was involved and a report of which is required by § 46.2-372. No such abstract
67 shall include any record of any conviction or accident more than 60 months after the date of such
68 conviction or accident unless the Commissioner or court used the conviction or accident as a reason for
69 the suspension or revocation of a driver's license or driving privilege, in which case the revocation or
70 suspension and any conviction or accident pertaining thereto shall cease to be included in such abstract
71 after 60 months from the date on which the driver's license or driving privilege was reinstated. No
72 abstract released under this subdivision shall be admissible in evidence in any court proceedings.

73 9. On the request of any federal, state, or local governmental entity, law-enforcement officer, attorney
74 for the Commonwealth, court, or the authorized agent of any of the foregoing, the Commissioner shall
75 (i) compare personal information supplied by the governmental entity, officer, attorney for the
76 Commonwealth, court, or the authorized agent of any of the foregoing, with that contained in the
77 Department's records and, when the information supplied by the governmental entity, officer, attorney
78 for the Commonwealth, court, or the authorized agent of any of the foregoing, is different from that
79 contained in the Department's records, provide the governmental entity, officer, attorney for the
80 Commonwealth, court, or the authorized agent of any of the foregoing, with correct information as
81 contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide driver and vehicle information in the form of an
82 abstract of the record showing all convictions, accidents, driver's license suspensions or revocations, and
83 other appropriate information as the governmental entity, officer, attorney for the Commonwealth, court,
84 or the authorized agent of any of the foregoing, may require in order to carry out its official functions.

85 10. On request of the driver licensing authority in any other state or foreign country, the
86 Commissioner shall provide whatever classes of information the requesting authority shall require in
87 order to carry out its official functions.

88 11. On the written request of any employer, prospective employer, or authorized agent of either, and
89 with the written consent of the individual concerned, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal
90 information supplied by the employer, prospective employer, or agent with that contained in the
91 Department's records and, when the information supplied by the employer, prospective employer, or
92 agent is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the employer, prospective
93 employer, or agent with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide the
94 employer, prospective employer, or agent with driver information in the form of an abstract of an
95 individual's record showing all convictions, accidents, driver's license suspensions or revocations, and
96 any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses, provided that the individual's position
97 or the position that the individual is being considered for involves the operation of a motor vehicle.

98 12. On the written request of any member of or applicant for membership in a volunteer fire
99 company or volunteer rescue squad, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied
100 by the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad with that contained in the Department's records
101 and, when the information supplied by the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad is different
102 from that contained in the Department's records, provide the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue
103 squad with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide driver
104 information in the form of an abstract of the member's or applicant's record showing all convictions,
105 accidents, license suspensions or revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual
106 currently possesses. Such abstract shall be provided free of charge if the request is accompanied by
107 appropriate written evidence that the person is a member of or applicant for membership in a volunteer
108 fire company or volunteer rescue squad and the abstract is needed by a volunteer fire company or
109 volunteer rescue squad to establish the qualifications of the member or applicant to operate equipment
110 owned by the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad.

111 13. On the written request of any person who has applied to be a volunteer with a Virginia affiliate
112 of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information
113 supplied by a Virginia affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America with that contained in the
114 Department's records and, when the information supplied by a Virginia affiliate of Big Brothers/Big
115 Sisters of America is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the Virginia
116 affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America with correct information as contained in the
117 Department's records and (ii) provide driver information in the form of an abstract of the applicant's
118 record showing all convictions, accidents, license suspensions or revocations, and any type of driver's
119 license that the individual currently possesses. Such abstract shall be provided free of charge if the
120 request is accompanied by appropriate written evidence that the person has applied to be a volunteer

with a Virginia affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America.

14. On the written request of any person who has applied to be a volunteer with a court-appointed special advocate program pursuant to § 9.1-153, the Commissioner shall provide an abstract of the applicant's record showing all convictions, accidents, license suspensions or revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses. Such abstract shall be provided free of charge if the request is accompanied by appropriate written evidence that the person has applied to be a volunteer with a court-appointed special advocate program pursuant to § 9.1-153.

15. Upon the request of any employer, prospective employer, or authorized representative of either, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by the employer, prospective employer, or agent with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the employer, prospective employer, or agent is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the employer, prospective employer, or agent with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide driver information in the form of an abstract of the driving record of any individual who has been issued a commercial driver's license, provided that the individual's position or the position that the individual is being considered for involves the operation of a commercial motor vehicle. Such abstract shall show all convictions, accidents, license suspensions, revocations, or disqualifications, and any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses.

16. Upon the receipt of a completed application and payment of applicable processing fees, the Commissioner may enter into an agreement with any governmental authority or business to exchange information specified in this section by electronic or other means.

17. Upon the request of an attorney representing a person in a motor vehicle accident, the Commissioner shall provide vehicle information, including the owner's name and address, to the attorney.

18. Upon the request, in the course of business, of any authorized representative of an insurance company or of any not-for-profit entity organized to prevent and detect insurance fraud, *conduct claims investigations, or perform rating and underwriting activities*, the Commissioner shall provide to such person (i) all vehicle information, including the owner's name and address, descriptive data and title, registration, and vehicle activity data ~~to such persons as requested or~~ (ii) *all driver information including name, license number and classification, date of birth, and address information for each driver licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia meeting the request criteria designated by such person, with such request criteria consisting of driver's license number or address information No such information shall be used for solicitation of sales, marketing, or other commercial purposes.*

19. Upon the request of an officer authorized to issue criminal warrants, for the purpose of issuing a warrant for arrest for unlawful disposal of trash or refuse in violation of § 33.1-346, the Commissioner shall provide vehicle information, including the owner's name and address.

20. Upon written request of the compliance agent of a private security services business, as defined in § 9.1-138, which is licensed by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Commissioner shall provide the name and address of the owner of the vehicle under procedures determined by the Commissioner.

21. Upon the request of the operator of a toll facility, or an authorized agent or employee of a toll facility operator, for the purpose of obtaining vehicle owner data under subsection I of § 46.2-819.1.

22. On the written request of any person who has applied to be a volunteer with a Virginia affiliate of Compeer, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by a Virginia affiliate of Compeer with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by a Virginia affiliate of Compeer is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the Virginia affiliate of Compeer with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide driver information in the form of an abstract of the applicant's record showing all convictions, accidents, license suspensions or revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses. Such abstract shall be provided free of charge if the request is accompanied by appropriate written evidence that the person has applied to be a volunteer with a Virginia affiliate of Compeer.

23. Upon the request of the Department of Environmental Quality for the purpose of obtaining vehicle owner data in connection with enforcement actions involving on-road testing of motor vehicles, pursuant to § 46.2-1178.1.

C. Whenever the Commissioner issues an order to suspend or revoke the driver's license or driving privilege of any individual, he may notify the National Driver Register Service operated by the United States Department of Transportation and any similar national driver information system and provide whatever classes of information the authority may require.

D. Accident reports may be inspected under the provisions of §§ 46.2-379 and 46.2-380.

E. Whenever the Commissioner takes any licensing action pursuant to the provisions of the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.), he may provide information to the Commercial

182 Driver License Information System, or any similar national commercial driver information system,
183 regarding such action.

184 F. In addition to the foregoing provisions of this section, vehicle information may also be inspected
185 under the provisions of §§ 43-33, 43-34, 46.2-633, and 46.2-1200.1 through 46.2-1237.

186 G. The Department may promulgate regulations to govern the means by which personal, vehicle, and
187 driver information is requested and disseminated.

188 H. Driving records of any person accused of an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle
189 shall be provided by the Commissioner upon request to any person acting as counsel for the accused. If
190 such counsel is from the public defender's office or has been appointed by the court, such records shall
191 be provided free of charge.

192 I. The Department shall maintain the records of persons convicted of violations of subsection B of
193 § 29.1-738, and §§ 29.1-738.02, 29.1-738.2, and 29.1-738.4 which shall be forwarded by every general
194 district court or circuit court or the clerk thereof, pursuant to § 46.2-383. Such records shall be
195 electronically available to any law-enforcement officer as provided for under clause (ii) of subdivision B
196 9.