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HOUSE BILL NO. 1679

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE (Proposed by the House Committee on Transportation on January 25, 2007)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Cosgrove)

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-1130.1, relating to issuance of overweight permits granted to cross bridges and culverts by certain emergency response vehicles responding to an emergency call.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-1130.1 as follows:

§ 46.2-1130.1. Overweight permits granted to cross bridges and culverts by certain emergency response vehicles responding to an emergency call.

Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 46.2-1104 and 46.2-1130, emergency response vehicles, including fire and emergency medical apparatus responding to and returning from an emergency call, may be permitted to exceed the gross weight limit posted on a bridge or culvert, except those maintained by a railroad, provided that a determination has been made by a licensed professional engineer, qualified in the appropriate discipline, that the emergency response vehicle can safely cross that bridge or culvert and that determination has been documented by the issuance of a written permit or letter of authorization by the agency or entity responsible for the maintenance of that bridge or culvert.

The permitting agency or entity shall not be held liable for any damage or injury caused as a result of an emergency response vehicle crossing a bridge or culvert while responding to or returning from an emergency call under the conditions specified in the overweight permit pursuant to this section.