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SENATE BILL NO. 1248

Offered January 10, 2007

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A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 16.1-278.8 and 16.1-278.9 of the Code of Virginia, relating to delinquent juveniles; driving without a license.

Patron—Herring

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 16.1-278.8 and 16.1-278.9 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 16.1-278.8. Delinquent juveniles.

A. If a juvenile is found to be delinquent, except where such finding involves a refusal to take a blood or breath test in violation of § 18.2-268.2 or a similar ordinance, the juvenile court or the circuit court may make any of the following orders of disposition for his supervision, care and rehabilitation:

1. Enter an order pursuant to the provisions of § 16.1-278;

2. Permit the juvenile to remain with his parent, subject to such conditions and limitations as the court may order with respect to the juvenile and his parent;

3. Order the parent of a juvenile living with him to participate in such programs, cooperate in such treatment or be subject to such conditions and limitations as the court may order and as are designed for the rehabilitation of the juvenile and his parent;

4. Defer disposition for a specific period of time established by the court with due regard for the gravity of the offense and the juvenile's history, after which time the charge may be dismissed by the judge if the juvenile exhibits good behavior during the period for which disposition is deferred;

4a. Defer disposition and place the juvenile in the temporary custody of the Department to attend a boot camp established pursuant to § 66-13 provided bed space is available for confinement and the juvenile (i) has been found delinquent for an offense that would be a Class 1 misdemeanor or felony if committed by an adult, (ii) has not previously been and is not currently being adjudicated delinquent or found guilty of a violent juvenile felony, (iii) has not previously attended a boot camp, (iv) has not previously been committed to and received by the Department, and (v) has had an assessment completed by the Department or its contractor concerning the appropriateness of the candidate for a boot camp. Upon the juvenile's withdrawal, removal or refusal to comply with the terms and conditions of participation in the program, he shall be brought before the court for a hearing at which the court may impose any other disposition as authorized by this section which could have been imposed at the time the juvenile was placed in the custody of the Department;

5. Without entering a judgment of guilty and with the consent of the juvenile and his attorney, defer disposition of the delinquency charge for a specific period of time established by the court with due regard for the gravity of the offense and the juvenile's history, and place the juvenile on probation under such conditions and limitations as the court may prescribe. Upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions, the court shall discharge the juvenile and dismiss the proceedings against him. Discharge and dismissal under these provisions shall be without adjudication of guilt;

6. Order the parent of a juvenile with whom the juvenile does not reside to participate in such programs, cooperate in such treatment or be subject to such conditions and limitations as the court may order and as are designed for the rehabilitation of the juvenile where the court determines this participation to be in the best interest of the juvenile and other parties concerned and where the court determines it reasonable to expect the parent to be able to comply with such order;

7. Place the juvenile on probation under such conditions and limitations as the court may prescribe;

7a. Place the juvenile on probation and order treatment for the abuse or dependence on alcohol or drugs in a program licensed by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services for the treatment of juveniles for substance abuse provided that (i) the juvenile has received a substance abuse screening and assessment pursuant to § 16.1-273 and that such assessment reasonably indicates that the commission of the offense was motivated by, or closely related to, the habitual use of alcohol or drugs and indicates that the juvenile is in need of treatment for this condition; (ii) the juvenile has not previously been and is not currently being adjudicated for a violent juvenile felony; and (iii) such facility is available. Upon the juvenile's withdrawal, removal, or refusal to comply with the conditions of participation in the program, he shall be brought before the court for a hearing at which the court may impose any other disposition authorized by this section. The court shall review

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59 such placements at 30-day intervals;

60 8. Impose a fine not to exceed \$500 upon such juvenile;

61 9. Suspend the motor vehicle and driver's license of such juvenile or impose a curfew on the juvenile
62 as to the hours during which he may operate a motor vehicle. Any juvenile whose driver's license is
63 suspended may be referred for an assessment and subsequent referral to appropriate services, upon such
64 terms and conditions as the court may order. The court, in its discretion and upon a demonstration of
65 hardship, may authorize the use of a restricted permit to operate a motor vehicle by any juvenile who
66 enters such program for any of the purposes set forth in subsection E of § 18.2-271.1 or for travel to
67 and from school. The restricted permit shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of such
68 subsection. However, only an abstract of the court order that identifies the juvenile and the conditions
69 under which the restricted license is to be issued shall be sent to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

70 If a curfew is imposed, the juvenile shall surrender his driver's license, which shall be held in the
71 physical custody of the court during any period of curfew restriction. The court shall send an abstract of
72 any order issued under the provisions of this section to the Department of Motor Vehicles, which shall
73 preserve a record thereof. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 (§ 16.1-299 et seq.) of this
74 chapter or the provisions of Title 46.2, this record shall be available only to all law-enforcement
75 officers, attorneys for the Commonwealth and courts. A copy of the court order, upon which shall be
76 noted all curfew restrictions, shall be provided to the juvenile and shall contain such information
77 regarding the juvenile as is reasonably necessary to identify him. The juvenile may operate a motor
78 vehicle under the court order in accordance with its terms. Any juvenile who operates a motor vehicle in
79 violation of any restrictions imposed pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a violation of § 46.2-301.

80 The Department of Motor Vehicles shall refuse to issue a driver's license to any juvenile denied a
81 driver's license until such time as is stipulated in the court order or until notification by the court of
82 withdrawal of the order imposing the curfew *and any juvenile who operates a motor vehicle without a*
83 *driver's license in violation of this provision shall be guilty of a violation of § 46.2-300;*

84 10. Require the juvenile to make restitution or reparation to the aggrieved party or parties for actual
85 damages or loss caused by the offense for which the juvenile was found to be delinquent;

86 11. Require the juvenile to participate in a public service project under such conditions as the court
87 prescribes;

88 12. In case of traffic violations, impose only those penalties that are authorized to be imposed on
89 adults for such violations. However, for those violations punishable by confinement if committed by an
90 adult, confinement shall be imposed only as authorized by this title;

91 13. Transfer legal custody to any of the following:

92 a. A relative or other individual who, after study, is found by the court to be qualified to receive and
93 care for the juvenile;

94 b. A child welfare agency, private organization or facility that is licensed or otherwise authorized by
95 law to receive and provide care for such juvenile. The court shall not transfer legal custody of a
96 delinquent juvenile to an agency, organization or facility outside of the Commonwealth without the
97 approval of the Director; or

98 c. The local board of social services of the county or city in which the court has jurisdiction or, at
99 the discretion of the court, to the local board of the county or city in which the juvenile has residence if
100 other than the county or city in which the court has jurisdiction. The board shall accept the juvenile for
101 care and custody, provided that it has been given reasonable notice of the pendency of the case and an
102 opportunity to be heard. However, in an emergency in the county or city in which the court has
103 jurisdiction, such local board may be required to temporarily accept a juvenile for a period not to exceed
104 14 days without prior notice or an opportunity to be heard if the judge entering the placement order
105 describes the emergency and the need for such temporary placement in the order. Nothing in this
106 subdivision shall prohibit the commitment of a juvenile to any local board of social services in the
107 Commonwealth when such local board consents to the commitment. The board to which the juvenile is
108 committed shall have the final authority to determine the appropriate placement for the juvenile. Any
109 order authorizing removal from the home and transferring legal custody of a juvenile to a local board of
110 social services as provided in this subdivision shall be entered only upon a finding by the court that
111 reasonable efforts have been made to prevent removal and that continued placement in the home would
112 be contrary to the welfare of the juvenile, and the order shall so state;

113 14. Commit the juvenile to the Department of Juvenile Justice, but only if he is 11 years of age or
114 older and the current offense is (i) an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, (ii) an
115 offense that would be a Class 1 misdemeanor if committed by an adult and the juvenile has previously
116 been found to be delinquent based on an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult, or
117 (iii) an offense that would be a Class 1 misdemeanor if committed by an adult and the juvenile has
118 previously been adjudicated delinquent of three or more offenses that would be a Class 1 misdemeanor
119 if committed by an adult, and each such offense was not a part of a common act, transaction or scheme;

120 15. Impose the penalty authorized by § 16.1-284;

16. Impose the penalty authorized by § 16.1-284.1;
 17. Impose the penalty authorized by § 16.1-285.1;
 18. Impose the penalty authorized by § 16.1-278.9; or

19. Require the juvenile to participate in a gang-activity prevention program including, but not limited to, programs funded under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act pursuant to § 16.1-309.7, if available, when a juvenile has been found delinquent of any of the following violations: § 18.2-51, 18.2-51.1, 18.2-52, 18.2-53, 18.2-55, 18.2-56, 18.2-57, 18.2-57.2, 18.2-121, 18.2-127, 18.2-128, 18.2-137, 18.2-138, 18.2-146, or 18.2-147, or any violation of a local ordinance adopted pursuant to § 15.2-1812.2.

B. If the court finds a juvenile delinquent of any of the following offenses, the court shall require the juvenile to make at least partial restitution or reparation for any property damage, for loss caused by the offense, or for actual medical expenses incurred by the victim as a result of the offense: § 18.2-51, 18.2-51.1, 18.2-52, 18.2-53, 18.2-55, 18.2-56, 18.2-57, 18.2-57.2, 18.2-121, 18.2-127, 18.2-128, 18.2-137, 18.2-138, 18.2-146, or 18.2-147; or for any violation of a local ordinance adopted pursuant to § 15.2-1812.2. The court shall further require the juvenile to participate in a community service project under such conditions as the court prescribes.

§ 16.1-278.9. Delinquent children; loss of driving privileges for alcohol, firearm and drug offenses; truancy.

A. If a court has found facts which would justify a finding that a child at least 13 years of age at the time of the offense is delinquent and such finding involves (i) a violation of § 18.2-266 or of a similar ordinance of any county, city or town, (ii) a refusal to take a blood or breath test in violation of § 18.2-268.2, (iii) a felony violation of § 18.2-248, 18.2-248.1 or 18.2-250, (iv) a misdemeanor violation of § 18.2-248, 18.2-248.1, or 18.2-250 or a violation of § 18.2-250.1, (v) the unlawful purchase, possession or consumption of alcohol in violation of § 4.1-305 or the unlawful drinking or possession of alcoholic beverages in or on public school grounds in violation of § 4.1-309, (vi) public intoxication in violation of § 18.2-388 or a similar ordinance of a county, city or town, (vii) the unlawful use or possession of a handgun or possession of a "streetsweeper" as defined below, or (viii) a violation of § 18.2-83, the court shall order that the child be denied a driver's license. In addition to any other penalty authorized by this section, if the offense involves a violation designated under clause (i) and the child was transporting a person 17 years of age or younger, the court shall impose the additional fine and order community service as provided in § 18.2-270. If the offense involves a violation designated under clause (i), (ii), (iii) or (viii), the denial of a driver's license shall be for a period of one year or until the juvenile reaches the age of 17, whichever is longer, for a first such offense or for a period of one year or until the juvenile reaches the age of 18, whichever is longer, for a second or subsequent such offense. If the offense involves a violation designated under clause (iv), (v) or (vi) the denial of driving privileges shall be for a period of six months unless the offense is committed by a child under the age of 16 years and three months, in which case the child's ability to apply for a driver's license shall be delayed for a period of six months following the date he reaches the age of 16 and three months. If the offense involves a violation designated under clause (v) or (vi), the court shall impose the license sanction without entering a judgment of guilt and shall defer disposition of the delinquency charge until such time as the court disposes of the case pursuant to subsection F of this section. If the offense involves a violation designated under clause (iii) or (iv), the court shall impose the license sanction and shall dispose of the delinquency charge pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or § 18.2-251. If the offense involves a violation designated under clause (vii), the denial of driving privileges shall be for a period of not less than 30 days, except when the offense involves possession of a concealed handgun or a striker 12, commonly called a "streetsweeper," or any semi-automatic folding stock shotgun of like kind with a spring tension drum magazine capable of holding 12 shotgun shells, in which case the denial of driving privileges shall be for a period of two years unless the offense is committed by a child under the age of 16 years and three months, in which event the child's ability to apply for a driver's license shall be delayed for a period of two years following the date he reaches the age of 16 and three months.

A1. If a court finds that a child at least 13 years of age has failed to comply with school attendance and meeting requirements as provided in § 22.1-258, the court shall order the denial of the child's driving privileges for a period of not less than 30 days. If such failure to comply involves a child under the age of 16 years and three months, the child's ability to apply for a driver's license shall be delayed for a period of not less than 30 days following the date he reaches the age of 16 and three months.

If the court finds a second or subsequent such offense, it may order the denial of a driver's license for a period of one year or until the juvenile reaches the age of 18, whichever is longer, or delay the child's ability to apply for a driver's license for a period of one year following the date he reaches the age of 16 and three months, as may be appropriate.

Any juvenile who operates a motor vehicle without a driver's license in violation of this subsection

182 *shall be guilty of a violation of § 46.2-300.*

183 B. Any child who has a driver's license at the time of the offense or at the time of the court's finding
184 as provided in subsection A1 shall be ordered to surrender his driver's license, which shall be held in
185 the physical custody of the court during any period of license denial.

186 C. The court shall report any order issued under this section to the Department of Motor Vehicles,
187 which shall preserve a record thereof. The report and the record shall include a statement as to whether
188 the child was represented by or waived counsel or whether the order was issued pursuant to subsection
189 A1 of this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 (§ 16.1-299 et seq.) of this chapter or
190 the provisions of Title 46.2, this record shall be available only to all law-enforcement officers, attorneys
191 for the Commonwealth and courts. No other record of the proceeding shall be forwarded to the
192 Department of Motor Vehicles unless the proceeding results in an adjudication of guilt pursuant to
193 subsection F.

194 The Department of Motor Vehicles shall refuse to issue a driver's license to any child denied a
195 driver's license until such time as is stipulated in the court order or until notification by the court of
196 withdrawal of the order of denial under subsection E *and any juvenile who operates a motor vehicle*
197 *without a driver's license in violation of this provision shall be guilty of a violation of § 46.2-300.*

198 D. If the finding as to the child involves a violation designated under clause (i), (ii), (iii) or (vi) of
199 subsection A, the child may be referred to a certified alcohol safety action program in accordance with
200 § 18.2-271.1 upon such terms and conditions as the court may set forth. If the finding as to such child
201 involves a violation designated under clause (iii), (iv), (v), (vii) or (viii) of subsection A, such child may
202 be referred to appropriate rehabilitative or educational services upon such terms and conditions as the
203 court may set forth.

204 The court, in its discretion and upon a demonstration of hardship, may authorize the use of a
205 restricted permit to operate a motor vehicle by any child who has a driver's license at the time of the
206 offense or at the time of the court's finding as provided in subsection A1 for any of the purposes set
207 forth in subsection E of § 18.2-271.1 or for travel to and from school, except that no restricted license
208 shall be issued if the finding as to such child involves a violation designated under clause (iii) or (iv) of
209 subsection A, or if it involves a second or subsequent violation of any offense designated in subsection
210 A or a second finding by the court of failure to comply with school attendance and meeting
211 requirements as provided in subsection A1. The issuance of the restricted permit shall be set forth within
212 the court order, a copy of which shall be provided to the child, and shall specifically enumerate the
213 restrictions imposed and contain such information regarding the child as is reasonably necessary to
214 identify him. The child may operate a motor vehicle under the court order in accordance with its terms.
215 Any child who operates a motor vehicle in violation of any restrictions imposed pursuant to this section
216 shall be guilty of a violation of § 46.2-301.

217 E. Upon petition made at least 90 days after issuance of the order, the court may review and
218 withdraw any order of denial of a driver's license if for a first such offense or finding as provided in
219 subsection A1. For a second or subsequent such offense or finding, the order may not be reviewed and
220 withdrawn until one year after its issuance.

221 F. If the finding as to such child involves a violation designated under clause (v), (vi) or (vii) of
222 subsection A, upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions prescribed by the court and after the child's
223 driver's license has been restored, the court shall or, in the event the violation resulted in the injury or
224 death of any person or if the finding involves a violation designated under clause (i) or (ii) of subsection
225 A, may discharge the child and dismiss the proceedings against him. Discharge and dismissal under
226 these provisions shall be without an adjudication of guilt but a record of the proceeding shall be retained
227 for the purpose of applying this section in subsequent proceedings. Failure of the child to fulfill such
228 terms and conditions shall result in an adjudication of guilt. If the finding as to such child involves a
229 violation designated under clause (iii) or (iv) of subsection A, the charge shall not be dismissed pursuant
230 to this subsection but shall be disposed of pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or § 18.2-251.