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SENATE BILL NO. 890

Offered January 14, 2009

Prefiled December 31, 2008

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 3.2-6536, 46.2-104, and 46.2-752 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-1003.1, relating to collection of court costs.*

 Patron—McDougle

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 3.2-6536, 46.2-104, and 46.2-752 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-1003.1 as follows:

§ 3.2-6536. Payment of license tax subsequent to summons.

Payment of the license tax subsequent to a summons to appear before a court for failure to pay the license tax within the time required shall not operate to relieve such owner from the penalties *or court costs* provided.

§ 46.2-104. Possession of registration cards; exhibiting registration card and licenses; failure to carry license or registration card.

The operator of any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer being operated on the highways in the Commonwealth, shall have in his possession: (i) the registration card issued by the Department or the registration card issued by the state or country in which the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is registered, and (ii) his driver's license, learner's permit, or temporary driver's permit.

The owner or operator of any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer shall stop on the signal of any law-enforcement officer who is in uniform or shows his badge or other sign of authority and shall, on the officer's request, exhibit his registration card, driver's license, learner's permit, or temporary driver's permit and write his name in the presence of the officer, if so required, for the purpose of establishing his identity.

Every person licensed by the Department as a driver or issued a learner's or temporary driver's permit who fails to carry his license or permit, and the registration card for the vehicle which he operates, shall be guilty of a traffic infraction and upon conviction punished by a fine of ten dollars. However, if any person summoned to appear before a court for failure to display his license, permit, or registration card presents to the officer issuing the summons or a magistrate serving the county or city in which the summons was issued, before the return date of the summons, a license or permit issued to him prior to the time the summons was issued or a registration card, as the case may be, or appears pursuant to the summons and produces before the court a license or permit issued to him prior to the time the summons was issued or a registration card, as the case may be, he shall, *upon payment of all applicable court costs*, have complied with the provisions of this section.

§ 46.2-752. Taxes and license fees imposed by counties, cities, and towns; limitations on amounts; disposition of revenues; requiring evidence of payment of personal property taxes and certain fines; prohibiting display of licenses after expiration; failure to display valid local license required by other localities; penalty.

A. Except as provided in § 46.2-755, counties, cities, and towns may levy and assess taxes and charge license fees on motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers. However, none of these taxes and license fees shall be assessed or charged by any county on vehicles owned by residents of any town located in the county when such town constitutes a separate school district if the vehicles are already subject to town license fees and taxes, nor shall a town charge a license fee to any new resident of the town, previously a resident of a county within which all or part of the town is situated, who has previously paid a license fee for the same tax year to such county. The amount of the license fee or tax imposed by any county, city, or town on any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer shall not be greater than the annual or one-year fee imposed by the Commonwealth on the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer. The license fees and taxes shall be imposed in such manner, on such basis, for such periods, and subject to proration for fractional periods of years, as the proper local authorities may determine.

Owners or lessees of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers who have served outside of the United States in the armed services of the United States shall have a 90-day grace period, beginning on the date they are no longer serving outside the United States, in which to comply with the requirements of this section. For purposes of this section, "the armed services of the United States" includes active duty service with the regular Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard or other reserve

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59 component.

60 Local licenses may be issued free of charge for any or all of the following:

61 1. Vehicles powered by clean special fuels as defined in § 46.2-749.3, including dual-fuel and bi-fuel
62 vehicles,

63 2. Vehicles owned by volunteer rescue squads,

64 3. Vehicles owned by volunteer fire departments,

65 4. Vehicles owned or leased by active members or active auxiliary members of volunteer rescue
66 squads,

67 5. Vehicles owned or leased by active members or active auxiliary members of volunteer fire
68 departments,

69 6. Vehicles owned or leased by auxiliary police officers,

70 7. Vehicles owned or leased by volunteer police chaplains,

71 8. Vehicles owned by surviving spouses of persons qualified to receive special license plates under
72 § 46.2-739,

73 9. Vehicles owned or leased by auxiliary deputy sheriffs or volunteer deputy sheriffs,

74 10. Vehicles owned by persons qualified to receive special license plates under § 46.2-739,

75 11. Vehicles owned by any of the following who served at least 10 years in the locality: former
76 members of volunteer rescue squads, former members of volunteer fire departments, former auxiliary
77 police officers, members and former members of authorized police volunteer citizen support units,
78 former volunteer police chaplains, and former volunteer special police officers appointed under
79 § 15.2-1737. In the case of active members of volunteer rescue squads and volunteer fire departments,
80 applications for such licenses shall be accompanied by written evidence, in a form acceptable to the
81 locality, of their active membership, and no member shall be issued more than one such license free of
82 charge,

83 12. All vehicles having a situs for the imposition of licensing fees under this section in the locality,

84 13. Vehicles owned or leased by deputy sheriffs; however, no deputy sheriff shall be issued more
85 than one such license free of charge,

86 14. Vehicles owned or leased by police officers; however, no police officer shall be issued more than
87 one such license free of charge,

88 15. Vehicles owned or leased by officers of the State Police; however, no officer of the State Police
89 shall be issued more than one such license free of charge,

90 16. Vehicles owned or leased by salaried firefighters; however, no salaried firefighter shall be issued
91 more than one such license free of charge,

92 17. Vehicles owned or leased by salaried emergency medical technicians; however no salaried
93 emergency medical technician shall be issued more than one such license free of charge, or

94 18. Vehicles with a gross weight exceeding 10,000 pounds owned by museums officially designated
95 by the Commonwealth.

96 The governing body of any county, city, or town issuing licenses under this section may by
97 ordinance provide for a 50 percent reduction in the fee charged for the issuance of any such license
98 issued for any vehicle owned or leased by any person who is 65 years old or older. No such discount,
99 however, shall be available for more than one vehicle owned or leased by the same person.

100 The governing body of any county, city, or town issuing licenses free of charge under this subsection
101 may by ordinance provide for (i) the limitation, restriction, or denial of such free issuance to an
102 otherwise qualified applicant, including without limitation the denial of free issuance to a taxpayer who
103 has failed to timely pay personal property taxes due with respect to the vehicle and (ii) the grounds for
104 such limitation, restriction, or denial.

105 The situs for the imposition of licensing fees under this section shall in all cases, except as
106 hereinafter provided, be the county, city, or town in which the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is
107 normally garaged, stored, or parked. If it cannot be determined where the personal property is normally
108 garaged, stored, or parked, the situs shall be the domicile of its owner. In the event the owner of the
109 motor vehicle is a full-time student attending an institution of higher education, the situs shall be the
110 domicile of such student, provided the student has presented sufficient evidence that he has paid a
111 personal property tax on the motor vehicle in his domicile.

112 B. The revenue derived from all county, city, or town taxes and license fees imposed on motor
113 vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers shall be applied to general county, city, or town purposes.

114 C. A county, city, or town may require that no motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer shall be locally
115 licensed until the applicant has produced satisfactory evidence that all personal property taxes on the
116 motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer to be licensed have been paid and satisfactory evidence that any
117 delinquent motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer personal property taxes owing have been paid which
118 have been properly assessed or are assessable against the applicant by the county, city, or town. A
119 county, city, or town may also provide that no motor vehicle license shall be issued unless the tangible
120 personal property taxes properly assessed or assessable by that locality on any tangible personal property

used or usable as a dwelling titled by the Department of Motor Vehicles and owned by the taxpayer have been paid. Any county and any town within any such county may by agreement require that all personal property taxes assessed by either the county or the town on any vehicle be paid before licensure of such vehicle by either the county or the town.

C1. The Counties of Dinwiddie, Lee, and Wise may, by ordinance or resolution adopted after public notice and hearing and, with the consent of the treasurer, require that no license may be issued under this section unless the applicant has produced satisfactory evidence that all fees, including delinquent fees, payable to such county or local solid waste authority, for the disposal of solid waste pursuant to the Virginia Water and Waste Authorities Act (§ 15.2-5100 et seq.), or pursuant to § 15.2-2159, have been paid in full. For purposes of this subsection, all fees, including delinquent fees, payable to a county for waste disposal services described herein, shall be paid to the treasurer of such county; however, in Wise County, the fee shall be paid to the county or its agent.

D. The Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William and towns within them and any city may require that no motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer shall be licensed by that jurisdiction unless all fines owed to the jurisdiction by the owner of the vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer for violation of the jurisdiction's ordinances governing parking of vehicles have been paid. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to vehicles owned by firms or companies in the business of renting motor vehicles.

E. If in any county imposing license fees and taxes under this section, a town therein imposes like fees and taxes on vehicles of owners resident in the town, the owner of any vehicle subject to the fees or taxes shall be entitled, on the owner's displaying evidence that he has paid the fees or taxes, to receive a credit on the fees or taxes imposed by the county to the extent of the fees or taxes he has paid to the town. Nothing in this section shall deprive any town now imposing these licenses and taxes from increasing them or deprive any town not now imposing them from hereafter doing so, but subject to the limitations provided in subsection D of this section. The governing body of any county and the governing body of any town in that county wherein each imposes the license tax herein provided may provide mutual agreements so that not more than one license plate or decal in addition to the state plate shall be required.

F. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection E of this section, in a consolidated county wherein a tier-city exists, the tier-city may, in accordance with the provisions of the agreement or plan of consolidation, impose license fees and taxes under this section in addition to those fees and taxes imposed by the county, provided that the combined county and tier-city rates do not exceed the maximum provided in subsection A of this section. No credit shall be allowed on the fees or taxes imposed by the county for fees or taxes paid to the tier-city, except as may be provided by the consolidation agreement or plan. The governing body of any county and the governing body of any tier-city in such county wherein each imposes the license tax herein may provide by mutual agreement that no more than one license plate or decal in addition to the state license plate shall be required.

G. Any county, city, or town may by ordinance provide that it shall be unlawful for any owner or operator of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer (i) to fail to obtain and, if any required by such ordinance, to display the local license required by any ordinance of the county, city or town in which the vehicle is registered, or (ii) to display upon a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer any such local license, required by ordinance to be displayed, after its expiration date. The ordinance may provide that a violation shall constitute a misdemeanor the penalty for which shall not exceed that of a Class 4 misdemeanor and may, in the case of a motor vehicle registered to a resident of the locality where such vehicle is registered, authorize the issuance by local law-enforcement officers of citations, summonses, parking tickets, or uniform traffic summonses for violations. Any such ordinance may also provide that a violation of the ordinance by the registered owner of the vehicle may not be discharged by payment of a fine except upon presentation of satisfactory evidence that the required license has been obtained. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a county, city, or town to issue a decal or any other tangible evidence of a local license to be displayed on the licensed vehicle if the county's, city's, or town's ordinance does not require display of a decal or other evidence of payment. No ordinance adopted pursuant to this section shall require the display of any local license, decal, or sticker on any vehicle owned by a public service company, as defined in § 56-76, having a fleet of at least 2,500 vehicles garaged in the Commonwealth.

H. Except as provided by subsections E and F, no vehicle shall be subject to taxation under the provisions of this section in more than one jurisdiction. Furthermore, no person who has purchased a local vehicle license, decal, or sticker for a vehicle in one county, city, or town and then moves to and garages his vehicle in another county, city, or town shall be required to purchase another local license, decal, or sticker from the county, city, or town to which he has moved and wherein his vehicle is now garaged until the expiration date of the local license, decal, or sticker issued by the county, city, or town from which he moved.

I. Purchasers of new or used motor vehicles shall be allowed at least a 10-day grace period,

beginning with the date of purchase, during which to pay license fees charged by local governments under authority of this section.

J. Beginning October 1, 1992, the treasurer or director of finance of any county, city, or town may enter into an agreement with the Commissioner whereby the Commissioner will refuse to issue or renew any vehicle registration of any applicant therefor who owes to such county, city or town any local vehicle license fees or delinquent tangible personal property tax or parking citations issued only to residents of such county, city, or town. Before being issued any vehicle registration or renewal of such license or registration by the Commissioner, the applicant shall first satisfy all such local vehicle license fees and delinquent taxes or parking citations and present evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner that all such local vehicle license fees and delinquent taxes or parking citations have been paid in full. The Commissioner shall charge a reasonable fee to cover the costs of such enforcement action, and the treasurer or director of finance may add the cost of this fee to the delinquent tax bill or the amount of the parking citation. The treasurer or director of finance of any county, city, or town seeking to collect delinquent taxes or parking citations through the withholding of registration or renewal thereof by the Commissioner as provided for in this subsection shall notify the Commissioner in the manner provided for in his agreement with the Commissioner and supply to the Commissioner information necessary to identify the debtor whose registration or renewal is to be denied. Any agreement entered into pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall provide the debtor notice of the intent to deny renewal of registration at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of a current vehicle registration. For the purposes of this subsection, notice by first-class mail to the registrant's address as maintained in the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles shall be deemed sufficient. In the case of parking violations, the Commissioner shall only refuse to issue or renew the vehicle registration of any applicant therefor pursuant to this subsection for the vehicle that incurred the parking violations. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to vehicles owned by firms or companies in the business of renting motor vehicles.

K. The governing bodies of any two or more counties, cities, or towns may enter into compacts for the regional enforcement of local motor vehicle license requirements. The governing body of each participating jurisdiction may by ordinance require the owner or operator of any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer to display on his vehicle a valid local license issued by another county, city, or town that is a party to the regional compact, provided that the owner or operator is required by the jurisdiction of situs, as provided in § 58.1-3511, to obtain and display such license. The ordinance may also provide that no motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer shall be locally licensed until the applicant has produced satisfactory evidence that (i) all personal property taxes on the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer to be licensed have been paid to all participating jurisdictions and (ii) any delinquent motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer personal property taxes that have been properly assessed or are assessable by any participating jurisdiction against the applicant have been paid. Any city and any county having the urban county executive form of government, the counties adjacent to such county and towns within them may require that no motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer shall be licensed by that jurisdiction or any other jurisdiction in the compact unless all fines owed to any participating jurisdiction by the owner of the vehicle for violation of any participating jurisdiction's ordinances governing parking of vehicles have been paid. The ordinance may further provide that a violation shall constitute a misdemeanor the penalty for which shall not exceed that of a Class 4 misdemeanor. Any such ordinance may also provide that a violation of the ordinance by the owner of the vehicle may not be discharged by payment of a fine except upon presentation of satisfactory evidence that the required license has been obtained *and all applicable court costs have been paid*. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to vehicles owned by firms or companies in the business of renting motor vehicles.

L. In addition to the taxes and license fees permitted in subsection A, counties, cities, and towns may charge a license fee of no more than \$1 per motor vehicle, trailer, and semitrailer. Except for the provisions of subsection B, such fee shall be subject to all other provisions of this section. All funds collected pursuant to this subsection shall be paid pursuant to § 51.1-1204 to the Volunteer Firefighters' and Rescue Squad Workers' Service Award Fund to the accounts of all members of the Fund who are volunteers for fire departments or rescue squads within the jurisdiction of the particular county, city, or town.

§ 46.2-1003.1. Correction of vehicle or safety equipment defects or proof of compliance subsequent to summons.

Except as otherwise provided in this title, correction of vehicle or safety equipment defects or providing proof of compliance with the provisions of this title subsequent to a summons to appear before a court shall not operate to relieve the vehicle owner or operator from the court costs provided.