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SENATE BILL NO. 1003

Offered January 12, 2011

Prefiled January 11, 2011

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-214.3, 46.2-330, and 46.2-332 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-692.2, relating to service of notices, etc., from the Department of Motor Vehicles; fee for exchange of license plates.

Patron—Watkins

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 46.2-214.3, 46.2-330, and 46.2-332 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-692.2 as follows:

§ 46.2-214.3. Service charge to be imposed and collected by the Department; discount for multiyear registration.

A. In addition to any other fee imposed and collected by the Department, the Department shall impose and collect a service charge upon each person who carries out the registration renewal of a vehicle in any of the Department's Customer Service Centers *or through an agent of the Department that has entered into an agreement with the Department to perform certain services as described in subsection B of § 46.2-205* if such registration can be conducted ~~(i)~~ by mail or telephone or by using an electronic medium using a format prescribed by the Commissioner; ~~or (ii) through an agent of the Department that has entered into an agreement with the Department to perform certain services as described in subsection B of § 46.2-205.~~ The service charge shall not apply ~~(a)~~ (i) if concurrently with the registration of the vehicle, the person undertakes another transaction at a Customer Service Center, which other transaction cannot be conducted ~~through a means described in clause (i) or (ii); (b)~~ by mail or telephone or by an electronic medium in a format prescribed by the Commissioner; (ii) to the registration of any vehicle for which no registration fee is otherwise required by law; or ~~(c)~~ (iii) to any registration conducted by a motor vehicle dealer subject to the provisions of § 46.2-1530.2.

B. The service charge shall equal \$5 per vehicle registration renewal that is carried out in any Customer Service Center of the Department *or through an agent of the Department that has entered into an agreement with the Department to perform certain services as described in subsection B of § 46.2-205.* The Department shall include information regarding such service charge in all vehicle registration renewal notices sent to vehicle owners.

C. All service charges imposed and collected by the Commissioner under this section shall be paid into the state treasury and shall be set aside as a special fund to be used to meet the expenses of the Department.

D. Pursuant to subsection C of § 46.2-646, for each motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer registered, the Commissioner may offer, at his discretion, a discount for multiyear registrations of such vehicles. The discount shall be equal to \$1 for each year of the multiyear registration or fraction thereof. The discount shall not be applicable to any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer registered (i) under the International Registration Plan or (ii) as an uninsured motor vehicle. When this option is offered and chosen by the registrant, all annual and 12-month fees due at the time of registration shall be multiplied by the number of years or fraction thereof that the vehicle will be registered.

E. In addition to the discount authorized in subsection D, for the renewal of registration of each motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer pursuant to § 46.2-646, the Commissioner shall offer a discount for renewal when such registration renewal is conducted using the Internet. The discount shall be equal to \$1. The discount shall not apply to any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer registered (i) under the International Registration Plan or (ii) as an uninsured motor vehicle.

§ 46.2-330. Expiration and renewal of licenses; examinations required.

A. Every driver's license shall expire on the applicant's birthday at the end of the period of years for which a driver's license has been issued. At no time shall any driver's license be issued for more than eight years. Thereafter the driver's license shall be renewed on or before the birthday of the licensee and shall be valid for a period not to exceed eight years except as otherwise provided by law. In determining the number of years for which a driver's license shall be renewed, the Commissioner shall take into consideration the examinations, conditions, requirements, and other criteria provided under this title that relate to the issuance of a license to operate a vehicle. Any driver's license issued to a person required to register pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 9.1-900 *et seq.*) of Title 9.1 shall expire on the applicant's birthday in years which the applicant attains an age equally divisible by five.

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59 B. Within one year prior to the date shown on the driver's license as the date of expiration, the
60 Department shall ~~mail~~ send notice, to the holder thereof, at the address shown on the records of the
61 Department in its driver's license file, that his license will expire on a date specified therein, whether he
62 must be reexamined, and when he may be reexamined. Nonreceipt of the notice shall not extend the
63 period of validity of the driver's license beyond its expiration date. *The license holder may request the*
64 *Department to send such renewal notice to an email or other electronic address, upon provision of such*
65 *address to the Department.*

66 Any driver's license may be renewed by application after the applicant has taken and successfully
67 completed those parts of the examination provided for in §§ 46.2-311, 46.2-325, and the Virginia
68 Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.), including vision and written tests, other than the
69 parts of the examination requiring the applicant to drive a motor vehicle. All drivers applying in person
70 for renewal of a license shall take and successfully complete the examination each renewal year. Every
71 applicant for a renewal shall appear in person before the Department, unless specifically notified by the
72 Department that renewal may be accomplished in another manner as provided in the notice. Applicants
73 who are required to appear in person before the Department to apply for a renewal may also be required
74 to present proof of identity, legal presence, residency, and social security number or non-work
75 authorized status.

76 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Commissioner, in his discretion, may
77 require any applicant for renewal to be fully examined as provided in §§ 46.2-311, 46.2-325, and the
78 Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.). Furthermore, if the applicant is less
79 than 80 years old, the Commissioner may waive the vision examination for any applicant for renewal of
80 a driver's license which is not a commercial driver's license, and the requirement or the taking of the
81 written test as provided in subsection B of this section, § 46.2-325 and the Virginia Commercial Driver's
82 License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.), for any applicant for renewal who is at least 21 years old. Such
83 written test shall not be waived for an applicant less than 21 years old if such applicant's driver's license
84 record on file with the Department contains a record of one or more convictions for any offense
85 reportable under §§ 46.2-382, 46.2-382.1, and 46.2-383. However, in no case shall there be any waiver
86 of the vision examination for applicants for renewal of a commercial driver's license or of the
87 knowledge test required by the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act for the hazardous materials
88 endorsement on a commercial driver's license. No driver's license or learner's permit issued to any
89 person who is 80 years old or older shall be renewed unless the applicant for renewal appears in person
90 and either (i) passes a vision examination or (ii) presents a report of a vision examination, made within
91 90 days prior thereto by an ophthalmologist or optometrist, indicating that the applicant's vision meets or
92 exceeds the standards contained in § 46.2-311.

93 D. Every applicant for renewal of a driver's license, whether renewal shall or shall not be dependent
94 on any examination of the applicant, shall appear in person before the Department to apply for renewal,
95 unless specifically notified by the Department that renewal may be accomplished in another manner as
96 provided in the notice.

97 E. This section shall not modify the provisions of § 46.2-221.2.

98 F. 1. The Department shall electronically transmit application information, including a photograph, to
99 the Department of State Police, in a format approved by the State Police, for comparison with
100 information contained in the Virginia Criminal Information Network and National Crime Information
101 Center Convicted Sexual Offender Registry Files, at the time of the renewal of a driver's license.
102 Whenever it appears from the records of the State Police that a person has failed to comply with the
103 duty to register or reregister pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 9.1-900 et seq.) of Title 9.1, the State Police shall
104 promptly investigate and, if there is probable cause to believe a violation has occurred, obtain a warrant
105 or assist in obtaining an indictment charging a violation of § 18.2-472.1 in the jurisdiction in which the
106 person last registered or reregistered or in the jurisdiction where the person made application for
107 licensure. The Department of State Police shall electronically transmit to the Department, in a format
108 approved by the Department, for each person required to register pursuant to Chapter 9 of Title 9.1,
109 registry information consisting of the person's name, all aliases that he has used or under which he may
110 have been known, his date of birth and social security number as set out in § 9.1-903.

111 2. For each person required to register pursuant to Chapter 9 of Title 9.1, the Department may not
112 waive the requirement that each such person shall appear for each renewal or the requirement to obtain
113 a photograph in accordance with subsection C of § 46.2-323.

114 § 46.2-332. Fees.

115 On and after January 1, 1990, the fee for each driver's license other than a commercial driver's
116 license shall be ~~two dollars and forty cents~~ \$2.40 per year. If the license is a commercial driver's license
117 or seasonal restricted commercial driver's license, the fee shall be ~~six dollars~~ \$6 per year. Persons
118 ~~twenty-one~~ 21 years old or older may be issued a scenic driver's license, learner's permit, or commercial
119 driver's license for an additional fee of ~~five dollars~~ \$5. For any one or more driver's license
120 endorsements or classifications, except a motorcycle classification, there shall be an additional fee of ~~one~~

121 dollar \$1 per year; for a motorcycle classification, there shall be an additional fee of ~~two dollars~~ \$2 per
122 year. For any and all driver's license classifications, there shall be an additional fee of ~~one dollar~~ \$1 per
123 year. For any revalidation of a seasonal restricted commercial driver's license, the fee shall be ~~five~~
124 dollars \$5.

125 *In addition to any other fee imposed and collected by the Department, the Department shall impose*
126 *and collect a service charge of \$5 upon each person who carries out the renewal of a driver's license*
127 *or special identification card in any of the Department's Customer Service Centers if such renewal can*
128 *be conducted by mail or telephone or by using an electronic medium in a format prescribed by the*
129 *Commissioner. Such service charge shall not apply if, concurrently with the renewal of the driver's*
130 *license or special identification card, the person undertakes another transaction at a Customer Service*
131 *Center that cannot be conducted by mail or telephone or by using an electronic medium in a format*
132 *prescribed by the Commissioner. Such service charge shall be paid by the Commissioner into the state*
133 *treasury and shall be set aside as a special fund to be used to meet the expenses of the Department.*

134 A reexamination fee of ~~two dollars~~ \$2 shall be charged for each administration of the knowledge
135 portion of the driver's license examination taken by an applicant who is ~~eighteen~~ 18 years of age or
136 older if taken more than once within a ~~fifteen-day~~ 15-day period. The reexamination fee shall be
137 charged each time the examination is administered until the applicant successfully completes the
138 examination, if taken prior to the fifteenth day.

139 An applicant who is less than ~~eighteen~~ 18 years of age who does not successfully complete the
140 knowledge portion of the driver's license examination shall not be permitted to take the knowledge
141 portion more than once in ~~fifteen~~ 15 days.

142 A fee of \$50 shall be charged each time an applicant for a commercial driver's license fails to keep a
143 scheduled skills test appointment, unless such applicant cancels his appointment with the assigned
144 driver's license examiner at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled appointment. The Commissioner
145 may, on a case-by-case basis, waive such fee for good cause shown. All such fees shall be paid by the
146 Commissioner into the state treasury and set aside as a special fund to be used to meet the necessary
147 expenses incurred by the Department.

148 If the applicant for a driver's license is an employee of the Commonwealth, or of any county, city, or
149 town who drives a motorcycle or a commercial motor vehicle solely in the line of his duty, he shall be
150 exempt from the additional fee otherwise assessable for a motorcycle classification or a commercial
151 motor vehicle endorsement. The Commissioner may prescribe the forms as may be requisite for
152 completion by persons claiming exemption from additional fees imposed by this section.

153 No additional fee above ~~two dollars and forty cents~~ \$2.40 per year shall be assessed for the driver's
154 license or commercial driver's license required for the operation of a school bus.

155 Excluding the ~~two-dollar~~ \$2 reexamination fee, ~~one dollar and fifty cents~~ \$1.50 of all fees collected
156 for each original or renewal driver's license shall be paid into the driver education fund of the state
157 treasury and expended as provided by law. Unexpended funds from the driver education fund shall be
158 retained in the fund and be available for expenditure in ensuing years as provided therein.

159 All fees for motorcycle classifications shall be distributed as provided in § 46.2-1191.

160 This section shall supersede conflicting provisions of this chapter.

161 § 46.2-692.2. *Fee for exchange of license plates.*

162 *The fee for the exchange of license plates shall be the greater of the total of any statutory fees*
163 *required for the requested license plates, as calculated under the provisions of subsection B of*
164 *§ 46.2-694, or \$10.*

165 *As used in this section, an "exchange of license plates" means a transaction that occurs within the*
166 *registration period of a vehicle in which the vehicle owner voluntarily returns the license plates*
167 *assigned to the vehicle and requests for the same vehicle new license plates with a different design or*
168 *alphanumeric combination or both.*

169 *A request for new license plates made as part of the vehicle registration renewal process shall not*
170 *be considered an exchange of license plates for purposes of this section.*

171 *The provisions of this section shall apply to a replacement request made under the provisions of*
172 *§ 46.2-607 for license plates that are not duplicates or otherwise equivalent to the lost, mutilated, or*
173 *illegible plates required to be replaced under that section. Such a request shall be considered both a*
174 *replacement for purposes of §§ 46.2-607 and 46.2-692 and an exchange for purposes of this section.*