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**SENATE BILL NO. 981**

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Transportation

on January 30, 2013)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Howell)

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-1078.2, relating to use of handheld personal telecommunications devices on school property or in reduced-speed school crossing zones.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-1078.2 as follows:**

**§ 46.2-1078.2. Use of handheld personal communications devices on school property or in reduced-speed school crossing zones.**

*As used in this section, "reduced-speed school crossing zone" means an area located within the vicinity of a school at or near a highway where the presence of children on such school property or going to and from school reasonably requires a special warning to motorists. Such school crossing zones are marked and operated in accordance with the requirements of § 46.2-873 with appropriate warning signs or other traffic control devices indicating that a school crossing is in progress.*

*It shall be unlawful for a person to use a handheld personal communications device while operating a moving motor vehicle (i) upon school property or (ii) within any reduced-speed school crossing zone on a day that school is in session.*

*Nothing in this section shall apply to the operation of a state or local law-enforcement vehicle, firefighting truck, ambulance, or rescue squad vehicle used in the performance of its official duties.*

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE**

SB981S1