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HOUSE BILL NO. 1579

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 7, 2015

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-646 of the Code of Virginia, relating to expiration and renewal of vehicle registrations.*

Patron—Cole

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 46.2-646 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 46.2-646. Expiration and renewal of registration.**

A. Every registration *issued* under this title *prior to July 1, 2015*, unless otherwise provided, shall expire on the last day of the twelfth month next succeeding the date of registration. Every registration, unless otherwise provided, shall be renewed annually on application by the owner and by payment of the fees required by law, the renewal to take effect on the first day of the month succeeding the date of expiration. Notwithstanding these limitations, the Commissioner may extend the validity period of an expiring registration if (i) the Department is unable to process an application for renewal due to circumstances beyond its control, and (ii) the extension has been authorized under a directive from the Governor. However, in no event shall the validity period be extended more than 90 days per occurrence of such conditions.

B. All motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers registered in the Commonwealth shall, at the discretion of the Commissioner, be placed in a system of registration on a monthly basis to distribute the work of registering motor vehicles as uniformly as practicable throughout the twelve months of the year. All such motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers, unless otherwise provided, shall be registered for a period of twelve months. The registration shall be extended, at the discretion of the Commissioner, on receipt of appropriate prorated fees, as required by law, for a period of not less than one month nor more than eleven months as is necessary to distribute the registrations as equally as practicable on a monthly basis. The Commissioner shall, on request, assign to any owner or owners of two or more motor vehicles, trailers, or semitrailers the same registration period. The expiration date shall be the last day of the twelfth month or the last day of the designated month. Except for motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers registered for more than one year under subsection C of this section, every registration shall be renewed annually on application by the owner and by payment of fees required by law, the renewal to take effect on the first day of the succeeding month.

C. The Commissioner may offer, at his discretion, an optional multi-year registration for all motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers except for (i) those registered under the International Registration Plan and (ii) those registered as uninsured motor vehicles. When this option is offered and chosen by the registrant, all annual and twelve-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.

D. *Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, vehicle registrations issued on and after July 1, 2015, shall be valid so long as the ownership of the vehicle and the address where the vehicle is principally garaged remain unchanged. Beginning July 1, 2015, the fee for issuance of a vehicle registration under this subsection shall be the same as that charged by the Department prior to July 1, 2015, for a registration valid for two years. The fee charged by the Department for a change of the address at which the vehicle is principally garaged shall be the same as that charged by the Department prior to July 1, 2015, for a registration valid for one year.*

INTRODUCED

HB1579