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**SENATE BILL NO. 405**

Offered January 13, 2016

Prefiled January 12, 2016

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 33.2-309, 33.2-501, 33.2-502, and 46.2-749.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to tolls for use of additional lane capacity and designation of HOV and HOT lanes on Interstate 66.*

Patrons—Vogel and Petersen

Referred to Committee on Transportation

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

**1. That §§ 33.2-309, 33.2-501, 33.2-502, and 46.2-749.3 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 33.2-309. Tolls for use of Interstate System components.**

A. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of this title and in accordance with all applicable federal and state statutes and requirements, the Board may impose and collect tolls from all classes of vehicles in amounts established by the Board for the use of any component of the Interstate System within the Commonwealth. However, prior approval of the General Assembly shall be required prior to the imposition and collection of any toll for use of all or any portion of Interstate 81. Prior approval of the General Assembly shall also be required prior to the imposition or collection of any toll for use of Interstate 95 south of Fredericksburg pursuant to the Interstate System Reconstruction or Rehabilitation Pilot Program. ~~Such funds so collected shall be deposited into the Transportation Trust Fund established pursuant to § 33.2-1524, subject to allocation by the Board as provided in this section~~ *No toll shall be imposed or collected for the use of any component of Interstate 66 outside the Capital Beltway existing prior to July 1, 2016, and if additional lanes are added to such portion of Interstate 66, tolls may be imposed only for use of such additional lanes.*

B. The toll facilities authorized by this section shall be subject to the provisions of federal law for the purpose of tolling motor vehicles to finance interstate construction and reconstruction, promote efficiency in the use of highways, reduce traffic congestion, and improve air quality and for such other purposes as may be permitted by federal law.

C. In order to mitigate traffic congestion in the vicinity of the toll facilities, no toll facility shall be operated without high-speed automated toll collection technology designed to allow motorists to travel through the toll facilities without stopping to make payments. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a toll facility from retaining means of nonautomated toll collection in some lanes of the facility. The Board shall also consider traffic congestion and mitigation thereof and the impact on local traffic movement as factors in determining the location of the toll facilities authorized pursuant to this section.

D. The revenues collected from each toll facility established pursuant to this section shall be deposited into segregated subaccounts in the Transportation Trust Fund and may be allocated by the Board as the Board deems appropriate to:

1. Pay or finance all or part of the costs of programs or projects, including the costs of planning, operation, maintenance, and improvements incurred in connection with the toll facility, provided that such allocations shall be limited to programs and projects that are reasonably related to or benefit the users of the toll facility. The priorities of metropolitan planning organizations, planning district commissions, local governments, and transportation corridors shall be considered by the Board in making project allocations from such revenues deposited into the Transportation Trust Fund.

2. Repay funds from the Toll Facilities Revolving Account or the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund.

3. Pay the Board's reasonable costs and expenses incurred in the administration and management of the toll facility.

**§ 33.2-501. Designation of HOV lanes; use of such lanes; penalties.**

A. In order to facilitate the rapid and orderly movement of traffic to and from urban areas during peak traffic periods, the Board may designate one or more lanes of any highway in the Interstate System, primary state highway system, or secondary state highway system as HOV lanes. When lanes have been so designated and have been appropriately marked with signs or other markers as the Board may prescribe, they shall be reserved during periods designated by the Board for the exclusive use of buses and high-occupancy vehicles. Any local governing body may also, with respect to highways under its exclusive jurisdiction, designate HOV lanes and impose and enforce restrictions on the use of such

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lanes. Any highway for which the locality receives highway maintenance funds pursuant to § 33.2-319 shall be deemed to be within the exclusive jurisdiction of the local governing body for the purposes of this section. HOV lanes shall be reserved for high-occupancy vehicles of a specified number of occupants as determined by the Board or, for HOV lanes designated by a local governing body, by that local governing body. However, no designation of any lane or lanes of any highway as HOV lanes shall apply to the use of any such lanes by:

1. Emergency vehicles such as firefighting vehicles and emergency medical services vehicles;
2. Law-enforcement vehicles;
3. Motorcycles;
4. a. Transit and commuter buses designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver;
- b. Any vehicle operating under a certificate issued under § 46.2-2075, 46.2-2080, 46.2-2096, 46.2-2099.4, or 46.2-2099.44;
5. Vehicles of public utility companies operating in response to an emergency call;
6. Vehicles bearing clean special fuel vehicle license plates issued pursuant to § 46.2-749.3, provided such use is in compliance with federal law;
7. Taxicabs having two or more occupants, including the driver; or
8. (Contingent effective date) Any active duty military member in uniform who is utilizing Interstate 264 and Interstate 64 for the purposes of traveling to or from a military facility in the Hampton Roads Planning District.

In the Hampton Roads Planning District, HOV restrictions may be temporarily lifted and HOV lanes opened to use by all vehicles when restricting use of HOV lanes becomes impossible or undesirable and the temporary lifting of HOV limitations is indicated by signs along or above the affected portion of highway.

The Commissioner of Highways shall implement a program of the HOV facilities in the Hampton Roads Planning District beginning not later than May 1, 2000. This program shall include the temporary lifting of HOV restrictions and the opening of HOV lanes to all traffic when an incident resulting from nonrecurring causes within the general lanes occurs such that a lane of traffic is blocked or is expected to be blocked for 10 minutes or longer. The HOV restrictions for the facility shall be reinstated when the general lane is no longer blocked and is available for use.

The Commissioner of Highways shall maintain necessary records to evaluate the effects of such openings on the operation of the general lanes and the HOV lanes. This program will terminate if the Federal Highway Administration requires repayment of any federal highway construction funds because of the program's impact on the HOV facilities in Hampton Roads.

B. In designating any lane or lanes of any highway as HOV lanes, the Board or local governing body shall specify the hour or hours of each day of the week during which the lanes shall be so reserved, and the hour or hours shall be plainly posted at whatever intervals along the lanes the Board or local governing body deems appropriate. Any person driving a motor vehicle in a designated HOV lane in violation of this section is guilty of a traffic infraction, which shall not be a moving violation, and on conviction shall be fined \$100. However, violations committed within the boundaries of Planning District 8 shall be punishable as follows:

1. For a first offense, by a fine of \$125;
2. For a second offense within a period of five years from a first offense, by a fine of \$250;
3. For a third offense within a period of five years from a first offense, by a fine of \$500; and
4. For a fourth or subsequent offense within a period of five years from a first offense, by a fine of \$1,000.

Upon a conviction under this section, the court shall furnish to the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles in accordance with § 46.2-383 an abstract of the record of such conviction, which shall become a part of the person's driving record. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 46.2-492, no driver demerit points shall be assessed for any violation of this section, except that persons convicted of second, third, fourth, or subsequent violations within five years of a first offense committed in Planning District 8 shall be assessed three demerit points for each such violation.

C. In the prosecution of an offense, committed in the presence of a law-enforcement officer, of failure to obey a road sign restricting a highway, or portion thereof, to the use of high-occupancy vehicles, proof that the vehicle described in the HOV violation summons was operated in violation of this section, together with proof that the defendant was at the time of such violation the registered owner of the vehicle, shall constitute in evidence a rebuttable presumption that such registered owner of the vehicle was the person who committed the violation. Such presumption shall be rebutted if the registered owner of the vehicle testifies in open court under oath that he was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the violation. A summons for a violation of this section may be executed in accordance with § 19.2-76.2. Such rebuttable presumption shall not arise when the registered owner of the vehicle is a rental or leasing company.

D. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 19.2-76, whenever a summons for a violation of this section

is served in any locality, it may be executed by mailing by first-class mail a copy thereof to the address of the owner of the vehicle as shown on the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles. If the summoned person fails to appear on the date of return set out in the summons mailed pursuant to this section, the summons shall be executed in the manner set out in § 19.2-76.3.

No proceedings for contempt or arrest of a person summoned by mailing shall be instituted for his failure to appear on the return date of the summons.

E. Notwithstanding § 33.2-613, high-occupancy vehicles having three or more occupants (HOV-3) may be permitted to use the Omer L. Hirst-Adelard L. Brault Expressway (Dulles Toll Road) without paying a toll.

F. Notwithstanding the contrary provisions of this section, the following conditions shall be met before the *no* HOV-2 designation of Interstate Route 66 outside the Capital Beltway can *shall* be changed to HOV-3 or any more restrictive designation:

1. The Department of Transportation shall publish a notice of its intent to change the existing designation and also immediately provide similar notice of its intent to all members of the General Assembly representing districts that touch or are directly impacted by traffic on Interstate Route 66.

2. The Department of Transportation shall hold public hearings in the corridor to receive comments from the public.

3. The Department of Transportation shall make a finding of the need for a change in such designation, based on public hearings and its internal data, and present this finding to the Board for approval.

4. The Board shall make written findings and a decision based upon the following criteria:

a. Is changing the HOV-2 designation to HOV-3 in the public interest?

b. Is there quantitative and qualitative evidence that supports the argument that HOV-3 will facilitate the flow of traffic on Interstate Route 66?

c. Is changing the HOV-2 designation beneficial to comply with the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990?

#### **§ 33.2-502. Designation of HOT lanes.**

The Board may designate one or more lanes of any highway, including lanes that may previously have been designated HOV lanes under § 33.2-501, in the Interstate System, primary state highway system, or National Highway System, or any portion thereof, as HOT lanes. In making HOT lanes designations, the Board shall also specify the high-occupancy requirement and conditions for use of such HOT lanes or may authorize the Commissioner of Highways to make such determination consistent with the terms of a comprehensive agreement executed pursuant to § 33.2-1808. The high-occupancy requirement for a HOT lanes facility constructed or operated as a result of the Public-Private Transportation Act (§ 33.2-1800 et seq.) shall not be less than three, *with the exception of Interstate 66 outside the Capital Beltway, which shall be no more than two. On Interstate 66 outside the Capital Beltway, no designation of HOT lanes shall apply to the use of any such lanes by vehicles bearing clean special fuel vehicle license plates issued pursuant to § 46.2-749.3, provided that such use is in compliance with federal law.*

#### **§ 46.2-749.3. Special license plates for clean special fuel vehicles.**

A. The owner of any motor vehicle, except a motorcycle, that may utilize clean special fuel may purchase special license plates indicating the motor vehicle utilizes clean special fuels. Upon receipt of an application, the Commissioner shall issue special license plates to the owners of such vehicles.

As used in this section, "clean special fuel" means any product or energy source used to propel a highway vehicle, the use of which, compared to conventional gasoline or reformulated gasoline, results in lower emissions of oxides of nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide or particulates or any combination thereof. The term includes compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, hydrogen, hythane (a combination of compressed natural gas and hydrogen), and electricity.

On and after July 1, 2006, license plates provided for in this section shall be issued with a new design distinctively different from the design of license plates issued to owners of vehicles that qualify for license plates under this section whose applications are received by the Department prior to July 1, 2006, hereinafter referred to as "the FY 2007 design." The distinctively different design shall be developed by the Department in consultation with the Department of State Police.

On and after July 1, 2011, license plates provided for in this section shall be issued with a new design distinctively different from the design of license plates issued to owners of vehicles that qualify for license plates under this section whose applications are received by the Department prior to July 1, 2011 (hereinafter referred to as the FY 2012 design). The distinctively different design shall be developed by the Department in consultation with the Department of State Police. Thereafter, only "the FY 2012 design" plate shall be issued to owners of vehicles that qualify for license plates under this section.

182 1. For the purposes of subdivision A 6 of § 33.2-501, on HOV lanes serving the I-95/395 corridor,  
183 only vehicles registered with and displaying special license plates issued under this section prior to July  
184 1, 2006, shall be treated as vehicles displaying special license plates issued under this section.

185 2. For the purposes of subdivision A 6 of § 33.2-501 *and* § 33.2-502, on HOV lanes *and HOT lanes*  
186 serving the Interstate Route 66 corridor, only vehicles registered with and displaying special license  
187 plates issued under this section prior to July 1, 2011, shall be treated as vehicles displaying special  
188 license plates issued under this section.

189 3. The Commissioner of Highways shall provide annually to the Chairmen of the Senate and House  
190 of Delegates Committees on Transportation traffic volumes on the HOV facilities that result in a  
191 degraded condition as identified in SAFETEA-LU or other applicable federal law and reported to the  
192 Federal Highway Administration. This report shall be used by the Chairmen of their respective  
193 committees to recommend further restriction on use of HOV facilities by clean special fuel vehicles.

194 4. The Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Motor Vehicle  
195 Dealer Board, shall develop procedures to ensure that all potential purchasers of clean special fuel  
196 vehicles receive adequate notice of the benefits, risks and timelines required for the issuance of clean  
197 special fuel vehicle license plates.

198 B. With the exception of plates issued to government-use vehicles, the annual fee for plates issued  
199 pursuant to this section shall be \$25 in addition to the prescribed fee for state license plates. For each  
200 such \$25 fee collected in excess of 1,000 registrations pursuant to this section, \$15 shall be paid to the  
201 State Treasury and credited to a special nonreverting fund known as the HOV Enforcement Fund,  
202 established within the Department of Accounts, for use by the Virginia State Police for enhanced HOV  
203 enforcement. The fee for plates issued pursuant to this section to government-use vehicles shall be as  
204 prescribed in subsection A of § 46.2-750.