

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-181 and 46.2-339 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school bus
3 operators; training.

4 [S 557]
5 Approved

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

7 **1. That §§ 22.1-181 and 46.2-339 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 **§ 22.1-181. Training program for school bus operators.**

9 The Board of Education shall develop a training program for persons applying for employment, and
10 employed, to operate school buses and shall promote its implementation. *For applicants not currently*
11 *possessing a commercial driver's license, such regulations shall require (i) a minimum of 24 hours of*
12 *classroom training administered pursuant to this section and (ii) six hours of behind-the-wheel training*
13 *on a school bus that contains no pupil passengers. For applicants currently possessing a commercial*
14 *driver's license, such regulations shall require (a) a minimum of four hours of classroom training*
15 *administered pursuant to this section and (b) three hours of behind-the-wheel training on a school bus*
16 *that contains no pupil passengers. Behind-the-wheel training shall be administered under the direct*
17 *on-board supervision of a designated school bus driver trainer.*

18 **§ 46.2-339. Qualifications of school bus operators; training; examination.**

19 A. No person shall ~~drive operate~~ any school bus on a highway in the Commonwealth unless he has
20 had a reasonable amount of experience in ~~driving operating~~ motor vehicles, and has passed a special
21 examination pertaining to his ability to ~~drive operate~~ a school bus with safety to its passengers and to
22 other persons using the highways. Such person shall obtain a commercial driver's license with the
23 applicable classifications and endorsements, issued pursuant to the Virginia Commercial Driver's License
24 Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.), if the school bus he ~~drives operates~~ is a commercial motor vehicle as defined
25 in the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act. For the purpose of preparing for the examination
26 required by this section, any person holding a valid ~~driver's license issued under Article 4 of this~~
27 ~~chapter, may drive, under the direct supervision of a person holding a valid school bus license~~
28 ~~endorsement, a school bus which contains no other passengers, provided that, on and after April 1,~~
29 ~~1992, only persons holding a valid commercial driver's license or instruction permit issued under the~~
30 ~~provisions of the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act, may operate, under the direct supervision of~~
31 ~~a person holding a valid commercial driver's license with a school bus endorsement, a school bus which~~
32 ~~that is a commercial motor vehicle as defined in the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act and~~
33 ~~which that contains no pupil passengers.~~

34 B. The Department may adopt regulations necessary to provide for the examination of persons
35 desiring to qualify to ~~drive operate~~ school buses in the Commonwealth and for the granting of permits
36 to qualified applicants.

37 C. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section ~~otherwise~~, no person shall ~~drive operate~~ any school
38 bus on a highway in the Commonwealth during any period in which he is a person for whom
39 registration with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry is required pursuant to Chapter 9
40 (§ 9.1-900 et seq.) of Title 9.1.

41 **2. That the State Board of Education and the Department of Motor Vehicles' initial adoption of**
42 **regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act shall be exempt from the**
43 **Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), except that the State Board**
44 **of Education and the Department of Motor Vehicles shall provide an opportunity for public**
45 **comment on the regulations prior to adoption.**