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SENATE BILL NO. 972

Offered January 15, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-686 and 46.2-694, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-694.2, relating to vehicle registration fees; Public Safety Trust Fund.

Patron—Edwards

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 46.2-686 and 46.2-694, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-694.2 as follows:

§ 46.2-686. Portion of certain fees to be paid into special fund.

Except as provided in ~~subdivision 13 of subsection A~~ subdivisions A 13 and A 14 of § 46.2-694 and § 46.2-703, an amount equal to ~~twenty~~ 20 percent of the fees collected, after refunds, from the registration of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers pursuant to this chapter, calculated at the rates in effect on December 31, 1986, shall be transferred from the special fund established by the provisions of § 46.2-206 to a special fund in the state treasury to be used to meet the expenses of the Department.

§ 46.2-694. (Contingent expiration date — see note*) Fees for vehicles designed and used for transportation of passengers; weights used for computing fees; burden of proof.

A. The annual registration fees for motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers designed and used for the transportation of passengers on the highways in the Commonwealth are:

1. Thirty-three dollars for each private passenger car or motor home if the passenger car or motor home weighs 4,000 pounds or less, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur; however, the fee provided under this subdivision shall apply to a private passenger car or motor home that weighs 4,000 pounds or less and is used as a TNC partner vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000.

2. Thirty-eight dollars for each private passenger car or motor home that weighs more than 4,000 pounds, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur; however, the fee provided under this subdivision shall apply to a private passenger car or motor home that weighs more than 4,000 pounds and is used as a TNC partner vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000.

3. Thirty cents per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for a private motor vehicle other than a motorcycle with a normal seating capacity of more than 10 adults, including the driver, if the private motor vehicle is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur. In no case shall the fee be less than \$23 if the vehicle weighs 4,000 pounds or less or \$28 if the vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

4. Thirty cents per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for a school bus. In no case shall the fee be less than \$23 if the vehicle weighs 4,000 pounds or less or \$28 if the vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

5. Twenty-three dollars for each trailer or semitrailer designed for use as living quarters for human beings.

6. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.30 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for each motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer used as a common carrier of passengers, operating either intrastate or interstate. Interstate common carriers of interstate passengers may elect to be licensed and pay the fees prescribed in subdivision 7 on submission to the Commissioner of a declaration of operations and equipment as he may prescribe. An additional \$5 shall be charged if the motor vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

7. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.70 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for each motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer used as a common carrier of interstate passengers if election is made to be licensed under this subsection. An additional \$5 shall be charged if the motor vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds. In lieu of the foregoing fee of \$0.70 per 100 pounds, a motor carrier of passengers, operating two or more vehicles both within and outside the Commonwealth and registered for insurance purposes with the Surface Transportation Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, may apply to the Commissioner for prorated registration. Upon the filing of such application, in such form as the Commissioner may prescribe, the Commissioner shall apportion the

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59 registration fees provided in this subsection so that the total registration fees to be paid for such vehicles
60 of such carrier shall be that proportion of the total fees, if there were no apportionment, that the total
61 number of miles traveled by such vehicles of such carrier within the Commonwealth bears to the total
62 number of miles traveled by such vehicles within and outside the Commonwealth. Such total mileage in
63 each instance is the estimated total mileage to be traveled by such vehicles during the license year for
64 which such fees are paid, subject to the adjustment in accordance with an audit to be made by
65 representatives of the Commissioner at the end of such license year, the expense of such audit to be
66 borne by the carrier being audited. Each vehicle passing into or through Virginia shall be registered and
67 licensed in Virginia and the annual registration fee to be paid for each such vehicle shall not be less
68 than \$33. For the purpose of determining such apportioned registration fees, only those motor vehicles,
69 trailers, or semitrailers operated both within and outside the Commonwealth shall be subject to inclusion
70 in determining the apportionment provided for herein.

71 8. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.80 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for each motor vehicle, trailer
72 or semitrailer kept or used for rent or for hire or operated under a lease without a chauffeur for the
73 transportation of passengers. An additional fee of \$5 shall be charged if the vehicle weighs more than
74 4,000 pounds. This subdivision does not apply to vehicles used as common carriers or as TNC partner
75 vehicles as defined in § 46.2-2000.

76 9. Twenty-three dollars for a taxicab or other vehicle which is kept for rent or hire operated with a
77 chauffeur for the transportation of passengers, and which operates or should operate under permits issued
78 by the Department as required by law. An additional fee of \$5 shall be charged if the vehicle weighs
79 more than 4,000 pounds. This subdivision does not apply to vehicles used as common carriers or as
80 TNC partner vehicles as defined in § 46.2-2000.

81 10. Eighteen dollars for a motorcycle, with or without a sidecar. To this fee shall be added a
82 surcharge of \$3 which shall be distributed as provided in § 46.2-1191.

83 10a. Fourteen dollars for a moped, to be paid into the state treasury and set aside as a special fund to
84 be used to meet the expenses of the Department.

85 10b. Eighteen dollars for an autocycle.

86 11. Twenty-three dollars for a bus used exclusively for transportation to and from church school, for
87 the purpose of religious instruction, or church, for the purpose of divine worship. If the empty weight of
88 the vehicle exceeds 4,000 pounds, the fee shall be \$28.

89 12. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.70 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for other passenger-carrying
90 vehicles.

91 13. An additional fee of \$4.25 per year shall be charged and collected at the time of registration of
92 each pickup or panel truck and each motor vehicle under subdivisions 1 through 12. All funds collected
93 from \$4 of the \$4.25 fee shall be paid into the state treasury and shall be set aside as a special fund to
94 be used only for emergency medical services purposes. The moneys in the special emergency medical
95 services fund shall be distributed as follows:

96 a. Two percent shall be distributed to the State Department of Health to provide funding to the
97 Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads to be used solely for the purpose of conducting
98 volunteer recruitment, retention, and training activities;

99 b. Thirty percent shall be distributed to the State Department of Health to support (i) emergency
100 medical services training programs (excluding advanced life support classes); (ii) advanced life support
101 training; (iii) recruitment and retention programs (all funds for such support shall be used to recruit and
102 retain volunteer emergency medical services personnel only, including public awareness campaigns,
103 technical assistance programs, and similar activities); (iv) emergency medical services system
104 development, initiatives, and priorities based on needs identified by the State Emergency Medical
105 Services Advisory Board; (v) local, regional, and statewide performance contracts for emergency medical
106 services to meet the objectives stipulated in § 32.1-111.3; (vi) technology and radio communication
107 enhancements; and (vii) improved emergency preparedness and response. Any funds set aside for
108 distribution under this provision and remaining undistributed at the end of any fiscal year shall revert to
109 the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund;

110 c. Thirty-two percent shall be distributed to the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund;

111 d. Ten percent shall be available to the State Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical
112 Services for use in emergency medical services; and

113 e. Twenty-six percent shall be returned by the Comptroller to the locality wherein such vehicle is
114 registered, to provide funding for training of volunteer or salaried emergency medical services personnel
115 of nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued by the Commissioner
116 of Health and for the purchase of necessary equipment and supplies for use in such locality for
117 emergency medical services provided by nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid
118 license issued by the Commissioner of Health.

119 All revenues generated by the remaining \$0.25 of the \$4.25 fee approved by the 2008 Session of the
120 General Assembly shall be deposited into the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund and used only to pay for

the costs associated with the certification and recertification training of emergency medical services personnel.

The Comptroller shall clearly designate on the warrant, check, or other means of transmitting these funds that such moneys are only to be used for purposes set forth in this subdivision. Such funds shall be in addition to any local appropriations and local governing bodies shall not use these funds to supplant local funds. Each local governing body shall report annually to the Board of Health on the use of the funds returned to it pursuant to this section. In any case in which the local governing body grants the funds to a regional emergency medical services council to be distributed to the nonprofit emergency medical services agency that holds a valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health, the local governing body shall remain responsible for the proper use of the funds. If, at the end of any fiscal year, a report on the use of the funds returned to the locality pursuant to this section for that year has not been received from a local governing body, any funds due to that local governing body for the next fiscal year shall be retained until such time as the report has been submitted to the Board.

14. An additional annual fee shall be charged and collected at the time of registration of each pickup or panel truck and each motor vehicle under subdivisions 1 through 12. All funds collected from the fee shall be paid into the state treasury and allocated to the Public Safety Trust Fund established pursuant to § 46.2-694.2.

a. Beginning July 1, 2020, such fee shall be \$1.25 per year.

b. Beginning July 1, 2021, such fee shall be \$2.50 per year.

c. Beginning July 1, 2022, such fee shall be \$3.75 per year.

d. Beginning July 1, 2023, such fee shall be \$5 per year.

e. Beginning July 1, 2024, such fee shall be \$6.25 per year.

f. Beginning July 1, 2025, such fee shall be \$7.50 per year.

g. Beginning July 1, 2026, such fee shall be \$8.75 per year.

h. Beginning July 1, 2027, such fee shall be \$10 per year.

i. Beginning July 1, 2028, such fee shall be \$11.25 per year.

j. Beginning July 1, 2029, such fee shall be \$12.50 per year.

B. All motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers registered as provided in subsection B of § 46.2-646 shall pay a registration fee equal to one-twelfth of all fees required by subsection A of this section or § 46.2-697 for such motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, computed to the nearest cent, multiplied by the number of months in the registration period for such motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers.

C. The manufacturer's shipping weight or scale weight shall be used for computing all fees required by this section to be based upon the weight of the vehicle.

D. The applicant for registration bears the burden of proof that the vehicle for which registration is sought is entitled by weight, design, and use to be registered at the fee tendered by the applicant to the Commissioner or to his authorized agent.

§ 46.2-694. (Contingent effective date — see note*) Fees for vehicles designed and used for transportation of passengers; weights used for computing fees; burden of proof.

A. The annual registration fees for motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers designed and used for the transportation of passengers on the highways in the Commonwealth are:

1. Twenty-three dollars for each private passenger car or motor home if the passenger car or motor home weighs 4,000 pounds or less, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur; however, the fee provided under this subdivision shall apply to a private passenger car or motor home that weighs 4,000 pounds or less and is used as a TNC partner vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000.

2. Twenty-eight dollars for each private passenger car or motor home that weighs more than 4,000 pounds, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur; however, the fee provided under this subdivision shall apply to a private passenger car or motor home that weighs more than 4,000 pounds and is used as a TNC partner vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000.

3. Thirty cents per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for a private motor vehicle other than a motorcycle with a normal seating capacity of more than 10 adults, including the driver, if the private motor vehicle is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur. In no case shall the fee be less than \$23 if the vehicle weighs 4,000 pounds or less or \$28 if the vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

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184 trailer, or semitrailer used as a common carrier of passengers, operating either intrastate or interstate.
185 Interstate common carriers of interstate passengers may elect to be licensed and pay the fees prescribed
186 in subdivision 7 on submission to the Commissioner of a declaration of operations and equipment as he
187 may prescribe. An additional \$5 shall be charged if the motor vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

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189 trailer, or semitrailer used as a common carrier of interstate passengers if election is made to be licensed
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193 with the Surface Transportation Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway
194 Administration, may apply to the Commissioner for prorated registration. Upon the filing of such
195 application, in such form as the Commissioner may prescribe, the Commissioner shall apportion the
196 registration fees provided in this subsection so that the total registration fees to be paid for such vehicles
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198 number of miles traveled by such vehicles of such carrier within the Commonwealth bears to the total
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242 Services Advisory Board; (v) local, regional, and statewide performance contracts for emergency medical
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enhancements; and (vii) improved emergency preparedness and response. Any funds set aside for distribution under this provision and remaining undistributed at the end of any fiscal year shall revert to the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund;

c. Thirty-two percent shall be distributed to the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund;

d. Ten percent shall be available to the State Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services for use in emergency medical services; and

e. Twenty-six percent shall be returned by the Comptroller to the locality wherein such vehicle is registered, to provide funding for training of volunteer or salaried emergency medical services personnel of nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health and for the purchase of necessary equipment and supplies for use in such locality for emergency medical services provided by nonprofit or volunteer emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health.

All revenues generated by the remaining \$0.25 of the \$4.25 fee approved by the 2008 Session of the General Assembly shall be deposited into the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund and used only to pay for the costs associated with the certification and recertification training of emergency medical services personnel.

The Comptroller shall clearly designate on the warrant, check, or other means of transmitting these funds that such moneys are only to be used for purposes set forth in this subdivision. Such funds shall be in addition to any local appropriations and local governing bodies shall not use these funds to supplant local funds. Each local governing body shall report annually to the Board of Health on the use of the funds returned to it pursuant to this section. In any case in which the local governing body grants the funds to a regional emergency medical services council to be distributed to the emergency medical services agency that holds a valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health, the local governing body shall remain responsible for the proper use of the funds. If, at the end of any fiscal year, a report on the use of the funds returned to the locality pursuant to this section for that year has not been received from a local governing body, any funds due to that local governing body for the next fiscal year shall be retained until such time as the report has been submitted to the Board.

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C. The manufacturer's shipping weight or scale weight shall be used for computing all fees required by this section to be based upon the weight of the vehicle.

D. The applicant for registration bears the burden of proof that the vehicle for which registration is sought is entitled by weight, design, and use to be registered at the fee tendered by the applicant to the Commissioner or to his authorized agent.

§ 46.2-294.2. Public Safety Trust Fund.

There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Public Safety Trust Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All fees collected pursuant to subdivision A 14 of § 46.2-694 and any funds as may be appropriated by the General Assembly shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of addressing staffing, retention, and pay suppression issues at the Department of State Police, subject to appropriation.