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HOUSE BILL NO. 1961

Offered January 13, 2021

Prefiled January 11, 2021

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-345 of the Code of Virginia, relating to special identification cards; application by guardian.

Patrons—Bell and Helmer

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 46.2-345 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 46.2-345. Issuance of special identification cards; fee; confidentiality; penalties.**

A. On the application of any person who is a resident of the Commonwealth ~~or~~, the parent of any such person who is under the age of 18, or the legal guardian of any such person who is under the age of 15, the Department shall issue a special identification card to the person, provided that:

1. Application is made on a form prescribed by the Department and includes the applicant's full legal name; year, month, and date of birth; social security number; sex; and residence address. Applicants shall be permitted to choose between "male," "female," or "non-binary" when designating the applicant's sex on the application form;

2. The applicant presents, when required by the Department, proof of identity, legal presence, residency, and social security number or non-work authorized status;

3. The Department is satisfied that the applicant needs an identification card or the applicant shows he has a bona fide need for such a card; and

4. The applicant does not hold a driver's license, commercial driver's license, temporary driver's permit, learner's permit, motorcycle learner's permit, or special identification card without a photograph.

Persons 70 years of age or older may exchange a valid Virginia driver's license for a special identification card at no fee. Special identification cards subsequently issued to such persons shall be subject to the regular fees for special identification cards.

B. The fee for the issuance of an original, duplicate, reissue, or renewal special identification card is \$2 per year, with a \$10 minimum fee. Persons 21 years old or older may be issued a scenic special identification card for an additional fee of \$5.

C. Every special identification card shall expire on the applicant's birthday at the end of the period of years for which a special identification card has been issued. At no time shall any special identification card be issued for less than three nor more than eight years, except under the provisions of subsection B of § 46.2-328.1 and except that those cards issued to children under the age of 15 shall expire on the child's sixteenth birthday. Notwithstanding these limitations, the Commissioner may extend the validity period of an expiring card if (i) the Department is unable to process an application for renewal due to circumstances beyond its control, (ii) the extension has been authorized under a directive from the Governor, and (iii) the card was not issued as a temporary special identification card under the provisions of subsection B of § 46.2-328.1. However, in no event shall the validity period be extended more than 90 days per occurrence of such conditions. Any special identification card issued to a person required to register pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 9.1-900 et seq.) of Title 9.1 shall expire on the applicant's birthday in years which the applicant attains an age equally divisible by five. For each person required to register pursuant to Chapter 9 of Title 9.1, the Department may not waive the requirement that each such person shall appear for each renewal or the requirement to obtain a photograph in accordance with subsection C of § 46.2-323.

D. A special identification card issued under this section may be similar in size, shape, and design to a driver's license, and include a photograph of its holder, but the card shall be readily distinguishable from a driver's license and shall clearly state that it does not authorize the person to whom it is issued to drive a motor vehicle. Every applicant for a special identification card shall appear in person before the Department to apply for a renewal, duplicate or reissue unless specifically permitted by the Department to apply in another manner.

E. Special identification cards, for persons at least 15 years old but less than 21 years old, shall be immediately and readily distinguishable from those issued to persons 21 years old or older. Distinguishing characteristics shall include unique design elements of the document and descriptors within the photograph area to identify persons who are at least 15 years old but less than 21 years old. These descriptors shall include the month, day, and year when the person will become 21 years old.

F. Special identification cards for persons under age 15 shall bear a full face photograph. The special

INTRODUCED

HB1961

59 identification card issued to persons under age 15 shall be readily distinguishable from a driver's license
60 and from other special identification cards issued by the Department. Such cards shall clearly indicate
61 that it does not authorize the person to whom it is issued to drive a motor vehicle.

62 G. Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a valid Virginia driver's license shall be surrendered upon
63 application for a special identification card without the applicant's having to present proof of legal
64 presence as required by § 46.2-328.1 if the Virginia driver's license is unexpired and it has not been
65 revoked, suspended, or cancelled. The special identification card shall be considered a reissue and the
66 expiration date shall be the last day of the month of the surrendered driver's license's month of
67 expiration.

68 H. Any personal information, as identified in § 2.2-3801, which is retained by the Department from
69 an application for the issuance of a special identification card is confidential and shall not be divulged to
70 any person, association, corporation, or organization, public or private, except to the legal guardian or
71 the attorney of the applicant or to a person, association, corporation, or organization nominated in
72 writing by the applicant, his legal guardian, or his attorney. This subsection shall not prevent the
73 Department from furnishing the application or any information thereon to any law-enforcement agency.

74 I. Any person who uses a false or fictitious name or gives a false or fictitious address in any
75 application for an identification card or knowingly makes a false statement or conceals a material fact or
76 otherwise commits a fraud in any such application shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. However,
77 where the name or address is given, or false statement is made, or fact is concealed, or fraud committed,
78 with the intent to purchase a firearm or where the identification card is obtained for the purpose of
79 committing any offense punishable as a felony, a violation of this section shall constitute a Class 4
80 felony.

81 J. The Department shall utilize the various communications media throughout the Commonwealth to
82 inform Virginia residents of the provisions of this section and to promote and encourage the public to
83 take advantage of its provisions.

84 K. The Department shall electronically transmit application information to the Department of State
85 Police, in a format approved by the State Police, for comparison with information contained in the
86 Virginia Criminal Information Network and National Crime Information Center Convicted Sexual
87 Offender Registry Files, at the time of issuance of a special identification card. Whenever it appears
88 from the records of the State Police that a person has failed to comply with the duty to register,
89 reregister, or verify his registration information pursuant to Chapter 9 (§ 9.1-900 et seq.) of Title 9.1, the
90 State Police shall promptly investigate and, if there is probable cause to believe a violation has occurred,
91 obtain a warrant or assist in obtaining an indictment charging a violation of § 18.2-472.1 in the
92 jurisdiction in which the person made application for the special identification card.

93 L. When requested by the applicant, the applicant's parent if the applicant is a minor, or the
94 applicant's guardian, and upon presentation of a signed statement by a licensed physician confirming the
95 applicant's condition, the Department shall indicate on the applicant's special identification card that the
96 applicant has any condition listed in subsection K of § 46.2-342 or that the applicant is blind or vision
97 impaired.