

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1994 SESSION

## CHAPTER 959

*An Act to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-208, 46.2-209 and 46.2-210 of the Code of Virginia, relating to certain records of the Department of Motor Vehicles.*

[H 676]

Approved May 20, 1994

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

**1. That §§ 46.2-208, 46.2-209 and 46.2-210 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 46.2-208. Records of Department; when open for inspection; release of privileged information.

A. All ~~registration and title~~ records in the office of the Department *containing the specific classes of information outlined below shall be public records, but shall be open for inspection only subject to regulations promulgated by the Commissioner.* *considered privileged records:*

1. *Personal information, including all data defined as "personal information" in § 2.1-379;*
2. *Driver information, including all data that relates to driver's license status and driver activity;*
- and*
3. *Vehicle information, including all descriptive vehicle data and title, registration, and vehicle activity data.*

B. The Commissioner shall ~~consider all driving records in the Department as privileged public records and shall~~ release such information only under the following conditions:

1. *Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, medical data included in personal data shall be released only to a physician as provided in § 46.2-322.*

2. *Insurance data may be released as specified in §§ 46.2-372, 46.2-380, and 46.2-706.*

3. *Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, information disclosed or furnished shall be assessed a fee as specified in § 46.2-214.*

4. *On the request of any adult, parent or legal guardian of a minor, or their authorized agents When the person requesting the information is (i) the subject of the information, (ii) the parent or guardian of the subject of the information, (iii) the authorized representative of the subject of the information, or (iv) the owner of the vehicle that is the subject of the information, the Commissioner shall provide that person him with the requested information and a complete explanation of all information pertaining to himself, his minor child or ward, or the person for whom he is the agent, except that medical information, which in the judgment of the Commissioner should only be disclosed by a physician, shall be referred to any physician designated by the person making the request it. Requests for such information need not be made in writing or in person and may be made orally or by telephone, provided that the Department is satisfied that there is adequate verification of the requester's identity. When so requested in writing by (i) the subject of the information, (ii) the parent or guardian of the subject of the information, (iii) the authorized representative of the subject of the information, or (iv) the owner of the vehicle that is the subject of the information, the Commissioner shall verify and, if necessary, correct the personal information provided and furnish driver and vehicle information in the form of an abstract of the record.*

~~2.~~ 5. On the written request of any insurance carrier ~~or~~, surety, or representative of an insurance carrier or surety, the Commissioner shall furnish *such insurance carrier, surety, or representative* an abstract of the ~~operating~~ record of any person subject to the provisions of this title. The abstract shall ~~fully designate~~ *include* any record of any conviction ~~of the person~~ of a violation of any provision of any statute or ordinance relating to the operation or ownership of a motor vehicle or of any injury or damage in which he was involved and a report of which is required by § 46.2-372. No such report of any conviction or accident shall be made after sixty months from the date of the conviction or accident unless the Commissioner or court used the conviction or accident as a reason for the suspension or revocation of a driver's license or driving privilege, in which case the revocation or suspension and any conviction or accident pertaining thereto shall not be reported after sixty months from the date that the driver's license or driving privilege has been reinstated. This abstract shall not be admissible in evidence in any court proceedings. ~~The Commissioner shall charge a reasonable fee for the operating record.~~ Nothing in this subdivision shall authorize the recipient of an abstract under this section to make any further disclosure of any information contained therein except where further disclosure is authorized or required by law.

~~3.~~ 6. On the written request of any business official ~~who provides the Commissioner with an individual's driver's license number, the Commissioner may furnish that person the name and address of the individual as shown on the Department's records for that driver's license number.~~ Nothing in this subdivision shall authorize the release of any record of convictions of motor vehicle law violations ~~organization or its agent, in the conduct of its business, the Commissioner shall compare personal~~

information supplied by the business organization or agent with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the business organization or agent is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the business organization or agent with correct information as contained in the Department's records. Personal information provided under this subdivision shall be used solely for the purpose of pursuing remedies which require locating an individual.

7. The Commissioner shall provide vehicle information to any business organization or agent on such business' or agent's written request. Disclosures made under this subdivision shall not include any personal information and shall not be subject to the limitations contained in subdivision 6 of this subsection.

8. On the written request of any motor vehicle rental or leasing company or its designated agent, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by the company or agent with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the company or agent is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the company or agent with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide the company or agent with driver information in the form of an abstract of any person subject to the provisions of this title. Such abstract shall include any record of any conviction of a violation of any provision of any statute or ordinance relating to the operation or ownership of a motor vehicle or of any injury or damage in which the subject of the abstract was involved and a report of which is required by § 46.2-372. No such abstract shall include any record of any conviction or accident more than sixty months after the date of such conviction or accident unless the Commissioner or court used the conviction or accident as a reason for the suspension or revocation of a driver's license or driving privilege, in which case the revocation or suspension and any conviction or accident pertaining thereto shall cease to be included in such abstract after sixty months from the date on which the driver's license or driving privilege was reinstated. No abstract released under this subdivision shall be admissible in evidence in any court proceedings.

~~4.~~ 9. On the request of any federal, state, or local governmental entity, law-enforcement officer, attorney for the Commonwealth, or court, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by the governmental entity, officer, attorney for the Commonwealth, or court with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the governmental entity, officer, attorney for the Commonwealth, or court is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the governmental entity, officer, attorney for the Commonwealth, or court with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide driver and vehicle information in the form of an abstract of the ~~operating~~ record showing all convictions, accidents, driver's license suspensions or revocations, and other appropriate information as the ~~requesting authority~~ governmental entity, officer, attorney for the Commonwealth, or court may require in order to carry out its official functions.

~~5.~~ 10. On request of the driver licensing authority in any other state or foreign country, the Commissioner shall provide whatever classes of information the requesting authority shall require in order to carry out its official functions.

~~6.~~ 11. On the written request of any employer, prospective employer, or authorized agent of either, and with the written consent of the individual concerned, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by the employer, prospective employer, or agent with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the employer, prospective employer, or agent is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the employer, prospective employer, or agent with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide the employer, prospective employer, or agent with driver information in the form of an abstract of an individual's ~~operating~~ record showing all convictions, accidents, driver's license suspensions or revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses, provided that the individual's position or the position that the individual is being considered for involves the operation of a motor vehicle.

~~6a.~~ 12. On the written request of any member of or applicant for membership in a volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide driver information in the form of an abstract of the member's or applicant's ~~operating~~ record showing all convictions, accidents, license suspensions or revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses. Such abstract shall be provided free of charge if the request is accompanied by appropriate written evidence that the person is a member of or applicant for membership in a volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad and the abstract is needed by a volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad to establish the qualifications of the member or applicant to operate equipment owned by the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad.

~~6b.~~ 13. On the written request of any person who has applied to be a volunteer with a Virginia

affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, the Commissioner shall (i) *compare personal information supplied by a Virginia affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by a Virginia affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the Virginia affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America with correct information as contained in the Department's records and* (ii) *provide driver information in the form of an abstract of the applicant's operating record showing all convictions, accidents, license suspensions or revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses. Such abstract shall be provided free of charge if the request is accompanied by appropriate written evidence that the person has applied to be a volunteer with a Virginia affiliate of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America.*

~~7-~~ 14. Whenever the Commissioner issues an order to suspend or revoke the driver's license or driving privilege of any individual, he may notify the National Driver Register Service operated by the United States Department of Transportation *and any similar national driver information system and provide whatever classes of information the authority may require.*

~~8-~~ 15. Accident reports may be inspected under the provisions of §§ 46.2-379 and 46.2-380.

~~9-~~ 16. Whenever the Commissioner takes any licensing action pursuant to the provisions of the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.), he may provide information to the Commercial Driver License Information System, or any similar national commercial driver information system, regarding such action.

~~10-~~ 17. Upon the request of any employer, prospective employer, or *authorized* representative of either, the Commissioner shall (i) *compare personal information supplied by the employer, prospective employer, or agent with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the employer, prospective employer, or agent is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the employer, prospective employer, or agent with correct information as contained in the Department's records and* (ii) *provide driver information in the form of an abstract of the driving record of any individual who has been issued a commercial driver's license, provided that the individual's position or the position that the individual is being considered for involves the operation of a commercial motor vehicle. Such abstract shall show all convictions, accidents, license suspensions, revocations, or disqualifications, and any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses. The Commissioner shall charge a reasonable fee for the operating record. Nothing in this subdivision shall authorize the recipient of an abstract under this section to make any further disclosure of any information contained therein except where such further disclosure is authorized or required by law.*

18. *Upon the receipt of a completed application and payment of applicable processing fees, the Commissioner may enter into an agreement with any governmental authority or business to exchange information specified in this section by electronic or other means.*

19. *In addition to the foregoing provisions of this section, vehicle information may also be inspected under the provisions of §§ 43-33, 43-34, 46.2-633, and 46.2-1200.1 through 46.2-1237.*

20. *Upon the request of an attorney representing a person in a motor vehicle accident, the Commissioner shall provide vehicle information, including the owner's name and address, to the attorney.*

C. The Department may promulgate regulations to govern the means by which ~~registration~~ *personal, vehicle, and driver information is requested and disseminated.*

§ 46.2-209. Release of information in Department records for research purposes.

Notwithstanding the provisions of § 46.2-208, the Commissioner may furnish information for research purposes when the information is furnished in such a manner that individuals cannot be identified by *social security or license number* or in other cases wherein, in his opinion, highway safety or the general welfare of the public will be promoted by furnishing the information, and the recipient of the information has agreed in writing with the Commissioner or his designee that the information furnished will be used for no purpose other than the purpose for which it was furnished. *No such information shall be used for solicitation.*

§ 46.2-210. List of registrations and titles.

The Commissioner shall have prepared a list of registrations and titles ~~which may be offered for sale to the public at a price determined by the Commissioner. The list may be furnished and furnish it to the commissioner of the revenue of each county and city without cost. The Commissioner shall not make such list available to the public, nor shall any commissioner of the revenue make such list available to any third party.~~