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## HOUSE BILL NO. 1989

Offered January 19, 1999

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-395 and 46.2-416 of the Code of Virginia, relating to suspension of certain driver's licenses.

Patron—Jackson

Referred to Committee on Transportation

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That §§ 46.2-395 and 46.2-416 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 46.2-395. Suspension of license for failure or refusal to pay fines or costs.

A. Any person, whether licensed by Virginia or not, who drives a motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth shall thereby, as a condition of such driving, consent to pay all lawful fines, court costs, forfeitures, restitution, and penalties assessed against him for violations of the laws of the Commonwealth; of any county, city, or town; or of the United States. For the purpose of this section, such fines and costs shall be deemed to include any fee assessed by the court under the provisions of § 18.2-271.1 for entry by a person convicted of a violation of § 18.2-51.4 or § 18.2-266 into an alcohol safety action program.

B. In addition to any penalty provided by law, when any person is convicted of any violation of the law of the Commonwealth or of the United States or of any valid local ordinance and fails or refuses to provide for immediate payment in full of any fine, costs, forfeitures, restitution, or penalty lawfully assessed against him, or fails to make deferred payments or installment payments as ordered by the court, the court shall forthwith suspend the person's privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth. The driver's license of the person shall continue suspended until the fine, costs, forfeiture, restitution, or penalty has been paid in full. If the person has not obtained a license as required by this chapter, or is a nonresident, the court may direct in the judgment of conviction that the person shall not drive any motor vehicle in Virginia for a period to coincide with the nonpayment of the amounts due.

C. Before transmitting to the Commissioner a record of the person's failure or refusal to pay all or part of any fine, costs, forfeiture, restitution, or penalty or a failure to comply with an order issued pursuant to § 19.2-354, the clerk of the court that convicted the person shall send or provide the person written notice of the suspension of his license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle in Virginia, effective ~~ten~~ fourteen days from the date of conviction, if the fine, costs, forfeiture, restitution, or penalty is not paid prior to the effective date of the suspension as stated on the notice. Notice shall be provided to the person at the time of trial or shall be mailed by first-class mail to the address certified on the summons or bail recognizance document as the person's current mailing address, or to such mailing address as the person has subsequently provided to the court as a change of address. If so mailed on the date of conviction or within two business days thereof, or if delivered to the person at the time of trial, such notice shall be adequate notice of the license suspension and of the person's ability to avoid suspension by paying the fine, costs, forfeiture, restitution, or penalty prior to the effective date. No other notice shall be required to make the suspension effective. A record of the person's failure or refusal and of the license suspension shall be sent to the Commissioner if the fine, costs, forfeiture, restitution, or penalty remains unpaid on the effective date of the suspension specified in the notice or on the failure to make a scheduled payment.

C1. Whenever a person provides for payment of a fine, costs, forfeiture, restitution or penalty other than by cash and such provision for payment fails, the clerk of the court that convicted the person shall send to the person written notice of the failure and of the suspension of his license or privilege to drive in Virginia. The license suspension shall be effective ten days from the date of the notice. The notice shall be effective notice of the suspension and of the person's ability to avoid the suspension by paying the full amount owed by cash, cashier's check or certified check prior to the effective date of the suspension if the notice is mailed by first class mail to the address provided by the person to the court pursuant to subsection C or § 19.2-354. Upon such a failure of payment and notice, the fine, costs, forfeiture, restitution or penalty due shall be paid only in cash, cashier's check or by certified check, unless otherwise ordered by the court, for good cause shown.

D. If the person pays the amounts assessed against him subsequent to the time the license has been transmitted to the Department, and his license is not under suspension or revocation for any other lawful reason, except pursuant to this section, then the Commissioner shall return the license to the person on presentation of the official report of the court evidencing the payment of the fine, costs, forfeiture,

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60 restitution, or penalty.

61 E. If the court has suspended or revoked the driver's license for any lawful reason other than this  
62 section, or the conviction is one for which revocation or suspension is required under any provision of  
63 this title, except for this section, then the suspension permitted under this section shall be in addition to,  
64 and run consecutively with, the revocation or suspension. The period of suspension shall be calculated  
65 from the date of the assessment of the fine, costs, forfeiture, restitution, or penalty until the date it has  
66 been paid.

67 § 46.2-416. Notice of suspension or revocation of license.

68 Whenever it is provided in this title that a driver's license may or shall be suspended or revoked  
69 either by the Commissioner or by a court, notice of the suspension or revocation or any certified copy  
70 of the decision or order of the Commissioner may be sent by the Department by certified mail to the  
71 driver at the most recent address of the driver on file at the Department. If the driver has previously  
72 been notified by mail or in person of the suspension or revocation or of an impending suspension for  
73 failure to pay fines and costs pursuant to § 46.2-395, whether notice is given by the court or  
74 law-enforcement officials as provided by law, and the Department has been notified by the court that  
75 notice was so given and the fines and costs were not paid within ~~ten~~ *fourteen* days, no notice of  
76 suspension shall be sent by the Department to the driver. If the certificate of the Commissioner or  
77 someone designated by him for that purpose shows that the notice or copy has been so sent or provided,  
78 it shall be deemed prima facie evidence that the notice or copy has been sent and delivered or otherwise  
79 provided to the driver for all purposes involving the application of the provisions of this title. In the  
80 discretion of the Commissioner, service may be made as provided in § 8.01-296, which service on the  
81 driver shall be made by delivery in writing to the driver in person in accordance with subdivision 1 of  
82 § 8.01-296 by a sheriff or deputy sheriff in the county or city in which the address is located, who shall,  
83 as directed by the Commissioner, take possession of any suspended or revoked license, registration card,  
84 or set of license plates or decals and return them to the office of the Commissioner. No such service  
85 shall be made if, prior to service, the driver has complied with the requirement which caused the  
86 issuance of the decision or order. In any such case, return shall be made to the Commissioner.

87 In lieu of making a direct payment to sheriffs as a fee for delivery of the Department's processes, the  
88 Commissioner shall effect a transfer of funds, on a monthly basis, to the Compensation Board to be  
89 used to provide additional support to sheriffs' departments. The amount of funds so transferred shall be  
90 as provided in the general appropriation act.