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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2794**

Offered January 17, 2005

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-100 and 46.2-1157 of the Code of Virginia, and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-800.2, relating to the definition and regulation of mopeds.*

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 Patron—Ingram
 

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 Referred to Committee on Transportation
 

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

**1. That §§ 46.2-100 and 46.2-1157 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted, and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-800.2 as follows:**

**§ 46.2-100. Definitions.**

The following words and phrases when used in this title shall, for the purpose of this title, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

"Antique motor vehicle" means every motor vehicle, as defined in this section, which was actually manufactured or designated by the manufacturer as a model manufactured in a calendar year not less than 25 years prior to January 1 of each calendar year and is owned solely as a collector's item.

"Antique trailer" means every trailer or semitrailer, as defined in this section, that was actually manufactured or designated by the manufacturer as a model manufactured in a calendar year not less than 25 years prior to January 1 of each calendar year and is owned solely as a collector's item.

"Automobile or watercraft transporters" means any tractor truck, lowboy, vehicle, or combination, including vehicles or combinations that transport motor vehicles or watercraft on their power unit, designed and used exclusively for the transportation of motor vehicles or watercraft.

"Bicycle" means a device propelled solely by human power, upon which a person may ride either on or astride a regular seat attached thereto, having two or more wheels in tandem, including children's bicycles, except a toy vehicle intended for use by young children. For purposes of Chapter 8 (§ 46.2-800 et seq.) of this title, a bicycle shall be a vehicle while operated on the highway.

"Bicycle lane" means that portion of a roadway designated by signs and/or pavement markings for the preferential use of bicycles, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds.

"Business district" means the territory contiguous to a highway where 75 percent or more of the property contiguous to a highway, on either side of the highway, for a distance of 300 feet or more along the highway, is occupied by land and buildings actually in use for business purposes.

"Camping trailer" means every vehicle that has collapsible sides and contains sleeping quarters but may or may not contain bathing and cooking facilities and is designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle.

"Cancel" or "cancellation" means that the document or privilege cancelled has been annulled or terminated because of some error, defect, or ineligibility, but the cancellation is without prejudice and reapplication may be made at any time after cancellation.

"Chauffeur" means every person employed for the principal purpose of driving a motor vehicle and every person who drives a motor vehicle while in use as a public or common carrier of persons or property.

"Commission" means the State Corporation Commission.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles of the Commonwealth.

"Crosswalk" means that part of a roadway at an intersection included within the connections of the lateral lines of the sidewalks on opposite sides of the highway measured from the curbs or, in the absence of curbs, from the edges of the traversable roadway; or any portion of a roadway at an intersection or elsewhere distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

"Decal" means a device to be attached to a license plate that validates the license plate for a predetermined registration period.

"Department" means the Department of Motor Vehicles of the Commonwealth.

"Disabled parking license plate" means a license plate that displays the international symbol of access in the same size as the numbers and letters on the plate and in a color that contrasts with the background.

"Disabled veteran" means a veteran who (i) has either lost, or lost the use of, a leg, arm, or hand; (ii) is blind; or (iii) is permanently and totally disabled as certified by the U.S. Veterans Administration.

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59 A veteran shall be considered blind if he has a permanent impairment of both eyes to the following  
60 extent: (i) central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective lenses, or central  
61 visual acuity of more than 20/200, if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted  
62 to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20  
63 degrees in the better eye.

64 "Driver's license" means any license, including a commercial driver's license as defined in the  
65 Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.), issued under the laws of the  
66 Commonwealth authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle.

67 "Electric personal assistive mobility device" means a self-balancing two-nontandem-wheeled device  
68 that is designed to transport only one person and powered by an electric propulsion system that limits  
69 the device's maximum speed to 15 miles per hour or less. For purposes of Chapter 8 of this title, an  
70 electric personal assistive mobility device shall be a vehicle when operated on a highway.

71 "Electric power-assisted bicycle" means a bicycle equipped with an electric motor that reduces the  
72 pedal effort required of the rider, but does not eliminate the rider's need to pedal. For the purposes of  
73 Chapter 8 of this title, an electric power-assisted bicycle shall be a vehicle when operated on a highway.

74 "Essential parts" means all integral parts and body parts, the removal, alteration, or substitution of  
75 which will tend to conceal the identity of a vehicle.

76 "Farm tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used as a farm, agricultural, or horticultural  
77 implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other farm, agricultural, or horticultural machinery  
78 and implements including self-propelled mowers designed and used for mowing lawns.

79 "Federal safety requirements" means applicable provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 30101 et seq. and all  
80 administrative regulations and policies adopted pursuant thereto.

81 "Financial responsibility" means the ability to respond in damages for liability thereafter incurred  
82 arising out of the ownership, maintenance, use, or operation of a motor vehicle, in the amounts provided  
83 for in § 46.2-472.

84 "Foreign market vehicle" means any motor vehicle originally manufactured outside the United States,  
85 which was not manufactured in accordance with 49 U.S.C. § 30101 et seq. and the policies and  
86 regulations adopted pursuant to that Act, and for which a Virginia title or registration is sought.

87 "Foreign vehicle" means every motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is brought into the  
88 Commonwealth otherwise than in the ordinary course of business by or through a manufacturer or dealer  
89 and that has not been registered in the Commonwealth.

90 "Golf cart" means a self-propelled vehicle that is designed to transport persons playing golf and their  
91 equipment on a golf course.

92 "Governing body" means the board of supervisors of a county, council of a city, or council of a  
93 town, as context may require.

94 "Gross weight" means the aggregate weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles and the load  
95 thereon.

96 "Highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way or place open to the use  
97 of the public for purposes of vehicular travel in the Commonwealth, including the streets and alleys,  
98 and, for law-enforcement purposes, the entire width between the boundary lines of all private roads or  
99 private streets that have been specifically designated "highways" by an ordinance adopted by the  
100 governing body of the county, city, or town in which such private roads or streets are located.

101 "Intersection" means (i) the area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral  
102 curblines or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways that join one  
103 another at, or approximately at, right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling on different  
104 highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict; (ii) where a highway includes two roadways  
105 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an intersecting  
106 highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection, in the event such intersecting highway also  
107 includes two roadways 30 feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of such highways  
108 shall be regarded as a separate intersection; or (iii) for purposes only of authorizing installation of  
109 traffic-control devices, every crossing of a highway or street at grade by a pedestrian crosswalk.

110 "Law-enforcement officer" means any officer authorized to direct or regulate traffic or to make  
111 arrests for violations of this title or local ordinances authorized by law. For the purposes of access to  
112 law-enforcement databases regarding motor vehicle registration and ownership only, this term shall also  
113 include city and county commissioners of the revenue and treasurers, together with their duly designated  
114 deputies and employees, when such officials are actually engaged in the enforcement of §§ 46.2-752,  
115 46.2-753 and 46.2-754 and local ordinances enacted thereunder.

116 "License plate" means a device containing letters, numerals, or a combination of both, attached to a  
117 motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer to indicate that the vehicle is properly registered with the  
118 Department.

119 "Light" means a device for producing illumination or the illumination produced by the device.

120 "Low-speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled electrically-powered vehicle, except a motor vehicle or

low-speed vehicle that is used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes or a golf cart, whose maximum speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour and is manufactured to comply with safety standards contained in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, § 571.500.

"Manufactured home" means a structure subject to federal regulation, transportable in one or more sections, which in the traveling mode is eight body feet or more in width or 40 body feet or more in length, or, when erected on site, is 320 or more square feet, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems contained therein.

"Moped" means a conveyance that is either (i) a bicycle-like device with pedals and a helper motor that is rated at no more than two brake horsepower and that produces speeds up to a maximum of 30 miles per hour or (ii) a motorcycle with an engine displacement of 50 cubic centimeters or less and a maximum speed of less than 30 miles per hour. *"Moped" means a federal Department of Transportation approved motorized conveyance that has a seat height not less than 21 inches from the ground, on which the operator must be seated during operation; has an engine displacement of 50 cubic centimeters or less; produces a maximum of two braking horsepower or less; is capable of a maximum speed of 30 miles per hour or less; and has a valid Virginia state inspection pursuant to §46.2-1157.* For purposes of Chapter 8 (§ 46.2-800 et seq.) of this title, a moped shall be a vehicle while operated on a highway.

"Motor home" means every private motor vehicle with a normal seating capacity of not more than 10 persons, including the driver, designed primarily for use as living quarters for human beings.

"Motor vehicle" means every vehicle as defined in this section that is self-propelled or designed for self-propulsion except as otherwise provided in this title. Any structure designed, used, or maintained primarily to be loaded on or affixed to a motor vehicle to provide a mobile dwelling, sleeping place, office, or commercial space shall be considered a part of a motor vehicle. For the purposes of this title, any device herein defined as a bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped shall be deemed not to be a motor vehicle.

"Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, except any vehicle included within the term "farm tractor" or "moped" as defined in this section.

"Nonresident" means every person who is not domiciled in the Commonwealth, except: (i) any foreign corporation that is authorized to do business in the Commonwealth by the State Corporation Commission shall be a resident of the Commonwealth for the purpose of this title; in the case of corporations incorporated in the Commonwealth but doing business outside the Commonwealth, only such principal place of business or branches located within the Commonwealth shall be dealt with as residents of the Commonwealth; (ii) a person who becomes engaged in a gainful occupation in the Commonwealth for a period exceeding 60 days shall be a resident for the purposes of this title except for the purposes of Chapter 3 (§ 46.2-300 et seq.) of this title; (iii) a person, other than a nonresident student as defined in this section, who has actually resided in the Commonwealth for a period of six months, whether employed or not, or who has registered a motor vehicle, listing an address in the Commonwealth in the application for registration shall be deemed a resident for the purposes of this title, except for the purposes of the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§ 46.2-341.1 et seq.).

"Nonresident student" means every nonresident person who is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited institution of learning in the Commonwealth and who is not gainfully employed.

"Operation or use for rent or for hire, for the transportation of passengers, or as a property carrier for compensation," and "business of transporting persons or property" mean any owner or operator of any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer operating over the highways in the Commonwealth who accepts or receives compensation for the service, directly or indirectly; but these terms do not mean a "truck lessor" as defined in this section and do not include persons or businesses that receive compensation for delivering a product that they themselves sell or produce, where a separate charge is made for delivery of the product or the cost of delivery is included in the sale price of the product, but where the person or business does not derive all or a substantial portion of its income from the transportation of persons or property except as part of a sales transaction.

"Operator" or "driver" means every person who either (i) drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle on a highway or (ii) is exercising control over or steering a vehicle being towed by a motor vehicle.

"Owner" means a person who holds the legal title to a vehicle; however, if a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for its conditional sale or lease with the right of purchase on performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee or if a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then the conditional vendee or

182 lessee or mortgagor shall be the owner for the purpose of this title. In all such instances when the rent  
183 paid by the lessee includes charges for services of any nature or when the lease does not provide that  
184 title shall pass to the lessee on payment of the rent stipulated, the lessor shall be regarded as the owner  
185 of the vehicle, and the vehicle shall be subject to such requirements of this title as are applicable to  
186 vehicles operated for compensation. A "truck lessor" as defined in this section shall be regarded as the  
187 owner, and his vehicles shall be subject to such requirements of this title as are applicable to vehicles of  
188 private carriers.

189 "Passenger car" means every motor vehicle other than a motorcycle designed and used primarily for  
190 the transportation of no more than 10 persons including the driver.

191 "Payment device" means any credit card as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1602(k) or any "accepted card or  
192 other means of access" set forth in 15 U.S.C. § 1693a(1). For the purposes of this title, this definition  
193 shall also include a card that enables a person to pay for transactions through the use of value stored on  
194 the card itself.

195 "Pickup or panel truck" means every motor vehicle designed for the transportation of property and  
196 having a registered gross weight of 7,500 pounds or less.

197 "Private road or driveway" means every way in private ownership and used for vehicular travel by  
198 the owner and those having express or implied permission from the owner, but not by other persons.

199 "Reconstructed vehicle" means every vehicle of a type required to be registered under this title  
200 materially altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of new or used  
201 essential parts.

202 "Residence district" means the territory contiguous to a highway, not comprising a business district,  
203 where 75 percent or more of the property abutting such highway, on either side of the highway, for a  
204 distance of 300 feet or more along the highway consists of land improved for dwelling purposes, or is  
205 occupied by dwellings, or consists of land or buildings in use for business purposes.

206 "Revoke" or "revocation" means that the document or privilege revoked is not subject to renewal or  
207 restoration except through reapplication after the expiration of the period of revocation.

208 "Roadway" means that portion of a highway improved, designed, or ordinarily used for vehicular  
209 travel, exclusive of the shoulder. A highway may include two or more roadways if divided by a physical  
210 barrier or barriers or an unpaved area.

211 "Safety zone" means the area officially set apart within a roadway for the exclusive use of  
212 pedestrians and that is protected or is so marked or indicated by plainly visible signs.

213 "School bus" means any motor vehicle, other than a station wagon, automobile, truck, or commercial  
214 bus, which is: (i) designed and used primarily for the transportation of pupils to and from public, private  
215 or parochial schools, or used for the transportation of the mentally or physically handicapped to and  
216 from a sheltered workshop; (ii) painted yellow and bears the words "School Bus" in black letters of a  
217 specified size on front and rear; and (iii) is equipped with warning devices prescribed in § 46.2-1090. A  
218 yellow school bus may have a white roof provided such vehicle is painted in accordance with  
219 regulations promulgated by the Department of Education.

220 "Semitrailer" means every vehicle of the trailer type so designed and used in conjunction with a  
221 motor vehicle that some part of its own weight and that of its own load rests on or is carried by another  
222 vehicle.

223 "Shared-use path" means a bikeway that is physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by  
224 an open space or barrier and is located either within the highway right-of-way or within a separate  
225 right-of-way. Shared-use paths may also be used by pedestrians, skaters, users of wheel chairs or wheel  
226 chair conveyances, joggers, and other nonmotorized users.

227 "Shoulder" means that part of a highway between the portion regularly travelled by vehicular traffic  
228 and the lateral curbline or ditch.

229 "Sidewalk" means the portion of a street between the curb lines, or the lateral lines of a roadway,  
230 and the adjacent property lines, intended for use by pedestrians.

231 "Snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle designed to travel on snow or ice, steered by skis or  
232 runners, and supported in whole or in part by one or more skis, belts, or cleats.

233 "Specially constructed vehicle" means any vehicle that was not originally constructed under a  
234 distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not a  
235 reconstructed vehicle as herein defined.

236 "Stinger-steered automobile or watercraft transporter" means an automobile or watercraft transporter  
237 configured as a semitrailer combination wherein the fifth wheel is located on a drop frame behind and  
238 below the rearmost axle of the power unit.

239 "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of the Department of State Police of the Commonwealth.

240 "Suspend" or "suspension" means that the document or privilege suspended has been temporarily  
241 withdrawn, but may be reinstated following the period of suspension unless it has expired prior to the  
242 end of the period of suspension.

243 "Towing and recovery operator" means a person engaged in the business of (i) removing disabled

vehicles, parts of vehicles, their cargoes, and other objects to facilities for repair or safekeeping and (ii) restoring to the highway or other location where they either can be operated or removed to other locations for repair or safekeeping vehicles that have come to rest in places where they cannot be operated.

"Tractor truck" means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not so constructed as to carry a load other than a part of the load and weight of the vehicle attached thereto.

"Traffic infraction" means a violation of law punishable as provided in § 46.2-113, which is neither a felony nor a misdemeanor.

"Traffic lane" or "lane" means that portion of a roadway designed or designated to accommodate the forward movement of a single line of vehicles.

"Trailer" means every vehicle without motive power designed for carrying property or passengers wholly on its own structure and for being drawn by a motor vehicle, including manufactured homes.

"Truck" means every motor vehicle designed to transport property on its own structure independent of any other vehicle and having a registered gross weight in excess of 7,500 pounds.

"Truck lessor" means a person who holds the legal title to any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer that is the subject of a bona fide written lease for a term of one year or more to another person, provided that: (i) neither the lessor nor the lessee is a common carrier by motor vehicle or restricted common carrier by motor vehicle or contract carrier by motor vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000; (ii) the leased motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is used exclusively for the transportation of property of the lessee; (iii) the lessor is not employed in any capacity by the lessee; (iv) the operator of the leased motor vehicle is a bona fide employee of the lessee and is not employed in any capacity by the lessor; and (v) a true copy of the lease, verified by affidavit of the lessor, is filed with the Commissioner.

"Utility vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is (i) designed for off-road use, (ii) powered by an engine of no more than 25 horsepower, and (iii) used for general maintenance, security, agricultural, or horticultural purposes. "Utility vehicle" does not include all-terrain vehicles as defined in § 46.2-915.1, riding lawn mowers, or any other vehicle whose definition is included in this section.

"Vehicle" means every device in, on or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn on a highway, except devices moved by human power or used exclusively on stationary rails or tracks. For the purposes of Chapter 8 (§ 46.2-800 et seq.) of this title, bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds shall be vehicles while operated on a highway.

"Wheel chair or wheel chair conveyance" means a chair or seat equipped with wheels, typically used to provide mobility for persons who, by reason of physical disability, are otherwise unable to move about as pedestrians. The term includes both three-wheeled and four-wheeled devices. So long as it is operated only as provided in § 46.2-677, a self-propelled wheel chair or self-propelled wheel chair conveyance shall not be considered a motor vehicle.

§ 46.2-800.2. *Riding mopeds on highways.*

*No person shall operate a moped on a highway unless the moped: (i) is a federal Department of Transportation approved motorized conveyance, (ii) has a seat height of not less than 21 inches from the ground and the operator is seated during operation, (iii) has an engine displacement of 50 cubic centimeters or less, (iv) produces a maximum of two braking horsepower or less, (v) is capable of a maximum speed of 30 miles per hour or less, and (vi) has passed Virginia safety inspection and is displaying the appropriate sticker on the moped.*

§ 46.2-1157. Requirement of inspection; well-drilling machinery, antique motor vehicle or antique trailer excepted.

The Superintendent may compel, by proclamation of the Governor or otherwise, the owner or operator of any motor vehicle, trailer, ~~or~~ semitrailer, *or moped* registered in Virginia and operated on a highway within this Commonwealth to submit his vehicle to an inspection of its mechanism and equipment by an official inspection station, designated for that purpose, in accordance with § 46.2-1158. No owner or operator shall fail to submit a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer operated on the highways in this Commonwealth to such inspection or fail or refuse to correct or have corrected in accordance with the requirements of this title any mechanical defects found by such inspection to exist.

The provisions of this section requiring safety inspections of motor vehicles shall also apply to vehicles used for fire fighting; inspections of fire-fighting vehicles shall be conducted pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Superintendent of State Police, taking into consideration the special purpose of such vehicles and the conditions under which they operate.

Each day during which such motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is operated on any highway in this Commonwealth after failure to comply with this law shall constitute a separate offense. However, no penalty shall be imposed on any owner or operator for operation of a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer after the expiration of a period fixed for the inspection thereof, over the most direct route

305 between the place where such vehicle is kept or garaged and an official inspection station, for the  
306 purpose of having it inspected pursuant to a prior appointment with such station.

307 Further, no penalty shall be imposed on any owner or operator of a truck, tractor truck, trailer, or  
308 semitrailer for which the period fixed for inspection has expired while the vehicle was outside the  
309 Commonwealth and that penalty is for operation of such vehicle (i) from a point outside the  
310 Commonwealth to the place where such vehicle is kept or garaged within the Commonwealth or (ii) to a  
311 destination within the Commonwealth where such vehicle will be (a) unloaded within 24 hours of  
312 entering the Commonwealth, (b) inspected within such 24-hour period, and (c) after being unloaded, will  
313 be operated only to an inspection station or to the place where it is kept or garaged within the  
314 Commonwealth.

315 Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, a new motor vehicle, as defined in § 46.2-1500, that  
316 has been inspected in accordance with an inspection requirement of the manufacturer or distributor of  
317 the new motor vehicle by an employee who customarily performs such inspection on behalf of a motor  
318 vehicle dealer licensed pursuant to § 46.2-1508 shall be deemed to have met the safety inspection  
319 requirements of the section without a separate safety inspection by an official inspection station. Such  
320 inspection shall be deemed to be the first inspection for the purpose of § 46.2-1158, and an inspection  
321 approval sticker furnished by the Department of State Police at the uniform price paid by all official  
322 inspection stations to the Department of State Police for an inspection approval sticker may be affixed to  
323 the vehicle as required by § 46.2-1163.

324 The provisions of this section shall not apply to any vehicle for transporting well-drilling machinery  
325 licensed under § 46.2-700 or to any antique motor vehicle or antique trailer as defined in § 46.2-100 and  
326 licensed pursuant to § 46.2-730.

327 Notwithstanding the penalty provisions of § 46.2-1171, a violation of this section constitutes a traffic  
328 infraction.