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HOUSE BILL NO. 2003

Offered January 10, 2007

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A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-208 of the Code of Virginia, relating to disclosure of certain vehicle information to fire/rescue officers-in-charge at a motor vehicle accident scene.

Patron—Kilgore

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 46.2-208 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

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

A. All records in the office of the Department containing the specific classes of information outlined below shall be considered privileged records:

1. Personal information, including all data defined as "personal information" in § 2.2-3801;
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 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, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner 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. 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 him with the requested information and a complete explanation of 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 (a) the subject of the information, (b) the parent or guardian of the subject of the information, (c) the authorized representative of the subject of the information, or (d) 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.

5. On the written request of any insurance carrier, surety, or representative of an insurance carrier or surety, the Commissioner shall furnish such insurance carrier, surety, or representative an abstract of the record of any person subject to the provisions of this title. The 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 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 60 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 60 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.

6. On the written request of any business 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 that 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

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59 Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by the company or agent with that
60 contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by the company or agent is
61 different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the company or agent with correct
62 information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide the company or agent with driver
63 information in the form of an abstract of any person subject to the provisions of this title. Such abstract
64 shall include any record of any conviction of a violation of any provision of any statute or ordinance
65 relating to the operation or ownership of a motor vehicle or of any injury or damage in which the
66 subject of the abstract was involved and a report of which is required by § 46.2-372. No such abstract
67 shall include any record of any conviction or accident more than 60 months after the date of such
68 conviction or accident unless the Commissioner or court used the conviction or accident as a reason for
69 the suspension or revocation of a driver's license or driving privilege, in which case the revocation or
70 suspension and any conviction or accident pertaining thereto shall cease to be included in such abstract
71 after 60 months from the date on which the driver's license or driving privilege was reinstated. No
72 abstract released under this subdivision shall be admissible in evidence in any court proceedings.

73 9. On the request of any federal, state, or local governmental entity or authorized agent of any of the
74 foregoing, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by the governmental entity
75 or the authorized agent of any of the foregoing, with that contained in the Department's records and,
76 when the information supplied by the governmental entity or the authorized agent of any of the
77 foregoing, is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the governmental entity
78 or the authorized agent of any of the foregoing, with correct information as contained in the
79 Department's records and (ii) provide driver and vehicle information in the form of an abstract of the
80 record showing all convictions, accidents, driver's license suspensions or revocations, and other
81 appropriate information as the governmental entity or the authorized agent of any of the foregoing, may
82 require in order to carry out its official functions. Such abstract shall be provided at a fee that is
83 one-half the normal charge for an abstract.

84 9a. On the request of any federal, state, or local law-enforcement officer, attorney for the
85 Commonwealth, an official of any federal or state court, or authorized agent of any of the foregoing, the
86 Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by the federal, state, or local
87 law-enforcement officer, attorney for the Commonwealth, the official of the federal or state court, or
88 authorized agent of any of the foregoing with that contained in the Department's records and, when the
89 information supplied by the federal, state, or local law-enforcement officer, attorney for the
90 Commonwealth, the official of a federal or state court, or authorized agent of any of the foregoing is
91 different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the federal state, or local
92 law-enforcement officer, attorney for the Commonwealth, the official of the federal or state court, or
93 authorized agent of any of the foregoing with correct information as contained in the Department's
94 records and (ii) provide the driver and vehicle information in the form of an abstract of the record
95 showing all convictions, accidents, driver's license suspensions or revocations, and other appropriate
96 information as the federal, state, or local law-enforcement officer, attorney for the Commonwealth, the
97 official of the federal or state court, or the authorized agent of any of the foregoing may require in order
98 to carry out its official functions. The abstract shall be provided free of charge.

99 10. On request of the driver licensing authority in any other state or foreign country, the
100 Commissioner shall provide whatever classes of information the requesting authority shall require in
101 order to carry out its official functions. The information shall be provided free of charge.

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

112 12. On the written request of any member of or applicant for membership in a volunteer fire
113 company or volunteer rescue squad, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied
114 by the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad with that contained in the Department's records
115 and, when the information supplied by the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue squad is different
116 from that contained in the Department's records, provide the volunteer fire company or volunteer rescue
117 squad with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide driver
118 information in the form of an abstract of the member's or applicant's record showing all convictions,
119 accidents, license suspensions or revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual
120 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.

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 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 at a fee that is one-half the normal 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.

14. On the written request of any person who has applied to be a volunteer with a court-appointed special advocate program pursuant to § 9.1-153, the Commissioner shall provide an abstract of the applicant's 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 court-appointed special advocate program pursuant to § 9.1-153.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. Upon the request, in the course of business, of any authorized representative of an insurance company or of any not-for-profit entity organized to prevent and detect insurance fraud, or perform rating and underwriting activities, the Commissioner shall provide to such person (i) all vehicle information, including the owner's name and address, descriptive data and title, registration, and vehicle activity data as requested or (ii) all driver information including name, license number and classification, date of birth, and address information for each driver under the age of 22 licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia meeting the request criteria designated by such person, with such request criteria consisting of driver's license number or address information. No such information shall be used for solicitation of sales, marketing, or other commercial purposes.

19. Upon the request of an officer authorized to issue criminal warrants, for the purpose of issuing a warrant for arrest for unlawful disposal of trash or refuse in violation of § 33.1-346, the Commissioner shall provide vehicle information, including the owner's name and address.

20. Upon written request of the compliance agent of a private security services business, as defined in § 9.1-138, which is licensed by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Commissioner shall provide the name and address of the owner of the vehicle under procedures determined by the Commissioner.

21. Upon the request of the operator of a toll facility, or an authorized agent or employee of a toll facility operator, for the purpose of obtaining vehicle owner data under subsection L of § 46.2-819.1. Information released pursuant to this subdivision shall be limited to the name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle having failed to pay a toll and the vehicle information, including all descriptive vehicle data and title and registration data of the same vehicle.

22. On the written request of any person who has applied to be a volunteer with a Virginia affiliate of Compeer, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information supplied by a Virginia affiliate of Compeer with that contained in the Department's records and, when the information supplied by a

182 Virginia affiliate of Compeer is different from that contained in the Department's records, provide the
183 Virginia affiliate of Compeer with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii)
184 provide driver information in the form of an abstract of the applicant's record showing all convictions,
185 accidents, license suspensions or revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual
186 currently possesses. Such abstract shall be provided at a fee that is one-half the normal charge if the
187 request is accompanied by appropriate written evidence that the person has applied to be a volunteer
188 with a Virginia affiliate of Compeer.

189 23. Upon the request of the Department of Environmental Quality for the purpose of obtaining
190 vehicle owner data in connection with enforcement actions involving on-road testing of motor vehicles,
191 pursuant to § 46.2-1178.1.

192 24. On the written request of any person who has applied to be a volunteer vehicle operator with a
193 Virginia chapter of the American Red Cross, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information
194 supplied by a Virginia chapter of the American Red Cross with that contained in the Department's
195 records and, when the information supplied by a Virginia chapter of the American Red Cross is different
196 from that contained in the Department's records, provide the Virginia chapter of the American Red Cross
197 with correct information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide driver information in
198 the form of an abstract of the applicant's record showing all convictions, accidents, license suspensions
199 or revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses. Such abstract
200 shall be provided at a fee that is one-half the normal charge if the request is accompanied by
201 appropriate written evidence that the person has applied to be a volunteer vehicle operator with a
202 Virginia chapter of the American Red Cross.

203 25. On the written request of any person who has applied to be a volunteer vehicle operator with a
204 Virginia chapter of the Civil Air Patrol, the Commissioner shall (i) compare personal information
205 supplied by a Virginia chapter of the Civil Air Patrol with that contained in the Department's records
206 and, when the information supplied by a Virginia chapter of the Civil Air Patrol is different from that
207 contained in the Department's records, provide the Virginia chapter of the Civil Air Patrol with correct
208 information as contained in the Department's records and (ii) provide driver information in the form of
209 an abstract of the applicant's record showing all convictions, accidents, license suspensions or
210 revocations, and any type of driver's license that the individual currently possesses. Such abstract shall
211 be provided at a fee that is one-half the normal charge if the request is accompanied by appropriate
212 written evidence that the person has applied to be a volunteer vehicle operator with a Virginia chapter of
213 the Civil Air Patrol.

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

218 D. Accident reports may be inspected under the provisions of §§ 46.2-379 and 46.2-380.

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

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

225 G. The Department may promulgate regulations to govern the means by which personal, vehicle, and
226 driver information is requested and disseminated.

227 H. Driving records of any person accused of an offense involving the operation of a motor vehicle
228 shall be provided by the Commissioner upon request to any person acting as counsel for the accused. If
229 such counsel is from the public defender's office or has been appointed by the court, such records shall
230 be provided free of charge.

231 I. The Department shall maintain the records of persons convicted of violations of § 18.2-36.2,
232 subsection B of § 29.1-738, and §§ 29.1-738.02, 29.1-738.2, and 29.1-738.4 which shall be forwarded by
233 every general district court or circuit court or the clerk thereof, pursuant to § 46.2-383. Such records
234 shall be electronically available to any law-enforcement officer as provided for under clause (ii) of
235 subdivision B 9.

236 J. *Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit law-enforcement personnel from providing to*
237 *the fire/rescue officer in charge at an accident scene of vehicle information obtained from the*
238 *Department when that information pertains to vehicles damaged in the accident.*