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SENATE BILL NO. 648

Offered January 12, 2024

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-694, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 a section numbered 27-23.12, relating to funding for fire and emergency medical services.*

Patrons—Perry and Carroll Foy

Referred to Committee on General Laws and Technology

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 46.2-694, as it is currently effective and as it may become effective, of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 27 a section numbered 27-23.12:

§ 27-23.12. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Grant Fund.

There is hereby created in the state treasury a special nonreverting fund to be known as the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All funds appropriated for such purpose and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received on its behalf shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used solely for the purposes of (i) increasing the number of firefighters and emergency medical services personnel to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to provide adequate assistance and (ii) funding the purchase of heavy apparatus necessary for fire and emergency medical services. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Executive Director of the Department of Fire Programs.

§ 46.2-694. (Contingent expiration date) Fees for vehicles designed and used for transportation of passengers; weights used for computing fees; burden of proof.

A. The annual registration fees for motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers designed and used for the transportation of passengers on the highways in the Commonwealth are:

1. a. Twenty-three dollars for each private passenger car if the passenger car weighs 4,000 pounds or less, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur; however, the fee provided under this subdivision shall apply to a private passenger car that weighs 4,000 pounds or less and is used as a TNC partner vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000.

b. Thirty-three dollars for each motor home if the motor home weighs 4,000 pounds or less, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur.

2. a. Twenty-eight dollars for each private passenger car that weighs more than 4,000 pounds, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur; however, the fee provided under this subdivision shall apply to a private passenger car that weighs more than 4,000 pounds and is used as a TNC partner vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000.

b. Thirty-eight dollars for each motor home if the motor home weighs more than 4,000 pounds, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur.

3. Thirty cents per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for a private motor vehicle other than a motorcycle with a normal seating capacity of more than 10 adults, including the driver, if the private motor vehicle is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur. In no case shall the fee be less than \$23 if the vehicle weighs 4,000 pounds or less or \$28 if the vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

4. Thirty cents per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for a school bus. In no case shall the fee be less than \$23 if the vehicle weighs 4,000 pounds or less or \$28 if the vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

5. Twenty-three dollars for each trailer or semitrailer designed for use as living quarters for human beings.

INTRODUCED

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59 6. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.30 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for each motor vehicle,
60 trailer, or semitrailer used as a common carrier of passengers, operating either intrastate or interstate.
61 Interstate common carriers of interstate passengers may elect to be licensed and pay the fees prescribed
62 in subdivision 7 on submission to the Commissioner of a declaration of operations and equipment as he
63 may prescribe. An additional \$5 shall be charged if the motor vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

64 7. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.70 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for each motor vehicle,
65 trailer, or semitrailer used as a common carrier of interstate passengers if election is made to be licensed
66 under this subsection. An additional \$5 shall be charged if the motor vehicle weighs more than 4,000
67 pounds. In lieu of the foregoing fee of \$0.70 per 100 pounds, a motor carrier of passengers, operating
68 two or more vehicles both within and outside the Commonwealth and registered for insurance purposes
69 with the Surface Transportation Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway
70 Administration, may apply to the Commissioner for prorated registration. Upon the filing of such
71 application, in such form as the Commissioner may prescribe, the Commissioner shall apportion the
72 registration fees provided in this subsection so that the total registration fees to be paid for such vehicles
73 of such carrier shall be that proportion of the total fees, if there were no apportionment, that the total
74 number of miles traveled by such vehicles of such carrier within the Commonwealth bears to the total
75 number of miles traveled by such vehicles within and outside the Commonwealth. Such total mileage in
76 each instance is the estimated total mileage to be traveled by such vehicles during the license year for
77 which such fees are paid, subject to the adjustment in accordance with an audit to be made by
78 representatives of the Commissioner at the end of such license year, the expense of such audit to be
79 borne by the carrier being audited. Each vehicle passing into or through Virginia shall be registered and
80 licensed in Virginia and the annual registration fee to be paid for each such vehicle shall not be less
81 than \$33. For the purpose of determining such apportioned registration fees, only those motor vehicles,
82 trailers, or semitrailers operated both within and outside the Commonwealth shall be subject to inclusion
83 in determining the apportionment provided for herein.

84 8. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.80 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for each motor vehicle, trailer
85 or semitrailer kept or used for rent or for hire or operated under a lease without a chauffeur for the
86 transportation of passengers. An additional fee of \$5 shall be charged if the vehicle weighs more than
87 4,000 pounds. This subdivision does not apply to vehicles used as common carriers or as TNC partner
88 vehicles as defined in § 46.2-2000.

89 9. Twenty-three dollars for a taxicab or other vehicle which is kept for rent or hire operated with a
90 chauffeur for the transportation of passengers, and which operates or should operate under permits issued
91 by the Department as required by law. An additional fee of \$5 shall be charged if the vehicle weighs
92 more than 4,000 pounds. This subdivision does not apply to vehicles used as common carriers or as
93 TNC partner vehicles as defined in § 46.2-2000.

94 10. Fourteen dollars for a motorcycle, with or without a sidecar. To this fee shall be added a
95 surcharge of \$3 which shall be distributed as provided in § 46.2-1191.

96 10a. Twelve dollars for a moped, to be paid into the state treasury and set aside as a special fund to
97 be used to meet the expenses of the Department.

98 10b. Fourteen dollars for an autocycle.

99 11. Twenty-three dollars for a bus used exclusively for transportation to and from church school, for
100 the purpose of religious instruction, or church, for the purpose of divine worship. If the empty weight of
101 the vehicle exceeds 4,000 pounds, the fee shall be \$28.

102 12. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.70 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for other passenger-carrying
103 vehicles.

104 13. An additional fee of ~~\$4.25~~ \$6.25 per year shall be charged and collected at the time of
105 registration of each pickup or panel truck and each motor vehicle under subdivisions 1 through 12. All
106 funds collected from ~~\$4~~ \$6 of the ~~\$4.25~~ \$6.25 fee shall be paid into the state treasury and shall be set
107 aside as a special fund to be used only for emergency medical services purposes. The moneys in the
108 special emergency medical services fund shall be distributed as follows:

109 a. Two percent shall be distributed to the State Department of Health to provide funding to the
110 Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads to be used solely for the purpose of conducting
111 volunteer recruitment, retention, and training activities;

112 b. Thirty percent shall be distributed to the State Department of Health to support (i) emergency
113 medical services training programs (excluding advanced life support classes); (ii) advanced life support
114 training; (iii) recruitment and retention programs (all funds for such support shall be used to recruit and
115 retain volunteer emergency medical services personnel only, including public awareness campaigns,
116 technical assistance programs, and similar activities); (iv) emergency medical services system
117 development, initiatives, and priorities based on needs identified by the State Emergency Medical
118 Services Advisory Board; (v) local, regional, and statewide performance contracts for emergency medical
119 services to meet the objectives stipulated in § 32.1-111.3; (vi) technology and radio communication
120 enhancements; and (vii) improved emergency preparedness and response. Any funds set aside for

distribution under this provision and remaining undistributed at the end of any fiscal year shall revert to the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund;

c. Thirty-two percent shall be distributed to the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund;

d. Ten percent shall be available to the State Department of Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services for use in emergency medical services; and

e. Twenty-six percent shall be returned by the Comptroller to the locality wherein such vehicle is registered, to provide funding for training of volunteer or salaried emergency medical services personnel of nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health and for the purchase of necessary equipment and supplies for use in such locality for emergency medical services provided by nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health.

All revenues generated by the remaining \$0.25 of the ~~\$4.25~~ \$6.25 fee ~~approved by the 2008 Session of the General Assembly imposed by this subdivision~~ shall be deposited into the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund and used only to pay for the costs associated with the certification and recertification training of emergency medical services personnel.

The Comptroller shall clearly designate on the warrant, check, or other means of transmitting these funds that such moneys are only to be used for purposes set forth in this subdivision. Such funds shall be in addition to any local appropriations and local governing bodies shall not use these funds to supplant local funds. Each local governing body shall report annually to the Board of Health on the use of the funds returned to it pursuant to this section. In any case in which the local governing body grants the funds to a regional emergency medical services council to be distributed to the nonprofit emergency medical services agency that holds a valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health, the local governing body shall remain responsible for the proper use of the funds. If, at the end of any fiscal year, a report on the use of the funds returned to the locality pursuant to this section for that year has not been received from a local governing body, any funds due to that local governing body for the next fiscal year shall be retained until such time as the report has been submitted to the Board.

B. All motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers registered as provided in subsection B of § 46.2-646 shall pay a registration fee equal to one-twelfth of all fees required by subsection A of this section or § 46.2-697 for such motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, computed to the nearest cent, multiplied by the number of months in the registration period for such motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers.

C. The manufacturer's shipping weight or scale weight shall be used for computing all fees required by this section to be based upon the weight of the vehicle.

D. The applicant for registration bears the burden of proof that the vehicle for which registration is sought is entitled by weight, design, and use to be registered at the fee tendered by the applicant to the Commissioner or to his authorized agent.

§ 46.2-694. (Contingent effective date) Fees for vehicles designed and used for transportation of passengers; weights used for computing fees; burden of proof.

A. The annual registration fees for motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers designed and used for the transportation of passengers on the highways in the Commonwealth are:

1. Twenty-three dollars for each private passenger car or motor home if the passenger car or motor home weighs 4,000 pounds or less, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur; however, the fee provided under this subdivision shall apply to a private passenger car or motor home that weighs 4,000 pounds or less and is used as a TNC partner vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000.

2. Twenty-eight dollars for each private passenger car or motor home that weighs more than 4,000 pounds, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire, or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur; however, the fee provided under this subdivision shall apply to a private passenger car or motor home that weighs more than 4,000 pounds and is used as a TNC partner vehicle as defined in § 46.2-2000.

3. Thirty cents per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for a private motor vehicle other than a motorcycle with a normal seating capacity of more than 10 adults, including the driver, if the private motor vehicle is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or used for rent or for hire or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur. In no case shall the fee be less than \$23 if the vehicle weighs 4,000 pounds or less or \$28 if the vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

4. Thirty cents per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for a school bus. In no case shall the fee be less than \$23 if the vehicle weighs 4,000 pounds or less or \$28 if the vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

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183 trailer, or semitrailer used as a common carrier of passengers, operating either intrastate or interstate.
184 Interstate common carriers of interstate passengers may elect to be licensed and pay the fees prescribed
185 in subdivision 7 on submission to the Commissioner of a declaration of operations and equipment as he
186 may prescribe. An additional \$5 shall be charged if the motor vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

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193 Administration, may apply to the Commissioner for prorated registration. Upon the filing of such
194 application, in such form as the Commissioner may prescribe, the Commissioner shall apportion the
195 registration fees provided in this subsection so that the total registration fees to be paid for such vehicles
196 of such carrier shall be that proportion of the total fees, if there were no apportionment, that the total
197 number of miles traveled by such vehicles of such carrier within the Commonwealth bears to the total
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215 more than 4,000 pounds. This subdivision does not apply to vehicles used as common carriers or as
216 TNC partner vehicles as defined in § 46.2-2000.

217 10. Eighteen dollars for a motorcycle, with or without a sidecar. To this fee shall be added a
218 surcharge of \$3, which shall be distributed as provided in § 46.2-1191.

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220 be used to meet the expenses of the Department.

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