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HOUSE BILL NO. 472

Offered January 18, 1996

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-100 of the Code of Virginia, relating to motor vehicles.

Patrons—Darner, Almand and Plum

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 46.2-100 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted 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 twenty-five 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 which 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, having pedals, two or more wheels, and a seat height of more than twenty-five inches from the ground when adjusted to its maximum height. For purposes of Chapter 8 (§ 46.2-800 et seq.) of this title, a bicycle shall be a vehicle while operated on the highway.

"Business district" means the territory contiguous to a highway where seventy-five 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 which 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. A veteran shall be considered blind if he has a permanent impairment of both eyes to the following extent: (i) central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective lenses, or central visual acuity of more than 20/200, if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than twenty degrees in the better eye qualifies for treatment in a medical care facility operated by the U. S. Veterans Administration.

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

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60 Commonwealth authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle.

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

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

66 "Federal safety requirements" means applicable provisions of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle
67 Safety Act of 1966 as amended (15 U.S.C. § 1381 et seq.) and all administrative regulations and policies
68 adopted pursuant thereto.

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

72 "Foreign market vehicle" means any motor vehicle originally manufactured outside the United States,
73 which was not manufactured in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act as
74 amended (15 U.S.C. § 1381 et seq.) and the policies and regulations adopted pursuant to that Act, and
75 for which a Virginia title or registration is sought.

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

79 "Golf cart" means a self-propelled vehicle which is designed to transport persons playing golf and
80 their equipment on a golf course.

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

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

88 "Intersection" means (i) the area embraced within the prolongation or connection of the lateral
89 curblines or, if none, then the lateral boundary lines of the roadways of two highways which join one
90 another at, or approximately at, right angles, or the area within which vehicles traveling on different
91 highways joining at any other angle may come in conflict; (ii) where a highway includes two roadways
92 thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of each roadway of such divided highway by an
93 intersecting highway shall be regarded as a separate intersection, in the event such intersecting highway
94 also includes two roadways thirty feet or more apart, then every crossing of two roadways of such
95 highways shall be regarded as a separate intersection; or (iii) for purposes only of authorizing
96 installation of traffic-control devices, every crossing of a highway or street at grade by a pedestrian
97 crosswalk.

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

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

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

108 "Mobile home" means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which in the traveling mode
109 is eight body feet or more in width or forty body feet or more in length, or, when erected on site, is
110 320 or more square feet, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a
111 dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities, and includes
112 the plumbing, heating, air conditioning, and electrical systems contained therein.

113 "Moped" means a bicycle-like device with pedals and a helper motor which is rated at no more than
114 two brake horsepower and which produces speeds up to a maximum of thirty miles per hour. For
115 purposes of Chapter 8 of this title, a moped shall be a vehicle while operated on a highway.

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

118 "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle as defined in this section which is self-propelled or designed
119 for self-propulsion except as otherwise provided in this title. Any structure designed, used, or maintained
120 primarily to be loaded on or affixed to a motor vehicle to provide a mobile dwelling, sleeping place,
121 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 or a 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 which 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 sixty 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.

"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.

"Organizational removable windshield placard" means a two-sided, hooked placard which includes on each side: (i) the international symbol of access at least three inches in height, centered on the placard, and shown in white on a green background; (ii) the name of the institution or organization; (iii) an identification number; (iv) an expiration date; and (v) the seal or identifying symbol of the issuing authority.

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

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

"Permanent removable windshield placard" means a two-sided, hooked placard which includes on each side: (i) the international symbol of access at least three inches in height, centered on the placard, and shown in white on a blue background; (ii) the name, age, and sex of the person to whom issued; (iii) an identification number; (iv) an expiration date; and (v) the seal or other identifying symbol of the issuing authority.

"Person with a disability that limits or impairs his ability to walk" means a person who, as determined by a licensed physician: (i) cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest; (ii) cannot walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, wheelchair, or other assistive device; (iii) is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that his forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter, or the arterial oxygen tension is less than sixty millimeters of mercury on room air at rest; (iv) uses portable oxygen; (v) has a cardiac condition to the extent that his functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards set by the American Heart Association; (vi) is severely limited in his ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition; or (vii) has some other debilitating condition that, in the view of a licensed physician, limits or impairs his ability to walk.

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

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

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

188 "Residence district" means the territory contiguous to a highway, not comprising a business district,
189 where seventy-five percent or more of the property contiguous to such highway, on either side of the
190 highway, for a distance of 300 feet or more along the highway is occupied by dwellings and land
191 improved for dwelling purposes, or by dwellings, land improved for dwelling purposes and land or
192 buildings in use for business purposes.

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

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

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

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

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

210 "Shoulder" means that part of a highway between the portion regularly travelled by vehicular traffic
211 and the lateral curblineline or ditch.

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

214 "Specially constructed vehicle" means any vehicle which was not originally constructed under a
215 distinctive name, make, model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not a
216 reconstructed vehicle as herein defined.

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

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

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

224 "Temporary removable windshield placard" means a two-sided, hooked placard which includes on
225 each side: (i) the international symbol of access at least three inches in height, centered on the placard,
226 and shown in white on a red background; (ii) the name, age, and sex of the person to whom issued; (iii)
227 an identification number; (iv) an expiration date; and (v) the seal or other identifying symbol of the
228 issuing authority.

229 "Towing and recovery operator" means a person engaged in the business of (i) removing disabled
230 vehicles, parts of vehicles, their cargoes, and other objects to facilities for repair or safekeeping and (ii)
231 restoring to the highway or other location where they either can be operated or removed to other
232 locations for repair or safekeeping vehicles which have come to rest in places where they cannot be
233 operated.

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

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

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

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

243 "Truck" means every motor vehicle designed to transport property on its own structure independent
244 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 which 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 § 56-273; (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.

"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 of this title, 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.