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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.

6. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.30 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for each motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer used as a common carrier of passengers, operating either intrastate or interstate. Interstate common carriers of interstate passengers may elect to be licensed and pay the fees prescribed in subdivision 7 on submission to the Commissioner of a declaration of operations and equipment as he may prescribe. An

59 additional \$5 shall be charged if the motor vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

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

79 8. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.80 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for each motor vehicle, trailer or
80 semitrailer kept or used for rent or for hire or operated under a lease without a chauffeur for the transportation
81 of passengers. An additional fee of \$5 shall be charged if the vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds. This
82 subdivision does not apply to vehicles used as common carriers or as TNC partner vehicles as defined in §
83 46.2-2000.

84 9. Twenty-three dollars for a taxicab or other vehicle which is kept for rent or hire operated with a
85 chauffeur for the transportation of passengers, and which operates or should operate under permits issued by
86 the Department as required by law. 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 10. Fourteen dollars for a motorcycle, with or without a sidecar. To this fee shall be added a surcharge of
90 \$3 which shall be distributed as provided in § 46.2-1191.

91 10a. Twelve dollars for a moped, to be paid into the state treasury and set aside as a special fund to be
92 used to meet the expenses of the Department.

93 10b. Fourteen dollars for an autocycle.

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

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

99 13. An additional fee of ~~\$4.25~~ \$6.25 per year shall be charged and collected at the time of registration of
100 each pickup or panel truck and each motor vehicle under subdivisions 1 through 12. All funds collected from
101 ~~\$4~~ \$6 of the ~~\$4.25~~ \$6.25 fee shall be paid into the state treasury and shall be set aside as a special fund to be
102 used only for emergency medical services purposes. The moneys in the special emergency medical services
103 fund shall be distributed as follows:

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

107 b. Thirty percent shall be distributed to the State Department of Health to support (i) emergency medical
108 services training programs (excluding advanced life support classes); (ii) advanced life support training; (iii)
109 recruitment and retention programs (all funds for such support shall be used to recruit and retain volunteer
110 emergency medical services personnel only, including public awareness campaigns, technical assistance
111 programs, and similar activities); (iv) emergency medical services system development, initiatives, and
112 priorities based on needs identified by the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board; (v) local,
113 regional, and statewide performance contracts for emergency medical services to meet the objectives
114 stipulated in § 32.1-111.3; (vi) technology and radio communication enhancements; and (vii) improved
115 emergency preparedness and response. Any funds set aside for distribution under this provision and
116 remaining undistributed at the end of any fiscal year shall revert to the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund;

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

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

120 e. Twenty-six percent shall be returned by the Comptroller to the locality wherein such vehicle is

121 registered, to provide funding for training of volunteer or salaried emergency medical services personnel of
122 nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued by the Commissioner of
123 Health and for the purchase of necessary equipment and supplies for use in such locality for emergency
124 medical services provided by nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued
125 by the Commissioner of Health.

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

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

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

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

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

150 **§ 46.2-694. (Contingent effective date) Fees for vehicles designed and used for transportation of**
151 **passengers; weights used for computing fees; burden of proof.**

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

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

159 2. Twenty-eight dollars for each private passenger car or motor home that weighs more than 4,000
160 pounds, provided that it is not used for the transportation of passengers for compensation and is not kept or
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162 this subdivision shall apply to a private passenger car or motor home that weighs more than 4,000 pounds and
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167 hire or is not operated under a lease without a chauffeur. In no case shall the fee be less than \$23 if the
168 vehicle weighs 4,000 pounds or less or \$28 if the vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

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174 common carriers of interstate passengers may elect to be licensed and pay the fees prescribed in subdivision 7
175 on submission to the Commissioner of a declaration of operations and equipment as he may prescribe. An
176 additional \$5 shall be charged if the motor vehicle weighs more than 4,000 pounds.

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180 the foregoing fee of \$0.70 per 100 pounds, a motor carrier of passengers, operating two or more vehicles both
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182 Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, may apply to the
183 Commissioner for prorated registration. Upon the filing of such application, in such form as the
184 Commissioner may prescribe, the Commissioner shall apportion the registration fees provided in this
185 subsection so that the total registration fees to be paid for such vehicles of such carrier shall be that
186 proportion of the total fees, if there were no apportionment, that the total number of miles traveled by such
187 vehicles of such carrier within the Commonwealth bears to the total number of miles traveled by such
188 vehicles within and outside the Commonwealth. Such total mileage in each instance is the estimated total
189 mileage to be traveled by such vehicles during the license year for which such fees are paid, subject to the
190 adjustment in accordance with an audit to be made by representatives of the Commissioner at the end of such
191 license year, the expense of such audit to be borne by the carrier being audited. Each vehicle passing into or
192 through Virginia shall be registered and licensed in Virginia and the annual registration fee to be paid for
193 each such vehicle shall not be less than \$33. For the purpose of determining such apportioned registration
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196 8. Thirteen dollars plus \$0.80 per 100 pounds or major fraction thereof for each motor vehicle, trailer or
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204 4,000 pounds. This subdivision does not apply to vehicles used as common carriers or as TNC partner
205 vehicles as defined in § 46.2-2000.

206 10. Eighteen dollars for a motorcycle, with or without a sidecar. To this fee shall be added a surcharge of
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236 Services for use in emergency medical services; and

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239 nonprofit emergency medical services agencies that hold a valid license issued by the Commissioner of
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252 emergency medical services council to be distributed to the emergency medical services agency that holds a
253 valid license issued by the Commissioner of Health, the local governing body shall remain responsible for the
254 proper use of the funds. If, at the end of any fiscal year, a report on the use of the funds returned to the
255 locality pursuant to this section for that year has not been received from a local governing body, any funds
256 due to that local governing body for the next fiscal year shall be retained until such time as the report has
257 been submitted to the Board.

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

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

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

INTRODUCED

SB648