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INTRODUCED

HB230

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 230**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 8, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-1094 of the Code of Virginia, relating to motor vehicles; use of safety*  
5 *belt systems; certain emergency medical services personnel.*

6 Patron—McQuinn

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 46.2-1094 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 46.2-1094. Occupants of seats of motor vehicles required to use safety lap belts and shoulder**  
11 **harnesses; penalty.**12 A. Any driver, and any other person at least 18 years of age and occupying a seat, of a motor vehicle  
13 equipped or required by the provisions of this title to be equipped with a safety belt system, consisting of lap  
14 belts, shoulder harnesses, combinations thereof or similar devices, shall wear the appropriate safety belt  
15 system at all times while the motor vehicle is in motion on any public highway. A passenger under the age of  
16 18 years, however, shall be protected as required by the provisions of Article 13 (§ 46.2-1095 et seq.) of this  
17 chapter.

18 B. This section shall not apply to:

19 1. Any person for whom a licensed physician determines that the use of such safety belt system would be  
20 impractical by reason of such person's physical condition or other medical reason, provided the person so  
21 exempted carries on his person or in the vehicle a signed written statement of the physician identifying the  
22 exempted person and stating the grounds for the exemption; or23 2. Any law-enforcement officer transporting persons in custody or traveling in circumstances which  
24 render the wearing of such safety belt system impractical; or25 3. Any person while driving a motor vehicle and performing the duties of a rural mail carrier for the  
26 United States Postal Service; or27 4. Any person driving a motor vehicle and performing the duties of a rural newspaper route carrier,  
28 newspaper bundle hauler or newspaper rack carrier; or

29 5. Drivers of and passengers in taxicabs; or

30 6. Personnel of commercial or municipal vehicles while actually engaged in the collection or delivery of  
31 goods or services, including but not limited to solid waste, where such collection or delivery requires the  
32 personnel to exit and enter the cab of the vehicle with such frequency and regularity so as to render the use of  
33 safety belt systems impractical and the safety benefits derived therefrom insignificant. Such personnel shall  
34 resume the use of safety belt systems when actual collection or delivery has ceased or when the vehicle is in  
35 transit to or from a point of final disposition or disposal, including but not limited to solid waste facilities,  
36 terminals, or other location where the vehicle may be principally garaged; or

37 7. Any person driving a motor vehicle and performing the duties of a utility meter reader; or

38 8. Law-enforcement agency personnel driving motor vehicles to enforce laws governing motor vehicle  
39 parking; or40 9. *Emergency medical services personnel, as defined in § 32.1-111.1, while in the patient compartment of*  
41 *an emergency medical services vehicle, as defined in § 32.1-111.1, providing necessary care to a patient.*  
42 *However, for seats that are subject to the requirements of this section, such personnel shall use safety belt*  
43 *systems in a manner consistent with the requirements of this section while the vehicle is in motion and such*  
44 *personnel is not providing necessary care to a patient. For purposes of this subdivision, "necessary care"*  
45 *means the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the administration of artificial ventilation,*  
46 *the administration of medication, or the treatment and reassessment of patients.*47 C. Any person who violates this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of twenty-five dollars to be paid  
48 into the state treasury and credited to the Literary Fund. No assignment of demerit points shall be made under  
49 Article 19 of Chapter 3 (§ 46.2-489 et seq.) of this title and no court costs shall be assessed for violations of  
50 this section.51 D. A violation of this section shall not constitute negligence, be considered in mitigation of damages of  
52 whatever nature, be admissible in evidence or be the subject of comment by counsel in any action for the  
53 recovery of damages arising out of the operation, ownership, or maintenance of a motor vehicle, nor shall  
54 anything in this section change any existing law, rule, or procedure pertaining to any such civil action.

55 E. A violation of this section may be charged on the uniform traffic summons form.

56 F. No law-enforcement officer shall stop a motor vehicle for a violation of this section. No evidence

59 discovered or obtained as the result of a stop in violation of this subsection, including evidence discovered or  
60 obtained with the operator's consent, shall be admissible in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding.  
61 G. The governing body of the City of Lynchburg may adopt an ordinance not inconsistent with the  
62 provisions of this section, requiring the use of safety belt systems. The penalty for violating any such  
63 ordinance shall not exceed a fine or civil penalty of twenty-five dollars.