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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 731**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 33.2-613 of the Code of Virginia, relating to free use of toll facilities; certain*  
5 *disabled veterans.*

6 Patron—Leftwich

7 Referred to Committee on Transportation

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 33.2-613 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 33.2-613. Free use of toll facilities by certain state officers and employees; penalties.**11 A. Upon presentation of a toll pass issued pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Board, the following  
12 persons may use all toll bridges, toll ferries, toll tunnels, and toll roads in the Commonwealth without the  
13 payment of toll while in the performance of their official duties:

- 14 1. The Commissioner of Highways;
- 15 2. Members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board;
- 16 3. Employees of the Department of Transportation;
- 17 4. The Superintendent of the Department of State Police;
- 18 5. Officers and employees of the Department of State Police;
- 19 6. Members of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority;
- 20 7. Employees of the regulatory and hearings divisions of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control  
Authority and special agents of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority;
- 21 8. The Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles;
- 22 9. Employees of the Department of Motor Vehicles;
- 23 10. Local police officers;
- 24 11. Sheriffs and their deputies;
- 25 12. Regional jail officials;
- 26 13. Animal wardens;
- 27 14. The Director and officers of the Department of Wildlife Resources;
- 28 15. Persons operating firefighting equipment and emergency medical services vehicles as defined in  
29 § 32.1-111.1;
- 30 16. Operators of school buses being used to transport pupils to or from schools;
- 31 17. Operators of (i) commuter buses having a capacity of 20 or more passengers, including the driver, and  
32 used to regularly transport workers to and from their places of employment and (ii) public transit buses;
- 33 18. Employees of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation;
- 34 19. Employees of any transportation facility created pursuant to the Virginia Highway Corporation Act of  
35 1988; and
- 36 20. Law-enforcement officers of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

37 B. Notwithstanding the provision of subsection A requiring presentation of a toll pass for toll-free use of  
38 such facilities, in cases of emergency and circumstances of concern for public safety on the highways of the  
39 Commonwealth, the Department of Transportation shall, in order to alleviate an actual or potential threat or  
40 risk to the public's safety, facilitate the flow of traffic on or within the vicinity of the toll facility by  
41 permitting the temporary suspension of toll collection operations on its facilities.

42 1. The assessment of the threat to public safety shall be performed and the decision temporarily to suspend  
43 toll collection operations shall be made by the Commissioner of Highways or his designee.

44 2. Major incidents that may require the temporary suspension of toll collection operations shall include (i)  
45 natural disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and floods; (ii) accidental releases of hazardous  
46 materials, such as chemical spills; (iii) major traffic accidents, such as multivehicle collisions; and (iv) other  
47 incidents deemed to present a risk to public safety. Any mandatory evacuation during a state of emergency as  
48 defined in § 44-146.16 shall require the temporary suspension of toll collection operations in affected  
49 evacuation zones on routes designated as mass evacuation routes. The Commissioner of Highways shall  
50 reinstate toll collection when the mandatory evacuation period ends.

51 3. In any judicial proceeding in which a person is found to be criminally responsible or civilly liable for  
52 any incident resulting in the suspension of toll collections as provided in this subsection, the court may assess  
53 against the person an amount equal to lost toll revenue as a part of the costs of the proceeding and order that  
54 such amount, not to exceed \$2,000 for any individual incident, be paid to the Department of Transportation  
55 for deposit into the toll road fund.

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59       C. Any tollgate keeper who refuses to permit the persons listed in subsection A to use any toll bridge, toll  
60       ferry, toll tunnel, or toll road upon presentation of such a toll pass is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a  
61       fine of not more than \$50 and not less than \$2.50. Any person other than those listed in subsection A who  
62       exhibits any such toll pass for the purpose of using any toll bridge, toll ferry, toll tunnel, or toll road is guilty  
63       of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

64       D. Any vehicle operated by the holder of a valid driver's license or other document issued under Chapter 3  
65       (§ 46.2-300 et seq.) of Title 46.2, or the comparable law of another jurisdiction, authorizing the operation of a  
66       motor vehicle upon the highways shall be allowed free use of all toll bridges, toll roads, and other toll  
67       facilities in the Commonwealth if:

68       1. a. The vehicle is specially equipped to permit its operation by an individual with a disability;

69       2. ~~The and the~~ driver of the vehicle has been certified, either by a physician licensed by the  
70       Commonwealth or any other state or by the Adjudication Office of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,  
71       as having a severe physical disability and having permanent upper limb mobility or dexterity impairments  
72       that substantially impair his ability to deposit coins in toll baskets; or

73       b. *The driver of the vehicle has been rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a 100  
74       percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability;*

75       3. 2. The driver has applied for and received from the Department of Transportation a ~~vehicle window  
76       sticker~~ specialized electronic toll collection device identifying him as eligible for such free passage; and

76       4. 3. Such ~~identifying window sticker is properly displayed on~~ electronic toll collection device is properly  
77       mounted in the vehicle.

78       A copy of this subsection shall be posted at all toll bridges, toll roads, and other toll facilities in the  
79       Commonwealth. The Department of Transportation shall provide envelopes for payments of tolls by those  
80       persons exempted from tolls pursuant to this subsection and shall accept any payments made by such persons.

81       E. Nothing contained in this section or in § 33.2-612 or 33.2-1718 shall operate to affect the provisions of  
82       § 22.1-187.

83       F. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections A, B, and C, only the following persons may use the  
84       Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, facilities of the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority, or  
85       facilities of an operator authorized to operate a toll facility pursuant to the Public-Private Transportation Act  
86       of 1995 (§ 33.2-1800 et seq.) without the payment of toll when necessary and incidental to the conduct of  
87       official business:

- 88       1. The Commissioner of Highways;
- 89       2. Members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board;
- 90       3. Employees of the Department of Transportation;
- 91       4. The Superintendent of the Department of State Police;
- 92       5. Officers and employees of the Department of State Police;
- 93       6. The Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles;
- 94       7. Employees of the Department of Motor Vehicles; and
- 95       8. Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs.

96       However, in the event of a mandatory evacuation and suspension of tolls pursuant to subdivision B 2, the  
97       Commissioner of Highways or his designee shall order the temporary suspension of toll collection operations  
98       on facilities of all operators authorized to operate a toll facility pursuant to the Public-Private Transportation  
99       Act of 1995 (§ 33.2-1800 et seq.) that has been designated as a mass evacuation route in affected evacuation  
100       zones, to the extent such order is necessary to facilitate evacuation and is consistent with the terms of the  
101       applicable comprehensive agreement between the operator and the Department. The Commissioner of  
102       Highways shall authorize the reinstatement of toll collections suspended pursuant to this subsection when the  
103       mandatory evacuation period ends or upon the reinstatement of toll collections on other tolled facilities in the  
104       same affected area, whichever occurs first.

105       G. Any vehicle operated by a quadriplegic driver shall be allowed free use of all toll facilities in Virginia  
106       controlled by the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority, pursuant to the requirements of  
107       subdivisions D 1 ~~through 4, 2, and 3.~~

108       H. Vehicles transporting two or more persons, including the driver, may be permitted toll-free use of the  
109       Dulles Toll Road during rush hours by the Board; however, notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision B 1  
110       of § 56-543, such vehicles shall not be permitted toll-free use of a roadway as defined pursuant to the  
111       Virginia Highway Corporation Act of 1988 (§ 56-535 et seq.).