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SENATE BILL NO. 81

Senate Amendments in [] - January 20, 2026

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-882.1 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-102.1, relating to enforcement of federal traffic infractions by state and local law-enforcement officers; photo speed monitoring devices; Planning District 8.

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Senator Surovell

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 46.2-882.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-102.1 as follows:

§ 46.2-102.1. Enforcement of federal traffic infractions by state and local law-enforcement officers; Planning District 8.

A. Any person operating a motor vehicle on any highway within Planning District 8 who is guilty of any traffic infraction that, although not made punishable by any provisions of this title, or any regulation adopted pursuant to this title, or any local ordinances adopted pursuant to the authority granted in this title, is punishable by the federal laws and regulations in force at the time of such infraction if committed on any highway within Planning District 8, including any highway located on property where the Commonwealth has transferred such property to the federal government subject to concurrent jurisdiction pursuant to Chapter 4 (§ 1-400 et seq.) of Title 1 or Chapter 494 of the Acts of Assembly of 1926, is guilty of a like offense and subject to a like punishment.

B. Any state or local law-enforcement officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this title pursuant to § 46.2-102 may enforce the provisions of this section on any highway within Planning District 8.

C. A violation of this section may be charged on the uniform traffic summons form, [and any which shall reference both this section and the incorporated state statute, local ordinance, or federal statute or regulation. Any] action under this section shall be brought in the general district court of the city or county in which the violation occurred. The procedure for appeal and trial of any violation of this section shall be the same as provided by law for misdemeanors; if requested by either party on appeal to the circuit court, trial by jury shall be as provided in Article 4 (§ 19.2-260 et seq.) of Chapter 15 of Title 19.2, and the Commonwealth shall be required to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

§ 46.2-882.1. Use of photo speed monitoring devices in highway work zones, school crossing zones, high-risk intersection segments, and National Park highways; civil penalty.

A. For the purposes of this section:

"High-risk intersection segment" means any highway or portion thereof located not more than 1,000 feet from the limits of the property of a school that is part of or adjacent to an intersection containing a marked crosswalk that is identified in the manner provided in this section as one in which a traffic fatality has occurred since January 1, 2014.

"Highway work zone" has the same meaning ascribed to it in § 46.2-878.1.

"National Park highway" means any highway within Planning District 8 that is located on property where the Commonwealth has transferred such property to the federal government subject to concurrent jurisdiction pursuant to Chapter 4 (§ 1-400 *et seq.*) of Title 1 or Chapter 494 of the Acts of Assembly of 1926 and such highway is maintained by the National Park Service.

"Photo speed monitoring device" means equipment that uses radar or LIDAR-based speed detection and produces one or more photographs, microphotographs, videotapes, or other recorded images of vehicles.

"School crossing zone" has the same meaning ascribed to it in § 46.2-873

"Vehicle speed violation" means a violation of this title resulting from the operation of a vehicle in excess of the speed limit, including a violation of § 46.2-102.1, 46.2-873, or 46.2-878.1.

B. A state or local law-enforcement agency may place and operate a photo speed monitoring device in school crossing zones for the purposes of recording violations of § 46.2-873 and in highway work zones for the purposes of recording violations of § 46.2-878.1.

A state or local law-enforcement agency may place and operate a photo speed monitoring device at a high-risk intersection segment located within the locality for the purpose of recording vehicle speed violations, provided that such law-enforcement agency certifies that a traffic fatality has occurred since January 1, 2014, in such segment.

A state or local law-enforcement agency may place and operate a photo speed monitoring device on a National Park highway for the purpose of recording vehicle speed violations, pursuant to § 46.2-102.1, provided that such law-enforcement agency has been authorized by the federal government or the National

59 *Park Service to place such photo speed monitoring device on such National Park highway.*

60 C. The operator of a vehicle shall be liable for a monetary civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section if
61 such vehicle is found, as evidenced by information obtained from a photo speed monitoring device, to be
62 traveling at speeds of at least 10 miles per hour above the posted speed limit in the zone monitored by the
63 photo speed monitoring device. Such civil penalty shall not exceed \$100, and any prosecution shall be
64 instituted and conducted in the same manner as prosecution for traffic infractions. Civil penalties collected
65 under this section resulting from a summons issued by a local law-enforcement officer shall be paid to the
66 locality in which such violation occurred. Civil penalties collected under this section resulting from a
67 summons issued by a law-enforcement officer employed by the Department of State Police shall be paid into
68 the Literary Fund. However, all civil penalties collected under this section resulting from a summons issued
69 based on evidence obtained from a photo speed monitoring device placed and operated at a high-risk
70 intersection segment shall be paid to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to be used for the Virginia
71 Highway Safety Improvement Program established pursuant to § 33.2-373.

72 D. If a photo speed monitoring device is used, proof of a vehicle speed violation shall be evidenced by
73 information obtained from such device. A certificate, or a facsimile thereof, sworn to or affirmed by a law-
74 enforcement officer, based upon inspection of photographs, microphotographs, videotapes, or other recorded
75 images produced by a photo speed monitoring device, shall be *prima facie* evidence of the facts contained
76 therein. Any photographs, microphotographs, videotapes, or other recorded images evidencing such a
77 violation shall be available for inspection in any proceeding to adjudicate the liability for such vehicle speed
78 violation.

79 E. In the prosecution for a vehicle speed violation in which a summons was issued by mail, *prima facie*
80 evidence that the vehicle described in the summons issued pursuant to this section was operated in a manner
81 constituting a vehicle speed violation, together with proof that the defendant was at the time of such violation
82 the owner, lessee, or renter of the vehicle, shall constitute in evidence a rebuttable presumption that such
83 owner, lessee, or renter of the vehicle was the person who committed the violation. Such presumption shall
84 be rebutted if the owner, lessee, or renter of the vehicle (i) files an affidavit by regular mail with the clerk of
85 the general district court that he was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation and
86 provides the name and address of the person who was operating the vehicle at the time of the alleged
87 violation or (ii) testifies in open court under oath that he was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the
88 alleged violation and provides the name and address of the person who was operating the vehicle at the time
89 of the alleged violation. Such presumption shall also be rebutted if a certified copy of a police report,
90 showing that the vehicle had been reported to the police as stolen prior to the time of the alleged vehicle
91 speed violation, is presented, prior to the return date established on the summons issued pursuant to this
92 section, to the court adjudicating the alleged violation.

93 F. Imposition of a penalty pursuant to this section by mailing a summons shall not be deemed a conviction
94 as an operator and shall not be made part of the operating record of the person upon whom such liability is
95 imposed, nor shall it be used for insurance purposes in the provision of motor vehicle insurance coverage.
96 However, if a law-enforcement officer uses a photo speed monitoring device to record a vehicle speed
97 violation and personally issues a summons at the time of the violation, the conviction that results shall be
98 made a part of such driver's driving record and used for insurance purposes in the provision of motor vehicle
99 insurance coverage.

100 G. A summons for a vehicle speed violation issued by mail pursuant to this section may be executed
101 pursuant to § 19.2-76.2. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 19.2-76, a summons issued by mail pursuant to
102 this section may be executed by mailing by first-class mail a copy thereof to the owner, lessee, or renter of
103 the vehicle. In the case of a vehicle owner, the copy shall be mailed to the address contained in the records of
104 or accessible to the Department. In the case of a vehicle lessee or renter, the copy shall be mailed to the
105 address contained in the records of the lessor or renter. Every such mailing shall include, in addition to the
106 summons, a notice of (i) the summoned person's ability to rebut the presumption that he was the operator of
107 the vehicle at the time of the alleged violation through the filing of an affidavit as provided in subsection E
108 and (ii) instructions for filing such affidavit, including the address to which the affidavit is to be sent. If the
109 summoned person fails to appear on the date of return set out in the summons mailed pursuant to this section,
110 the summons shall be executed in the manner set out in § 19.2-76.3. No proceedings for contempt or arrest of
111 a person summoned by mailing shall be instituted for failure to appear on the return date of the summons. If
112 the summons is issued to an owner, lessee, or renter of a vehicle with a registration outside the
113 Commonwealth and such person fails to appear on the date of return set out in the summons mailed pursuant
114 to this section, the summons will be eligible for all legal collections activities. Any summons executed for a
115 vehicle speed violation issued pursuant to this section shall provide to the person summoned at least 30 days
116 from the mailing of the summons to inspect information collected by a photo speed monitoring device in
117 connection with the violation. If the law-enforcement agency that was operating the photo speed monitoring
118 device does not execute a summons for a vehicle speed violation issued pursuant to this section within 30
119 days from the date of the violation, all information collected pertaining to that suspected violation shall be
120 purged within 60 days from the date of the violation.

121 H. A private vendor may enter into an agreement with a law-enforcement agency to be compensated for
122 providing a photo speed monitoring device and all related support services, including consulting, operations,
123 and administration. However, only a law-enforcement officer may swear to or affirm the certificate required
124 by this section. Any such agreement for compensation shall be based on the value of the goods and services
125 provided, not on the number of violations paid or monetary penalties imposed. Any private vendor
126 contracting with a law-enforcement agency pursuant to this section may enter into an agreement with the
127 Department, in accordance with the provisions of subdivision B 31 of § 46.2-208, to obtain vehicle owner
128 information regarding the registered owners of vehicles that committed a vehicle speed violation. Any such
129 information provided to such private vendor shall be protected in a database.

130 I. Information collected by a photo speed monitoring device operated pursuant to this section shall be
131 limited exclusively to that information that is necessary for the enforcement of vehicle speed violations.
132 Information provided to the operator of a photo speed monitoring device shall be protected in a database and
133 used only for enforcement of vehicle speed violations and enforcement against individuals who violate the
134 provisions of this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all photographs, microphotographs,
135 videotapes, or other recorded images collected by a photo speed monitoring device shall be used exclusively
136 for enforcing vehicle speed violations and shall not be (i) open to the public; (ii) sold or used for sales,
137 solicitation, or marketing purposes; (iii) disclosed to any other entity except as may be necessary for the
138 enforcement of a vehicle speed violation or to a vehicle owner or operator as part of a challenge to the
139 violation; or (iv) used in a court in a pending action or proceeding unless the action or proceeding relates to a
140 vehicle speed violation or a violation of this section, or such information is requested upon order from a court
141 of competent jurisdiction. Information collected under this section pertaining to a specific violation shall be
142 purged and not retained later than 60 days after the collection of any civil penalties. Any law-enforcement
143 agency using photo speed monitoring devices shall annually certify compliance with this section and make all
144 records pertaining to such system available for inspection and audit by the Commissioner of Highways or the
145 Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles or his designee. Any person who discloses personal
146 information in violation of the provisions of this subsection shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 per
147 disclosure.

148 J. A conspicuous sign shall be placed within 1,000 feet of any school crossing zone, highway work zone,
149 ~~or~~ high-risk intersection segment, *or National Park highway* at which a photo speed monitoring device is
150 used, indicating the use of the device. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that such sign was in place at
151 the time of the commission of the speed limit violation.

152 K. Any state or local law-enforcement agency that places and operates a photo speed monitoring device
153 pursuant to the provisions of this section shall report to the Department of State Police, in a format to be
154 determined by the Department of State Police, by January 15 of each year on the number of traffic violations
155 prosecuted, the number of successful prosecutions, and the total amount of monetary civil penalties collected.
156 The Department of State Police shall aggregate such information and report it to the General Assembly by
157 February 15 of each year.

158 **2. That the provisions of this act shall authorize any locality within Planning District 8 to seek
159 authorization from the federal government or the National Park Service for the purpose of such
160 locality's local law-enforcement agency placing a photo speed monitoring device on a National Park
161 highway.**

ENGROSSED

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