

SUBCOMMITTEE: SUBCOMMITTEE #2

HOUSE BILL NO. 914

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Landes)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 22.1-181 and 46.2-339 of the Code of Virginia, relating to school bus operators; training.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 22.1-181 and 46.2-339 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 22.1-181. Training program for school bus operators.

The Board of Education shall develop a training program for persons applying for employment, and employed, to operate school buses and shall promote its implementation. For new applicants not currently possessing a commercial driver's license, such regulations shall require (i) a minimum of 24 hours of classroom training administered pursuant to this section and (ii) six hours of behind-the-wheel training on a school bus that contains no pupil passengers. For new applicants currently possessing a commercial driver's license, such regulations shall require (a) a minimum of four hours of classroom training administered pursuant to this section and (b) three hours of behind-the-wheel training on a school bus that contains no pupil passengers. For applicants with a valid and unexpired commercial driver's license with valid P and S endorsements who were not removed for cause from a prior position operating a school bus, such regulations shall require (1) a minimum of four hours of classroom training administered pursuant to this section and (2) three hours of behind-the-wheel training on a school bus that contains no pupil passengers. Behind-the-wheel training shall be administered under the direct on-board supervision of a designated school bus driver trainer.

§ 46.2-339. Qualifications of school bus operators; training; examination.

A. No person shall ~~drive~~ operate any school bus on a highway in the Commonwealth unless he has had a reasonable amount of experience in ~~driving~~ operating motor vehicles, and has passed a special

27 examination pertaining to his ability to ~~drive~~ operate a school bus with safety to its passengers and to other
28 persons using the highways. Such person shall obtain a commercial driver's license with the applicable
29 classifications and endorsements, issued pursuant to the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act (§
30 46.2-341.1 et seq.), if the school bus he ~~drives~~ operates is a commercial motor vehicle as defined in the
31 Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act. For the purpose of preparing for the examination required by
32 this section, any person ~~holding a valid driver's license issued under Article 4 of this chapter, may drive,~~
33 ~~under the direct supervision of a person holding a valid school bus license endorsement, a school bus~~
34 ~~which contains no other passengers, provided that, on and after April 1, 1992, only persons~~ holding a valid
35 commercial driver's license or instruction permit issued under the provisions of the Virginia Commercial
36 Driver's License Act, may operate, under the direct supervision of a person holding a valid commercial
37 driver's license with a school bus endorsement, a school bus ~~which that~~ is a commercial motor vehicle as
38 defined in the Virginia Commercial Driver's License Act and ~~which that~~ contains no pupil passengers.

39 B. The Department may adopt regulations necessary to provide for the examination of persons
40 desiring to qualify to ~~drive~~ operate school buses in the Commonwealth and for the granting of permits to
41 qualified applicants.

42 C. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section ~~otherwise~~, no person shall ~~drive~~ operate any
43 school bus on a highway in the Commonwealth during any period in which he is a person for whom
44 registration with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry is required pursuant to Chapter 9
45 (§ 9.1-900 et seq.) of Title 9.1.

46 **2. That the State Board of Education and the Department of Motor Vehicles' initial adoption of**
47 **regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act shall be exempt from the**
48 **Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia), except that the State Board**
49 **of Education and the Department of Motor Vehicles shall provide an opportunity for public**
50 **comment on the regulations prior to adoption.**

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