

HOUSE BILL NO. 179

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Transportation

on \_\_\_\_\_)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Bloxom)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 46.2-665, 46.2-666, 46.2-670, 46.2-672, and 46.2-673 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 6 of Title 46.2 a section numbered 46.2-684.2, relating to Department of Motor Vehicles; permanent farm use placard.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 46.2-665, 46.2-666, 46.2-670, 46.2-672, and 46.2-673 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 6 of Title 46.2 a section numbered 46.2-684.2 as follows:**

**§ 46.2-665. Vehicles used for agricultural or horticultural purposes.**

A. No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay a registration fee for any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer used exclusively for agricultural or horticultural purposes on lands owned or leased by the vehicle's owner.

B. This exemption shall only apply to (i) pickup or panel trucks, (ii) sport utility vehicles, (iii) vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds, and (iv) trailers and semitrailers that are not operated on or over any public highway in the Commonwealth for any purpose other than:

- 1. Crossing a highway;
- 2. Operating along a highway for a distance of no more than 75 miles from one part of the owner's land to another, irrespective of whether the tracts adjoin;
- 3. Taking the vehicle or attached fixtures to and from a repair shop for repairs;

25 4. Taking another vehicle exempt from registration under any provision of §§ 46.2-664 through  
26 46.2-668 or 46.2-672, or any part or subcomponent of such a vehicle, to or from a repair shop for repairs,  
27 including return trips;

28 5. Operating along a highway to and from a refuse disposal facility for the purpose of disposing of  
29 trash and garbage generated on a farm;

30 6. Operating along a highway for a distance of no more than 75 miles for the purpose of obtaining  
31 supplies for agricultural or horticultural purposes, seeds, fertilizers, chemicals, or animal feed and  
32 returning; or

33 7. Transporting the vehicle's owner between his residence and the lands being used for agricultural  
34 or horticultural purposes.

35 ~~C. Any law enforcement officer may require any person operating~~ The owner or lessee of a  
36 vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer and claiming the exemption provided pursuant to this section to provide,  
37 upon request, the address of the lands owned or leased by the vehicle's owner for agricultural or  
38 horticultural purposes and the address of the residence address of the vehicle's owner. If such address is  
39 unavailable or unknown, the law enforcement officer may require such person to provide the real property  
40 parcel identification number of such lands shall be required to obtain a permanent farm use placard  
41 pursuant to § 46.2-684.2.

42 **§ 46.2-666. Vehicles used for seasonal transportation of farm produce and livestock.**

43 No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay  
44 a registration fee prescribed for any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer owned by the owner or lessee of  
45 a farm and used by him on a seasonal basis in transporting farm produce and livestock along public  
46 highways for a distance of no more than 75 miles including the distance to the nearest storage house,  
47 packing plant, or market. The provisions of this section shall only apply to (i) pickup or panel trucks, (ii)  
48 sport utility vehicles, (iii) vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds, and  
49 (iv) trailers and semitrailers. ~~Any law enforcement officer may require any person operating~~ The owner  
50 or lessee of a vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer and claiming the exemption provided pursuant to this section  
51 to provide, upon request, the address of the farm owned or leased by the vehicle's owner. If such address

52 ~~is unavailable or unknown, the law enforcement officer may require such person to provide the real~~  
53 ~~property parcel identification number of such lands shall be required to obtain a permanent farm use~~  
54 ~~placard pursuant to § 46.2-684.2.~~

55 **§ 46.2-670. Vehicles owned by farmers and used to transport certain wood products.**

56 No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay  
57 a registration fee for any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer owned by a farm owner when the vehicle is  
58 operated or moved along a highway for no more than 75 miles between a sawmill or sawmill site and his  
59 farm to transport sawdust, wood shavings, slab wood, and other wood wastes. The provisions of this  
60 section shall only apply to (i) pickup or panel trucks, (ii) sport utility vehicles, (iii) vehicles having a gross  
61 vehicle weight rating greater than 7,500 pounds, and (iv) trailers and semitrailers. ~~Any law enforcement~~  
62 ~~officer may require any person operating~~ The owner or lessee of a vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer and  
63 claiming the exemption provided pursuant to this section to provide, upon request, the address of the farm  
64 owned by the vehicle's owner. If such address is unavailable or unknown, the law enforcement officer  
65 may require such person to provide the real property parcel identification number of such lands shall be  
66 required to obtain a permanent farm use placard pursuant to § 46.2-684.2.

67 **§ 46.2-672. Certain vehicles transporting fertilizer, cotton, or peanuts.**

68 No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay  
69 a registration fee for any motor vehicle or trailer, semitrailer, or fertilizer spreader drawn by a farm tractor  
70 used by a farmer, his tenant, agent or employee or a cotton ginner, peanut buyer, or fertilizer distributor  
71 to transport unginned cotton, peanuts, or fertilizer owned by the farmer, cotton ginner, peanut buyer, or  
72 fertilizer distributor from one farm to another, from farm to gin, from farm to dryer, from farm to market,  
73 or from fertilizer distributor to farm and on return to the distributor. The owner or lessee of a vehicle,  
74 trailer, or semitrailer claiming the exemption provided pursuant to this section shall be required to obtain  
75 a permanent farm use placard pursuant to § 46.2-684.2.

76 The provisions of this section shall not apply to vehicles operated on a for-hire basis.

77 **§ 46.2-673. Return trips of exempted farm vehicles.**

78 No person shall be required to obtain the registration certificate, license plates, or decals for or pay  
79 a registration fee for any farm vehicle exempted from registration under the provisions of this article when  
80 that vehicle is:

- 81 1. Making a return trip from any marketplace;
- 82 2. Transporting back to a farm ordinary and essential food and other products for home and farm  
83 use; or
- 84 3. Transporting supplies to the farm.

85 The owner or lessee of a vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer claiming the exemption provided pursuant  
86 to this section shall be required to obtain a permanent farm use placard pursuant to § 46.2-684.2.

87 **§ 46.2-684.2. Permanent farm use placards.**

88 A. For the purposes of this section, "farm use plate" means a device containing letters, numerals,  
89 or a combination of both attached to a vehicle that is used for one of the exempt purposes set forth in §  
90 46.2-665, 46.2-666, 46.2-670, 46.2-672, or 46.2-673.

91 B. An owner or lessee of a farm vehicle claiming an exemption for a farm vehicle provided  
92 pursuant to § 46.2-665, 46.2-666, 46.2-670, 46.2-672, or 46.2-673 shall obtain a farm use placard from  
93 the Department and display such placard on the vehicle at all times. Such farm use placard shall be  
94 permanent and valid for so long as the owner or lessee uses the vehicle for an exempt purpose and shall  
95 not require renewal.

96 C. Application for a permanent farm use placard shall be made on a form provided by the  
97 Department and shall include:

- 98 1. The name of the owner or lessee of the vehicle for which the exemption is claimed;
- 99 2. The location and acreage of each farm on which the vehicle is to be used;
- 100 3. The type of agricultural commodities, poultry, dairy products, or livestock produced on such  
101 farms and the approximate amounts produced annually;
- 102 4. A statement, signed by the owner or lessee, that the vehicle shall only be used for one or more  
103 of the exempt purposes set forth in § 46.2-665, 46.2-666, 46.2-670, 46.2-672, or 46.2-673; and

