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SENATE BILL NO. 646

Offered January 19, 2010

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-1118 of the Code of Virginia, relating to tow trucks towing vehicles i
of a wheel lift apparatus.*

Patron-- Watkins
-----Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 46.2-1118 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 46.2-1118. Connection between vehicles; tow trucks towing vehicles by means of a wheel lift apparatus.

The connection between any two vehicles, one of which is towing or drawing the other on a highway, shall a fifth wheel, drawbar, *trailer hitch*, or other similar device not to exceed 15 feet in length from one vehicl other. Any such two vehicles shall, in addition to such drawbar or other similar device, be equipped at all ti so operated on the highway with an emergency chain or cable that is structurally adequate to securely stc hold the trailer being towed.

The fifth wheel, drawbar, trailer hitch, or similar device must (i) be structurally adequate for the weight drawn, (ii) be properly and securely mounted, (iii) provide for adequate articulation at the connection w excessive slack at that location, and (iv) be provided with a locking device that prevents accidental separ the towed and towing vehicles. The mounting of the fifth wheel, drawbar, trailer hitch, or similar device t towing vehicle must include reinforcement or bracing of the frame sufficient to produce strength and rig the frame to prevent its undue distortion.

The foregoing provisions of this section shall not apply to (i) any farm tractor, as defined in § 46.2-100, wh farm tractor is towing any farm implement or farm machinery by means of a drawbar coupled with a safety or manufacturer's coupling device or (ii) any tow truck towing a vehicle by means of a wheel lift apparatus employs a safety strap to hold two of the towed vehicle's wheels within a wheel lift cradle in a manner con: with instructions of the manufacturer of such wheel lift apparatus.

For the purposes of this section, "tow truck" means any motor vehicle that is constructed and used primaril towing, lifting, or otherwise moving illegally parked or disabled vehicles.

Legislative Information System