

List of Virginia Statutes Affecting Vehicle Automation

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This table is the full version of Table 1 that was included in the draft paper “Potential Legal Barriers to Vehicle Automation in Virginia,” available here: <http://people.virginia.edu/~njg2q/avlegal.pdf>. It lists statutes in Title 46.2 of the Code of Virginia that, in the authors’ opinions, may affect vehicle automation. This table should not be referred to or cited independently of the paper. The views and opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policies or positions of any agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-100	Definitions	“Operator” or “driver” means every person who either (i) drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle on a highway or (ii) is exercising control over or steering a vehicle being towed by a motor vehicle.	Gives broad definition to driver and operator.
§ 46.2-103	Stopping vehicles for inspection or to secure information.	Any law-enforcement officer who is in uniform or displays his badge or other sign of authority may 1. Stop any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer to inspect its equipment, operation, manufacturer's serial or engine number; or...	Could allow police to stop and inspect AVs to check AV equipment.
§ 46.2-104	Possession of registration cards; exhibiting registration card and licenses; failure to carry license or registration card.	The operator of any motor vehicle... [other vehicles] being operated on the highways in the Commonwealth, shall have in his possession: (i) the registration card issued by the Department or the registration card issued by the state or country in which the motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer is registered, and (ii) his driver's license, learner's permit, or temporary driver's permit.	Unmanned, licensed AVs driving would be required to carry their own licenses.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
<i>Id.</i>		On the officer's request, exhibit his registration card, driver's license, learner's permit, or temporary driver's permit and write his name in the presence of the officer, if so required, for the purpose of establishing his identity.	Driver is required to exhibit registration, driver's license, and write name if so requested by an officer. Not possible for an unmanned AV.
§ 46.2-111.	Flares and other signals relating to stopped commercial motor vehicles.	Whenever any commercial motor vehicle as defined in § 46.2-341.4 is stopped on any roadway or on the shoulder of any highway ..., the operator of such vehicle shall immediately activate the vehicular hazard warning signal flashers and as soon as possible, but in any event within 10 minutes of stopping, place or cause to be placed on the roadway or shoulder three red reflectorized triangular warning devices ...	If a commercial AV has to stop on the side of the road for more than 10 minutes, triangular warning devices must be placed at distances up to 100 feet away. Not possible for an unmanned AV.
Chapter 3 Licensure of Drivers			
§ 46.2-300	Driving without license prohibited; penalties	No person, ..., shall drive any motor vehicle on any highway in the Commonwealth until such person has applied for a driver's license, as provided in this article, satisfactorily passed the examination required by § 46.2-325, and obtained a driver's license, nor unless the license is valid.	An unmanned AV would have to pass the standard driver's license test or obtain a license through some other method.
§ 46.2-303	Licenses not required for operating road roller or farm tractor	No person shall be required to obtain a driver's license to operate a road roller or road machinery used under the supervision and control of the Department of Transportation for construction or maintenance purposes.	Driver's license not required to operate DOT road machinery. Unlikely, but may allow deployment of automated truck mounted attenuators without licensing the vehicle.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-310	Localities may not require license except for taxicabs;	Counties, cities, and towns may adopt regulations for the licensing of drivers of taxicabs and similar for-hire passenger vehicles	Allows municipalities to adopt taxi regulations, which could complicate deployment of automated taxis and ride-sharing services.
§ 46.2-311	Persons having defective vision; minimum standards of visual acuity and field of vision; tests of vision.	The Department shall not issue a driver's license or learner's permit (i) to any person unless he demonstrates a visual acuity of at least 20/40 in one or both eyes with or without corrective lenses or (ii) to any such person unless he demonstrates at least a field of 100 degrees of horizontal vision in one or both eyes or a comparable measurement that demonstrates a visual field within this range. However, a license permitting the driving of motor vehicles during a period beginning one-half hour after sunrise and ending one-half hour before sunset, may be issued to a person who demonstrates a visual acuity of at least 20/70 in one or both eyes without or with corrective lenses provided he demonstrates at least a field of 70 degrees of horizontal vision or a comparable measurement that demonstrates a visual field within this range, and further provided that if such person has vision in one eye only, he demonstrates at least a field of 40 degrees temporal and 30 degrees nasal horizontal vision or a comparable measurement that demonstrates a visual field within this range.	This section covers the vision test a person has to pass to get a license.
§ 46.2-315	Disabled persons.	The words “disability or disease” shall not mean inability of a person to hear or to speak, or both,...	Driverless car are not disable just because they can't speak.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-322	Examination of licensee believed incompetent	As a part of its examination, the Department may require a physical examination by a licensed physician, licensed nurse practitioner, or licensed physician assistant and a report on the results thereof.	A physician can assess if a person is capable of driving.
§ 46.2-323.01	Issuance of documents; relationship with federal law.	The Department shall not comply with any federal law or regulation that would require the Department to use any type of computer chip or radio-frequency identification tag or other similar device on or in a driver's license or special identification card.	This law could complicate an AV carrying its own license electronically.
§ 46.2-323.1	Certification of Virginia residency	No driver's license [all other licenses], ... shall be issued to any person who is not a Virginia resident	An AV would have to be a Virginia resident to obtain a license currently.
<i>Id.</i>		Every application for a driver's license shall include a photograph of the applicant supplied under arrangements made by the Department. The photograph shall be processed by the Department so that the photograph can be made part of the issued license.	An AV would have to have its picture taken for its license.
§ 46.2-324.1	Requirements for initial licensure of certain applicants.	No driver's license shall be issued to any applicant unless he either (i) provides written evidence of having satisfactorily completed a course of driver instruction at a driver training school licensed under Chapter 17 (§46.2-1700 et seq.) or a comparable course approved by the Department or Department of Education or (ii) has held a learner's permit issued by the Department for at least 60 days prior to his first behind-the-wheel examination by the Department when applying for a noncommercial driver's license.	An AV would have to pass a written test to obtain a license.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-325	Examination of applicants; waiver of Department's examination under certain circumstances; behind-the-wheel	<p>The Department <u>shall examine every applicant for a driver's license before issuing any license to determine (i) his physical and mental qualifications and his ability to drive a motor vehicle without jeopardizing the safety of persons or property and (ii) if any facts exist which would bar the issuance of a license under §§ 46.2-311 through 46.2-316, 46.2-334, or 46.2-335. The examination, however, shall not include investigation of any facts other than those directly pertaining to the ability of the applicant to drive a motor vehicle with safety, or other than those facts declared to be prerequisite to the issuance of a license under this chapter.</u></p>	<p>If a AV could drive safely and pass the age and residency qualification it would meet most of the driver requirements.</p>
§ 46.2-328.1	<p>Licenses, permits and special identification cards to be issued only to United States citizens, legal permanent resident aliens, or holders of valid unexpired nonimmigrant visas; exceptions; renewal, duplication, or reissuance</p>	<p>“Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, except as provided in subsection G of § 46.2-345, the Department shall not issue an original license, permit, or special identification card to any applicant who has not presented to the Department, with the application, valid documentary evidence that the applicant is either (i) a citizen of the United States, (ii) a legal permanent resident of the United States,</p>	<p>A driver must be a permanent resident of the United States.</p>

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-329	Special restrictions on particular licensees	The Department, on issuing a driver's <u>license may, whenever good cause appears, impose restrictions suitable to the licensee's driving ability with respect to the type of, or special mechanical control devices required on,</u> a motor vehicle which the licensee may drive, or any other restrictions applicable to the licensee as the Department may determine.	The DMV could restrict AV driving even if it could obtain a license.
§§ 46.2-334 to 46.2-334.02	Conditions and requirements for licensure of persons under 18		There are many extra regulations for drivers under the age of 18.
§ 46.2-337	Motorcycle; regulations	No person shall drive any motorcycle on a highway in the Commonwealth unless he has passed a special examination, including written material and a road test ...The Department may adopt regulations as may be necessary to provide for the special examination under § 46.2-325 of persons desiring to qualify to drive motorcycles in the Commonwealth and for the granting of licenses or permits suitably endorsed for qualified applicants.	The DMV could adopt regulations so AV motorcycles could pass special examinations.
§ 46.2-341.14	Testing requirements for commercial driver's license	Knowledge tests may be administered in written form, verbally, or in automated format and can be administered in a foreign language, provided no interpreter is used in administering the test.	A commercial AV would have to take and pass the written or online test to obtain a license.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
<i>Id.</i>		Interpreters are prohibited during the administration of the skills tests. Applicants must be able to understand and respond to verbal commands and instructions in English by a skills test examiner. Neither the applicant nor the examiner may communicate in a language other than English during the skills test	Interpreters are prohibited from being used when taking the DMV tests for a driver's license.
§ 46.2-341.24	Driving a commercial motor vehicle while intoxicated	It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any commercial motor vehicle (i) while such person has a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more	Depending on the definition of operator it would be illegal for a intoxicated person to tell an autonomous commercial motor vehicle to drive them.
<i>Id.</i>		It shall be unlawful and a lesser included offense of an offense under provision (i), (ii), or (iv) of subsection A of this section for a person to drive or operate a commercial motor vehicle while such person has a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 percent or more by weight by volume or 0.04 grams.	Depending on the definition of operator it would be illegal for a person to tell an autonomous commercial motor vehicle (like a taxi service) to drive them if the person was intoxicated. This is a stricter slandered than regular passenger cars: Could apply to taxi like service.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-342	What license to contain	For licenses issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2003, a license number which shall be assigned by the Department to the licensee and shall not be the same as the licensee's social security number; 2. A photograph of the licensee; 3. The licensee's full name, year, month, and date of birth 4. The licensee's address, subject to the provisions of subsection B of this section; 5. A brief description of the licensee for the purpose of identification; 6. A space for the signature of the licensee; and 7. Any other information deemed necessary by the Commissioner for the administration of this title. No abbreviated names or nicknames shall be shown on any license.	If an AV were able to qualify for a license it would be required a photo, name, date of birth, signature on the license.
§ 46.2-371	Driver to give immediate notice of certain accidents	The driver of any vehicle involved in any accident resulting in injury to or death of any person, or some person acting for him, shall immediately give notice of the accident to a law-enforcement officer. A willful failure to make the report required in this section shall constitute a Class 4 misdemeanor.	Drivers have to report accident that cause injury or damage.
§ 46.2-682.	Tractors, rollers, and other machinery used for highway purposes	Tractors, rollers, and other machinery used for highway purposes need not be registered under this chapter.	This could make it easier to get driverless TMAs on the road.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
<u>Chapter 8. Regulation of Traffic</u>			
§ 46.2-804	Special regulations applicable on highways laned for traffic	Wherever a highway is marked with double traffic lines consisting of a solid line immediately adjacent to a broken line, no vehicle shall be driven to the left of such line if the solid line is on the right of the broken line, except (i) when turning left for the purpose of entering or leaving a public, private, or commercial road or entrance or (ii) in order to pass a pedestrian or a device moved by human power, including a bicycle, skateboard, or foot-scooter, provided such movement can be made safely. Where the middle lane of a highway is marked on both sides with a solid line immediately adjacent to a broken line, such middle lane shall be considered a left-turn or holding lane and it shall be lawful to drive to the left of such line if the solid line is on the right of the broken line for the purpose of turning left into any road or entrance, provided that the vehicle may not travel in such lane further than 150 feet;	Virginia allows for moving over double yellow line to pass bike, pedestrians and others. One of the laws some other states do not have that google sites will be an obstacle to driverless vehicles that strictly obey the law.
§ 46.2-810	Age limits for drivers of public passenger-carrying vehicles	No person, whether licensed or not, under the age of eighteen years shall drive a motor vehicle while in use as a public passenger-carrying vehicle.	AV will have to be designated as older than 18 or 21 to avoid some regulations.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-812	Driving more than thirteen hours in twenty-four prohibited.	<p><u>No person shall drive any motor vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth for more than thirteen hours in any period of twenty-four hours</u> or for a period which, when added to the time such person may have driven in any other state, would make an aggregate of more than thirteen hours in any twenty-four-hour period. The provisions of this section, however, shall not apply to the operation of motor vehicles used in snow or ice control or removal operations or similar emergency situations.</p>	AV could not drive more than 13 hours in a day.
§ 46.2-816	Following too closely.	The driver of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard to the speed of both vehicles and the traffic on, and conditions of, the highway at the time.	Could prohibit AV caravans on highways. Might not prohibit because AV could drive closer and it still be reasonable.
§ 46.2-853	Driving vehicle which is not under control; faulty brakes.	A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who drives a vehicle which is not under proper control or which has inadequate or improperly adjusted brakes on any highway in the Commonwealth.	Reckless driving laws could impact level 3,4, and 5 automated vehicles.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-855	Driving with driver's view obstructed or control impaired.	A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who drives a vehicle when it is so loaded, or when there are in the front seat such number of persons, as to obstruct the view of the driver to the front or sides of the vehicle or to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle.	The driver must be able to see through the rear window or mirrors of the vehicle.
§ 46.2-872	Maximum speed limits for vehicles operating under special permits.	The maximum speed limit shall be fifty-five miles per hour on any highway having a posted <u>speed limit of fifty-five miles or more per hour if the vehicle or combination of vehicles is operating under a special permit issued by the Commissioner</u> in accordance with § 46.2-1139 or § 46.2-1149.2. The Commissioner may, however, further reduce the speed limit on any permit issued in accordance with § 46.2-1139.	If under a special permit is given to an AV its top speed could be limited.
§ 46.2-894	Duties of driver in event of accident involving damage only to unattended property	The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident in which no person is killed or injured, but in which an unattended vehicle or other unattended property is damaged, shall make a reasonable effort to find the owner or custodian of such property and shall report ...the driver shall leave a note or other sufficient information including driver identification and contact information in a conspicuous place at the scene of the accident and shall report the accident in writing within 24 hours to the State Police or the local law-enforcement agency	A driverless AV may be required to leave a note in the event of a crash.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-903	Riding or driving vehicles other than bicycles, electric power-assisted bicycles, or electric personal assistive mobility devices on sidewalks.	No person shall ride or drive any vehicle other than (i) an emergency vehicle, as defined in § 46.2-920, (ii) a vehicle engaged in snow or ice removal and control operations, (iii) a wheel chair or wheel chair conveyance, whether self-propelled or otherwise, (iv) a bicycle, (v) an electric personal assistive mobility device, or (vi) an electric power-assisted bicycle on the sidewalks of any county, city, or town of the Commonwealth.	It would be illegal for delivery robots to operate on sidewalks in Virginia.
§ 46.2-904	Use of roller skates and skateboards on sidewalks and shared-use paths; operation of bicycles, motorized skateboards or foot-scooters, motor-driven cycles, electric power-assisted bicycles, and electric personal assistive mobility devices on sidewalks and crosswalks and shared-use paths; local ordinances.	the governing body of any county, city, or town may by ordinance prohibit the use of roller skates and skateboards and/or the riding of bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, motorized skateboards or foot-scooters, motor-driven cycles, or electric power-assisted bicycles on designated sidewalks or crosswalks, including those of any church, school, recreational facility, or any business property open to the public where such activity is prohibited. Signs indicating such prohibition shall be conspicuously posted in general areas where use of roller skates and skateboards, and/or bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility devices, motorized skateboards or foot-scooters, motor-driven cycles, or electric power-assisted bicycle riding is prohibited.	Different counties, cities, or towns can prevent the use of sidewalk delivery robots.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-908.2	Low-speed vehicles; required equipment	very low-speed vehicle operated upon a highway shall be equipped with head lights, brake lights, tail lights, reflex reflectors, an emergency or parking brake, an externally mounted rearview mirror, an internally mounted rearview mirror, a windshield, one or more windshield wipers, a speedometer, an odometer, braking for each wheel, a safety belt system, and a vehicle identification number.	Low speed driverless AV like the google car would be required to have things like windshield wipers.
§ 46.2-908.3	Low-speed vehicles; operation on highways; license required; registration required; safety and emissions inspections not required.	The operator of any low-speed vehicle being operated on the highways in the Commonwealth shall have in his possession: (i) the registration card issued by the Department or the registration card issued by the state or country in which the low-speed vehicle is registered, and (ii) his driver's license, learner's permit, or temporary driver's permit.	The driver still has to be licensed to drive a low speed vehicle but there are fewer restrictions for low speed vehicle operation.
§ 46.2-909	Riding on motorcycles, generally	Every person operating a motorcycle...shall ride only upon the permanent seat attached to the motorcycle, unless safety dictates standing on both footpegs for no longer than is necessary	An autonomous motorcycle would be required to have a windshield.
§ 46.2-910.	Motorcycle and autocycle operators to wear helmets, etc.; certain sales prohibited; penalty	Every person operating a motorcycle or autocycle shall wear a face shield, safety glasses or goggles, or have his motorcycle or autocycle equipped with safety glass or a windshield at all times	An autonomous motorcycle would be required to have a windshield.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-912	Operating motorcycle without headlight, horn or rearview mirror	<p>A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, motorcycles may be operated without headlights, horns, or rearview mirrors on public highways if all the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The motorcycles are designed for use in trail riding and endurance runs; <li>2. The motorcycles are being driven by duly licensed persons; <li>3. The motorcycles are being operated between sunrise and sunset; and <li>4. The motorcycles are being operated during endurance runs sanctioned by the American Motorcycle Association. <p>B. No person shall operate motorcycles without such equipment on the public highways of the Commonwealth other than at the times and under the circumstances set forth in this section.</p>	An autonomous motorcycle would require a mirror to run on public roads.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
Chapter 10. Motor Vehicle and Equipment Safety			
§ 46.2-1005	Procedure for approval of equipment	The Superintendent may establish a procedure for the approval of equipment required to be approved by him. Such procedure shall include the submission of a sample of the device for test and record purposes, submission of evidence that the device complies with this title and with recognized testing standards which the Superintendent is hereby authorized to adopt	AV equipment could be approved by the superintendent.
<i>Id.</i>		The Superintendent may waive such approval and the issuance of a certificate of approval when the device or equipment required to be approved by this title is identified as complying with the standards and specifications of the Society of Automotive Engineers, the American National Standards Institute, Incorporated, or the regulations of the federal Department of Transportation.	AV equipment approval could be waived if found to comply with SAE NSII or federal DOT standards.
§§ 46.2-1010	Equipment required	Every vehicle driven or moved on a highway within the Commonwealth shall at all times be equipped with such lights as are required in this chapter for different classes of vehicles. The lights shall at all times be capable of being lighted, except as otherwise provided. This section shall not apply, however, to any vehicle for transporting well-drilling machinery licensed under § 46.2-700 when operated only between the hours of sunrise and sunset.	Lights are required for all cars and motorcycles.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-1019	Spotlights	Any motor vehicle or motorcycle may be equipped with one or two spotlights which, when lighted, shall be aimed and used so that no portion of the beam will be directed to the left of the center of the highway at any time or more than 100 feet ahead of the vehicle. Any such lights shall be of a type approved by the Superintendent. No such spotlights shall be used in conjunction with or as a substitute for required head lights, except in case of emergency.	Spotlight laws could prohibit some AV technology.
§ 46.2-1033	Indicator light required	Every motor vehicle operated on a highway shall be equipped with a working indicator light that indicates to the driver when the high beam of the headlights is being used.	An indicator showing when high beams are on must be visible to the driver.
§ 46.2-1052	Tinting films, signs, decals, and stickers on windshields, etc.; penalties.	To drive a motor vehicle when the driver's clear view of the highway through the rear window or windows is otherwise obstructed.	The driver has to be able to see through the rear window.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-1054	Suspension of objects or alteration of vehicle so as to obstruct driver's view	It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a motor vehicle on a highway in the Commonwealth with any object or objects, other than a rear view mirror, sun visor, or other equipment of the motor vehicle approved by the Superintendent, suspended from any part of the motor vehicle in such a manner as to obstruct the driver's clear view of the highway through the windshield, the front side windows, or the rear window, or to alter a passenger-carrying vehicle in such a manner as to obstruct the driver's view through the windshield. However, this section shall not apply (i) when the driver's clear view of the highway through the rear window is obstructed if such motor vehicle is equipped with a mirror on each side, so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for at least 200 feet to the rear of such vehicle, (ii) to safety devices installed on the windshields of vehicles owned by private waste haulers or local governments and used to transport solid waste, or (iii) to bicycle racks installed on the front of any bus operated by any city, county, transit authority, or transit or transportation district.	A driver must be able to see through the rear windshield of a vehicle or the mirrors of a vehicle.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-1055	Windshield wiper	Every permanent windshield on a motor vehicle shall be equipped with a device for cleaning snow, rain, moisture, or other matter from the windshield directly in front of the driver. The device shall be so constructed as to be controlled or operated by the driver of the vehicle. Every such device on a school bus or a vehicle designed or used to carry passengers for compensation or hire or as a public conveyance shall be of a mechanically or electrically operated type. The device or devices on any motor vehicle manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1943, shall clean both the right and left sides of the windshield and shall be of a mechanically or electrically operated type.	AVs would need windshield wipers.
§ 46.2-1055.1	Windshield defroster or defogger.	Every Virginia-registered motor vehicle manufactured for the 1969 or subsequent model years and required to be equipped with a windshield shall be equipped with a windshield defroster or defogger	AVs would need a defroster.
§ 46.2-1057	Windshields	It shall be unlawful for any person to drive on a highway in the Commonwealth any motor vehicle or reconstructed motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle or autocyte, registered in the Commonwealth that was manufactured, assembled, or reconstructed after July 1, 1970, unless the motor vehicle is equipped with a windshield.	AVs would have to have windshields.
§ 46.2-1059	Horns	Every motor vehicle driven on a highway shall be equipped with a working horn capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions for at least 200 feet.	AVs would have to have a horn.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-1065	Steering gear; installation, sale, etc., of repair kit or preventive maintenance kit for use on part of steering gear prohibited.	Every motor vehicle driven on a highway shall be equipped with steering gear adequate to ensure the safe control of the vehicle. Such steering gear shall not show signs of weakness or breaking under ordinary conditions. The Superintendent may promulgate regulations establishing standards of adequacy of steering gear, which shall be the current standard specifications of steering gear adopted by the United States Bureau of Standards or the Society of Automotive Engineers, or the regulations of the federal Department of Transportation, for determining whether or not any motor vehicle operated on any highway conforms to the requirements of the Department of State Police.	Vehicles are required to have a steering gear but may not require a steering wheel.
§ 46.2-1068	Emergency or parking brakes	Every motor vehicle and combination of vehicles, except motorcycles or autocycles, shall be equipped with emergency or parking brakes adequate to hold the vehicle or vehicles on any grade on which it is operated, under all conditions of loading on a surface free from snow, ice, or loose material.	Unlike some other states the emergency break does not have to be foot actuated in VA.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-1077	Motor vehicles not to be equipped with television within view of driver; viewing motion pictures or similar displays while driving.	<p>The prohibitions contained in this subsection shall not, however, include:</p> <p>Electronic displays used in conjunction with vehicle navigation and mapping systems, or as part of a digital dispatch system;</p> <p>Closed circuit video monitors designed to operate only in conjunction with dedicated video cameras and used in rear-view systems on trucks, motor homes, and other motor vehicles;</p> <p>Television receivers or monitors used in government-owned vehicles by law-enforcement officers and employees of the Virginia Department of Transportation in the course of their official duties;</p> <p>Visual displays used to enhance or supplement the driver's view forward, behind, or to the sides of a motor vehicle for the purpose of maneuvering the vehicle;</p> <p>A vehicle information display;</p> <p>A visual display used to enhance or supplement a driver's view of vehicle occupants;</p> <p>Television-type receiving equipment used exclusively for safety or traffic engineering information; or</p> <p>A television receiver, video monitor, television or video screen, or any other similar means of visually displaying a television broadcast or signal, if that equipment has an interlock device that, when the motor vehicle is driven, disables the equipment for all uses except as a visual display described in subdivisions 1 through 7.</p> <p>B. Except for displays explicitly authorized in subsection A, no driver of any motor vehicle shall view any motion picture or similar video display while driving.</p>	A television cannot be viewed by the driver while the car is in motion except for in the listed circumstances. A bill was passed this year (HB 454) that “allow the viewing of a visual display while the vehicle is being operated autonomously” according to the Va Legislative summary.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
<i>Id.</i>		<i>For the purposes of this subdivision, “driving task” means all of the real-time functions required to operate a vehicle in on-road traffic, excluding the selection of destinations and waypoints, and including steering, turning, lane keeping and lane changing, accelerating, and decelerating.</i>	Only defines driving task for this subdivision but gives a good idea of what lawmakers think about AVs.
§ 46.2-1077.1	Mobile infrared transmitters; demerit points not to be awarded	It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth when such vehicle is equipped with a mobile infrared transmitter or any other device or mechanism, passive or active, used to preempt or change the signal given by a traffic light so as to give the right-of-way to the vehicle equipped with such device.....	Should be legal to use infrared in AV as long as it does not interfere with traffic lights.
§ 46.2-1078.1	Use of handheld personal communications devices in certain motor vehicles; exceptions; penalty	A. It is unlawful for any person to operate a moving motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth while using any handheld personal communications device to:.... [enter text or read text]....	“operate a moving motor vehicle” may make texting and driving still illegal when AV is driving.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-1079	Radar detectors; demerit points not to be awarded.	It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle on the highways of the Commonwealth when such vehicle is equipped with any device or mechanism, passive or active, to detect or purposefully interfere with or diminish the measurement capabilities of any radar, laser, or other device or mechanism employed by law-enforcement personnel to measure the speed of motor vehicles on the highways of the Commonwealth for law-enforcement purposes. It shall be unlawful to use any such device or mechanism on any such motor vehicle on the highways. It shall be unlawful to sell any such device or mechanism in the Commonwealth. However, provisions of this section shall not apply to any receiver of radio waves utilized for lawful purposes to receive any signal from a frequency lawfully licensed by any state or federal agency.	Virginia is one of the few states to prohibit radar detectors. This may make some AV tech needed for operations illegal.
§ 46.2-1082	Mirrors	<p>No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a highway in the Commonwealth if the vehicle is not equipped with a mirror which reflects to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of not less than 200 feet to the rear of such vehicle.</p> <p>No motor vehicle registered in the Commonwealth, designed and licensed primarily for passenger vehicular transportation on the public highways and manufactured after 1968 shall be driven on the highways in the Commonwealth unless equipped with at least one outside and at least one inside rear view mirror meeting the requirements of this section.</p>	<p>Mirrors would be required for Level 4 AV even though they may not benefit the driving of the vehicle.</p> <p>Vehicles are required to have mirrors.</p>

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-1084	Vehicle to have securely affixed seat for driver; location of such seat	It shall be unlawful for any person to drive any motor vehicle on a highway in the Commonwealth unless it is equipped with a securely affixed seat for the driver. The seat shall be so located as to permit the driver to adequately control the steering and braking mechanisms and other instruments necessary for the safe operation of the motor vehicle.	As long as there is a seat for the AV AI and it can “adequately control the steering ...” it may be ok. It does not say you have to sit in the seat or have physical control.
§ 46.2-1088.6	Motor vehicle recording devices	Recorded data may only be accessed by the motor vehicle owner or with the consent of the motor vehicle owner or the owner's agent or legal representative; except under the following circumstances:.... The owner of the motor vehicle or the owner's agent or legal representative has a contract with a third-party subscription service that requires access to a recording device or recorded data in order to perform the contract, so long as the recorded data is only accessed and used in accordance with the contract;	Data recording for AV is probably legal.
§ 46.2-1091	Safety belts to be worn by certain bus drivers	Any person operating a school bus shall wear the appropriate safety belt system when the bus is in motion.	Autonomous bus would need a seat belt for the AI or operator.
§ 46.2-1094	Occupants of front seats of motor vehicles required to use safety lap belts and shoulder harnesses; penalty	Any driver...shall wear the appropriate safety belt system at all times while the motor vehicle is in motion... This section shall not apply to: any person for whom a licensed physician determines that the use of such safety belt system would be impractical by reason of such person's physical condition or other medical reason5. Drivers of and passengers in taxicabs	An AV would not need to wear a seat belt if a physician determines it to be impractical or if it is designated as a taxi.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
§ 46.2-1095	Child restraint devices required when transporting certain children; safety belts for passengers less than eighteen years old required; penalty.	...shall ensure that any child, up to age eight, whom he transports therein is provided with and properly secured in a child restraint device... transporting another person less than 18 years old, except for those required pursuant to subsection A to be secured in a child restraint device, shall ensure that such person is provided with and properly secured by an appropriate safety belt system	AV without an adult driver would have to ensure certain passengers wear safety belts or are in car seats.
§ 46.2-1158	Frequency of inspection; scope of inspection	Motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers required to be inspected pursuant to the provisions of § 46.2-1157 shall be reinspected within 12 months of the month of the first inspection and at least once every 12 months thereafter.	All motor vehicles must be inspected yearly.
§ 46.2-1163	Official inspection stations; safety inspection approval stickers; actions of Superintendent subject to the Administrative Process Act.	Superintendent may designate, furnish instructions to, and supervise official inspection stations for the inspection of motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers and for adjusting and correcting equipment enumerated in this chapter in such a manner as to conform to specifications hereinbefore set forth. The Superintendent shall adopt and furnish to such official inspection stations regulations governing the making of inspections required by this chapter.	Superintendent designates inspection stations for motor vehicles. Could designate different inspections of AVs.
§ 46.2-1165	Regulations for inspection of vehicles; posting	The Superintendent shall promulgate regulations for the inspection of motor vehicles under this title and shall furnish each official inspection station with a printed set of such regulations	The superintendent could designate inspection standards for AVs.

Va. Code	Title	Text	Comments
Chapter 7. Crimes Involving Health and Safety			
§ 18.2-266	Driving motor vehicle, engine, etc., while intoxicated, etc.	It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any motor vehicle, engine or train (i) while such person has a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more by weight by volume or 0.08 grams or more per 210 liters of breath as indicated by a chemical test administered as provided in this article, (ii) while such person is under the influence of alcohol, (iii) while such person is under the influence of any narcotic drug or any other self-administered intoxicant or drug of whatsoever nature, or any combination of such drugs, to a degree which impairs his ability to drive or operate any motor vehicle, engine or train safely	Operating an AV would still be illegal even if a person was not a driver.