

AN ORDINANCE to amend Article III, Division 4 of Chapter 22 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, by adding thereto a new section numbered 22-93.1; which Chapter 22 relates to MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, which Division 4 relates to DRIVING AUTOMOBILE, ENGINE, ETC., WHILE UNDER INFLUENCE OF INTOXICANTS OR NARCOTICS, which Article III relates to OPERATION OF VEHICLES, and which new section numbered 22-93.1 relates to USE OF CHEMICAL TEST TO DETERMINE ALCOHOL IN BLOOD; PROCEDURE; QUALIFICATIONS AND LIABILITY OF PERSON WITHDRAWING BLOOD; COSTS; EVIDENCE; SUSPENSION OF LICENSE FOR REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO TEST.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Article III, Division 4 of Chapter 22 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new section numbered 22-93.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 22-93.1. Use of chemical test to determine alcohol in blood; procedure; qualifications and liability of person withdrawing blood; costs; evidence; suspension of license for refusal to submit to test.

(a) As used in this section "license" means any operator's, chauffeur's or learner's permit or license authorizing the operation of a motor vehicle upon highways or streets.

(b) Any person, whether licensed by Virginia or not, who operates a motor vehicle upon a street in this City on and after July one, nineteen hundred sixty-four, shall be deemed thereby, as a condition of such operation, to have consented to have a sample of his blood taken for a chemical test to determine the alcoholic content thereof, if such person is arrested for a violation of section 22-93 within two hours of the alleged offense.

(c) If a person after being arrested for a violation of section 22-93 and after having been advised by the arresting officer that a person who operates a motor vehicle upon a street in this City shall be deemed thereby, as a condition of such operation, to have consented to have a sample of his blood taken for a chemical test to determine the alcoholic content thereof, and that the unreasonable refusal to do so constitutes grounds for the revocation of the privilege of operating a motor vehicle upon the streets of this City, then refuses to permit the taking of a sample of his blood for such tests, the arresting officer shall take the person arrested before a committing magistrate and if he does again so refuse after having been further advised by such magistrate of the law requiring a blood test to be taken and the penalty for refusal, and so declares again his refusal in writing upon a form provided by the Chief Medical Examiner of Virginia (hereinafter referred to as Chief Medical Examiner), or refuses or fails to so declare in

writing and such fact is certified as prescribed in paragraph (j), then no blood sample shall be taken even though he may thereafter request same.

(d) Only a physician, registered professional nurse, graduate laboratory technician or a technician or nurse designated by order of a court of record acting upon the recommendation of a licensed physician, using soap and water to cleanse the part of the body from which the blood is taken and using instruments sterilized by the accepted steam sterilizer or some other sterilizer which will not affect the accuracy of the test, or using chemically clean sterile disposable syringes, shall withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content thereof. No civil liability shall attach to any person authorized to withdraw blood as provided herein as a result of the act of withdrawing blood from any person submitting thereto, provided the blood was withdrawn according to recognized medical procedures; and provided further that the foregoing shall not relieve any such person from liability for negligence in the withdrawing of any blood sample.

(d1) Portions of the blood sample so withdrawn shall be placed in each of two vials provided by the Chief Medical Examiner, which vials shall be sealed and labeled by the person taking the sample or at his direction, showing on each the name of the accused, the name of the person taking the blood sample, and the date and time the blood sample was taken. The vials shall be placed in two containers provided by the Chief Medical Examiner, which containers shall be sealed so as not to allow tampering with the contents. The arresting or accompanying officer shall take possession of the two containers holding the vials as soon as the vials are placed in such containers and sealed, and shall transport or mail one of the vials forthwith to the Chief Medical Examiner. The officer taking possession of the other container (hereinafter referred to as second container) shall, immediately after taking possession of said second container give to the accused a form provided by the Chief Medical Examiner which shall set forth the procedure to obtain an independent analysis of the blood in the second container, and a list of those laboratories and their addresses, approved by the State Health Commissioner; such form shall contain a space for the accused or his counsel to direct the officer possessing such second container to forward that container to such approved laboratory for analysis, if desired. The officer having the second container, after delivery of the form referred to in the preceding sentence (unless at that time directed by the accused in writing on such form to forward the second container to an approved laboratory of the accused's choice, in which event the officer shall do so) shall deliver said second container to the chief police officer of the City, and the chief police officer shall keep it in his possession for a period of seventy-two (72) hours, during which time the accused or his counsel may, in writing, on the form provided hereinabove, direct the chief police officer having possession of the second container to mail it to the laboratory of the accused's choice chosen from the approved list.

(d2) The testing of the contents of the second container shall be made in the same manner as hereafter set forth concerning the procedure to be followed by the Chief Medical Examiner, and all procedures

established herein for transmittal, testing and admission of the result in the trial of the case shall be the same as for the sample sent to the Chief Medical Examiner.

(d3) A fee not to exceed \$15.00 shall be allowed the approved laboratory for making the analysis of the second blood sample which fee shall be paid out of the appropriation for criminal charges. If the person whose blood sample was withdrawn is subsequently convicted for violation of section 22-93, the fee charged by the laboratory for testing the blood sample shall be taxed as part of the costs of the criminal case and shall be paid into the general fund of the State treasury.

(d4) If the chief police officer having possession of the second container is not directed as herein provided to mail it within seventy-two (72) hours after receiving said container then said officer shall destroy same.

(e) Upon receipt of the blood sample forwarded to his office for analysis, the Chief Medical Examiner shall cause it to be examined for alcoholic content and he or an Assistant Chief Medical Examiner shall execute a certificate which shall indicate the name of the accused, the date, time and by whom the blood sample was received and examined, a statement that the container seal had not been broken or otherwise tampered with, a statement that the container was one provided by the Chief Medical Examiner and a statement of the alcoholic content of the sample. The certificate attached to the vial from which the blood sample examined was taken shall be returned to the clerk of the court in which the charge will be heard. The certificate attached to the container forwarded on behalf of the accused shall also be returned to the clerk of the court in which the charge will be heard, and such certificate shall be admissible in evidence when attested by the pathologist or by the supervisor of the laboratory approved by the State Health Commissioner.

(f) When any blood sample taken in accordance with the provisions of this section is forwarded for analysis to the office of the Chief Medical Examiner, a report of the results of such analysis shall be made and filed in that office. Upon proper identification of the vial into which the blood sample was placed, the certificate as provided for in this section shall, when duly attested by the Chief Medical Examiner, or any Assistant Chief Medical Examiner, be admissible in any court, in any criminal proceeding, as evidence of the facts therein stated and of the results of such analysis.

(g) Upon the request of the person whose blood sample was taken for a chemical test to determine the alcoholic content thereof, the results of such test or tests shall be made available to him.

(h) A fee not exceeding five dollars shall be allowed the person withdrawing a blood sample in accordance with this section, which fee shall be paid out of the appropriation for criminal charges. If the person whose blood sample was withdrawn is subsequently convicted for violation of section 22-93, the amount charged by the person withdrawing the blood sample shall be taxed as part of the costs of the criminal case and shall be paid into the general fund of the State treasury.

(i) In any trial for a violation of section 22-93, this section shall not otherwise limit the introduction of any relevant evidence bearing upon any question at issue before the court, and the court shall, regardless of the result of the blood test or tests, if any, consider such other relevant evidence of the condition of the accused as shall be admissible in evidence. The failure of an accused to permit a sample of his blood to be withdrawn for a chemical test to determine the alcoholic content thereof is not evidence and shall not be subject to comment at the trial of the case; nor shall the fact that a blood test had been offered the accused be evidence or the subject of comment.

(j) The form referred to in paragraph (c) shall contain a brief statement of the law requiring the taking of a blood sample and the penalty for refusal, a declaration of refusal and lines for the signature of the person from whom the blood sample is sought, the date and the signature of a witness to the signing. If such person refuses or fails to execute such declaration, the committing justice, clerk or assistant clerk shall certify such fact, and that the committing justice, clerk or assistant clerk advised the person arrested that such refusal or failure, if found to be unreasonable, constitutes grounds for the revocation of such person's license to drive. The committing or issuing justice, clerk or assistant clerk shall forthwith issue a warrant charging the person refusing to take the test to determine the alcoholic content of his blood with violation of this section. The warrant shall be executed in the same manner as criminal warrants.

(k) The executed declaration of refusal or the certificate of the committing justice, as the case may be, shall be attached to the warrant and shall be forwarded by the committing justice, clerk or assistant clerk to the court in which the offense of driving under the influence of intoxicants shall be tried.

(l) When the court receives the declaration of refusal or certificate referred to in paragraph (k) together with the warrant charging the defendant with refusing to submit to having a sample of his blood taken for the determination of the alcoholic content thereof, the court shall fix a date for the trial of said warrant, at such time as the court shall designate, but subsequent to the defendant's criminal trial for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

(m) The declaration of refusal or certificate under paragraph (k), as the case may be, shall be prima facie evidence that the defendant refused to submit to the taking of a sample of his blood to determine the alcoholic content thereof as provided hereinabove. However, this shall not be deemed to prohibit the defendant from introducing on his behalf evidence of the basis for his refusal to submit to the taking of a sample of his blood to determine the alcoholic content thereof. The court shall determine the reasonableness of such refusal.

(n) If the court shall find the defendant guilty as charged in the warrant, the court shall suspend the defendant's license for a period of 90 days for a first offense and for six months for a second or subsequent offense or refusal within one year of the first or other such

refusals; the time shall be computed as follows: The date of the first offense and the date of the second or subsequent offense.

(o) The court shall forward the defendant's license to the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles of Virginia as in other cases of similar nature for suspension of license unless, however, the defendant shall appeal his conviction in which case the court shall return the license to the defendant upon his appeal being perfected.

(p) The procedure for appeal and trial shall be the same as provided by law for misdemeanors.

(q) No person arrested for a violation of section 22-93 shall be required to execute in favor of any person or corporation a waiver or release of liability in connection with the withdrawal of blood and as a condition precedent to the withdrawal of blood as provided for herein,

(r) The court or the jury trying the case shall determine the innocence or the guilt of the defendant from all the evidence concerning his condition at the time of the alleged offense.

(s) The steps herein set forth relating to the taking, handling, identification, and disposition of blood samples are procedural in nature and not substantive. Substantial compliance therewith shall be deemed to be sufficient. Failure to comply with any one or more of such steps or portions thereof, or a variance in the results of the two blood tests shall not of itself be grounds for finding the defendant not guilty, but shall go to the weight of the evidence and shall be considered as set forth above with all the evidence in the case, provided that the defendant shall have the right to introduce evidence on his own behalf to show noncompliance with the aforesaid procedure or any part thereof, and that as a result his rights were prejudiced.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

CHARLES E. BEATLEY, JR.
Mayor

FINAL PASSAGE: NOVEMBER 26, 1968