

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 543

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2004 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman JOAN M. QUIGLEY

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman KEVIN J. O'TOOLE

District 40 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Hackett

SYNOPSIS

Permits certain emergency management volunteers to display blue emergency warning lights on vehicles.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on March 22, 2004.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2005)

1 AN ACT concerning the use of emergency warning lights and sirens by
2 certain emergency management volunteers and amending the title
3 and body of P.L.1977, c.223,
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. The title of P.L.1977, c.223 is amended to read as follows:

9 AN ACT relating to emergency warning lights for members of
10 volunteer fire companies [and], volunteer first aid or rescue
11 squads, and volunteer Offices of Emergency Management,
12 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and
13 repealing P.L.1971, c.352.

14 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, Title)
15

16 2. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.7) is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 1. a. An active member in good standing of any of the following
19 organizations may display, on a motor vehicle operated by that
20 member, an emergency warning light or lights as provided in this act:

21 (1) a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue
22 squad recognized by and rendering service in any municipality; or

23 (2) any county or municipal volunteer Office of Emergency
24 Management recognized by and rendering service in any county or
25 municipality. [may display on any motor vehicle driven by him an
26 emergency warning light or lights as provided in this act] provided the
27 member's official duties include responding to a fire or emergency call.

28 b. The ¹[Director of Motor Vehicles] Chief Administrator of the
29 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission¹ shall not require the member
30 to specify on which motor vehicles the emergency warning light or
31 lights may be mounted.

32 (cf: P.L.1995, c.37, .s.1)
33

34 3. Section 5 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.11) is amended to read
35 as follows:

36 5. a. The ¹[Director of Motor Vehicles] Chief Administrator of
37 the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission¹ shall prepare suitable
38 identification cards bearing the signature of the ¹[director] chief
39 administrator¹ which, upon the request of the mayor or chief executive
40 officer of any municipality recognizing and being served by a volunteer
41 fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad on a form and in

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SLP committee amendments adopted January 26, 2004.

² Senate floor amendments adopted March 22, 2004.

1 a manner prescribed by the ¹[director] chief administrator¹, shall be
2 forwarded to the mayor or chief executive officer, to be countersigned
3 and issued by the mayor or chief executive officer to the members in
4 good standing of the volunteer fire company or first aid or rescue
5 squad.

6 b. Identification cards issued pursuant to this section and sections
7 5 and 6 of P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____ and C. _____) (now pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill) shall be considered permits to display and
9 operate emergency warning lights as provided for in this act and shall
10 apply to any motor vehicle driven by the member of a volunteer fire
11 company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad or a volunteer
12 Office of Emergency Management. Emergency warning lights shall
13 not be mounted prior to the issuance of the identification cards. Each
14 member of a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or
15 rescue squad or a volunteer Office of Emergency Management must
16 carry the identification card while an emergency warning light or lights
17 are displayed on his vehicle.

18 (cf: P.L.1995, c.37, s.2)

19

20 4. Section 6 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.12) is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 6. Nothing contained herein is intended to grant to any member of
23 a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad or
24 a volunteer Office of Emergency Management any privileges or
25 exemptions denied to the drivers of other vehicles, and such members
26 displaying emergency warning lights shall drive with due regard for the
27 safety of all persons and shall obey all the traffic laws of this State,
28 provided, however, that the drivers of non-emergency vehicles upon
29 any highway shall yield the right of way to the vehicle of any member
30 of a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad
31 or a volunteer Office of Emergency Management displaying emergency
32 warning lights in the same manner as is provided for authorized
33 emergency vehicles pursuant to R.S.39:4-92.

34 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, s.6)

35

36 5. (New section) An active member of a county volunteer Office
37 of Emergency Management shall submit an application for a permit to
38 the County Emergency Management Coordinator prior to displaying
39 an emergency warning light or lights pursuant to the provisions of this
40 act. The coordinator shall approve the application if the volunteer's
41 official duties require him to respond to fire or emergency calls. The
42 completed application shall be forwarded to the Director of the Board
43 of Chosen Freeholders or other appropriate authority of the county
44 that recognizes and serves the applicant's Office of Emergency
45 Management. Upon approval, the mayor or chief executive officer
46 shall forward the application to the Chief Administrator of the New
47 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission ²for issuance of the permit².

1 6. (New section) An active member of a municipal volunteer
2 Office of Emergency Management shall submit an application to the
3 Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator to display an
4 emergency warning light or lights pursuant to the provisions of this
5 act. The coordinator shall approve the application if the volunteer's
6 official duties require him to respond to fire or emergency calls. The
7 completed application shall be forwarded to the mayor or chief
8 executive officer of the municipality that recognizes and serves the
9 applicant's Office of Emergency Management. Upon approval, the
10 mayor or chief executive officer shall forward the application to the
11 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission for
12 issuance of the permit.

13

14 7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
15 following enactment.