

SENATE, No. 154

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Increases motor vehicle property damage reporting threshold to over \$1000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 **AN ACT** concerning the reporting of certain motor vehicle accidents
2 to the police and amending R.S.39:4-130.

3

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

6

7 1. R.S.39:4-130 is amended to read as follows:

8 39:4-130. The driver of a vehicle or street car involved in an
9 accident resulting in injury to or death of any person, or damage to
10 property of any one person in excess of **[\$500.00]** \$1,000 shall by
11 the quickest means of communication give notice of such accident
12 to the local police department or to the nearest office of the county
13 police of the county or of the State Police, and in addition shall
14 within 10 days after such accident forward a written report of such
15 accident to the **[division]** commission on forms furnished by it.
16 Such written reports shall contain sufficiently detailed information
17 with reference to a motor vehicle accident, including the cause, the
18 conditions then existing, the persons and vehicles involved and such
19 information as may be necessary to enable the **[director]** chief
20 administrator to determine whether the requirements for the deposit
21 of security required by law are inapplicable by reason of the
22 existence of insurance or other circumstances. The **[director]** chief
23 administrator may rely upon the accuracy of the information
24 contained in any such report, unless he has reason to believe that
25 the report is erroneous. The **[division]** commission may require
26 operators involved in accidents to file supplemental reports of
27 accidents upon forms furnished by it when in the opinion of the
28 **[division]** commission, the original report is insufficient. The
29 reports shall be without prejudice, shall be for the information of
30 the **[division]** commission, and shall not be open to public
31 inspection. The fact that the reports have been so made shall be
32 admissible in evidence solely to prove a compliance with this
33 section, but no report or any part thereof or statement contained
34 therein shall be admissible in evidence for any other purpose in any
35 proceeding or action arising out of the accident.

36 Whenever the driver of a vehicle is physically incapable of
37 giving immediate notice or making a written report of an accident
38 as required in this section and there was another occupant in the
39 vehicle at the time of the accident capable of giving notice or
40 making a report, such occupant shall make or cause to be made said
41 notice or report not made by the driver.

42 Whenever the driver is physically incapable of making a written
43 report of an accident as required by this section and such driver is
44 not the owner of the vehicle, then the owner of the vehicle involved

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 in such accident shall make such report not made by the driver.

2 A written report of an accident shall not be required by this
3 section if a law enforcement officer submits a written report of the
4 accident to the **【division】** commission pursuant to R.S.39:4-131.

5 Any person who knowingly violates this section shall be fined
6 not less than \$30 or more than \$100.

7 The **【director】** chief administrator may revoke or suspend the
8 operator's license privilege and registration privilege of a person
9 who violates this section.

10 For purposes of this section, it shall not be a defense that the
11 operator of the motor vehicle was unaware of the existence or
12 extent of personal injury or property damage caused by the accident
13 as long as the operator was aware that he was involved in an
14 accident.

15 (cf: P.L.1994, c.183, s.2)

16

17 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
18 after enactment.

19

20

21

STATEMENT

22

23 This bill increases the property damage reporting threshold for a
24 motor vehicle accident from over \$500 to over \$1000. This reflects
25 inflationary increases in repair costs.

26 Current law requires driver involved in accidents in which there
27 is injury, death or damage to property of any one person of more
28 than \$500 to immediately notify the police. The driver also must
29 send a written report to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
30 within 10 days if no police report is filed. A violation results in a
31 fine of \$30 to \$100 and may include the suspension of both license
32 and registration privileges.