

ASSEMBLY, No. 155

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

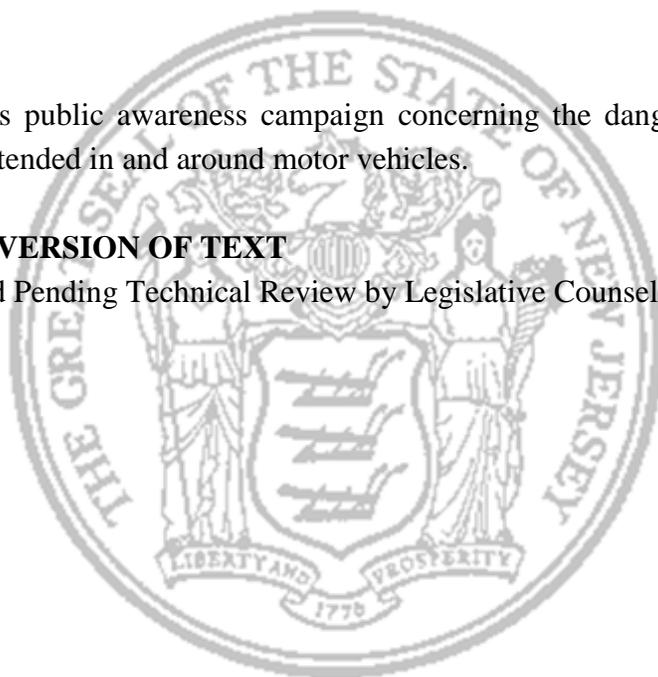
Assemblywoman N.Munoz and Assemblyman Holley

SYNOPSIS

Establishes public awareness campaign concerning the dangers of leaving children unattended in and around motor vehicles.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/16/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning unattended children in motor vehicles and
2 supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Statistics show that, on average, 38 children die each year
9 from heat-related deaths after being trapped inside motor vehicles,
10 and even the most well intentioned parents or caregivers can
11 unknowingly leave a sleeping baby in a car resulting in the child's
12 injury or even death.

13 b. The temperature of a vehicle, even with an open window,
14 can rise rapidly and a child may easily incur heat stroke, causing
15 brain damage or death within minutes.

16 c. In addition to heat stroke, the consequences of leaving a
17 child unattended in and around a motor vehicle include the dangers
18 of abduction, strangulation, trunk entrapment, being run over, and
19 personal injuries caused by accidental and uncontrolled movement
20 of the vehicle.

21 d. While motor vehicle related injuries are a leading cause of
22 death among children in the United States, the deaths and injuries
23 caused by leaving children unattended in and around motor vehicles
24 are predictable and preventable and can be greatly reduced with
25 increased awareness of the risks associated with this dangerous
26 practice.

27 e. A public awareness campaign to provide information to, and
28 promote educational programs for, families, teachers, and
29 community members regarding the dangers of children being left
30 unattended in and around motor vehicles is in the public interest
31 and will serve the interests of public safety in this State.

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33 2. a. The Division of Highway Traffic Safety in the Department
34 of Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the Department of
35 Children and Families, shall establish a public awareness campaign
36 to provide information to the general public concerning:

37 (1) the dangers of leaving a child unattended in and around a
38 motor vehicle; and

39 (2) preventative measures that may be taken by parents or
40 guardians to promote child safety and protect against injuries or
41 death caused by leaving a child unattended in and around a motor
42 vehicle.

43 b. The Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety shall
44 provide printed and electronic educational materials concerning
45 child safety in and around motor vehicles and shall disseminate
46 those materials: to child care centers licensed pursuant to P.L.1983,
47 c.492 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.); at public venues throughout the State;
48 and by any other means as the director may determine, in

1 collaboration with, and with the assistance of, other State, county,
2 and municipal governmental entities including, but not limited to,
3 distribution on the premises of, or through mail or electronic
4 communications by, any office that is open to members of the
5 general public and is operated, administered, or used to provide
6 services to the general public by the Department of Children and
7 Families and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

8 c. The Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety shall
9 report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2
10 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than 24 months after the
11 effective date of this act, on the activities and accomplishments of
12 the public awareness campaign.

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14 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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19 This bill requires the Division of Highway Traffic Safety in the
20 Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the
21 Department of Children and Families, to establish a public
22 awareness campaign to provide information to the general public
23 concerning the dangers of leaving children unattended in and
24 around motor vehicles, and preventative measures that may be taken
25 by parents or guardians to promote child safety and protect against
26 unintended injury or death.

27 The division is required to provide printed and electronic
28 educational materials concerning child safety in and around motor
29 vehicles and to disseminate those materials: to licensed child care
30 centers in the State; at public venues throughout the State; and by
31 any other means the director may determine in collaboration with
32 other governmental entities, including the Department of Children
33 and Families and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

34 The bill requires the division to report to the Governor and the
35 Legislature concerning the activities and accomplishments of the
36 public awareness campaign within two years of the bill's effective
37 date.