

ASSEMBLY, No. 1850

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain commercial motor vehicles registered in State to be equipped with underride protection systems and requires Chief Administrator of MVC to establish underride public awareness campaign.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning commercial motor vehicles and supplementing
2 Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. As used P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before this
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 “Commercial motor vehicle” shall have the same meaning as
10 provided in section 1 of P.L.2013, c.48 (C.39:3-10.17b).

11 “Underride protection system” means a system consisting of
12 devices installed on the front, rear, and sides of a commercial motor
13 vehicle that reduces the possibility that a person or vehicle may
14 travel underneath the commercial motor vehicle and prevents
15 injuries to passenger automobile occupants, pedestrians, bicyclists,
16 and motorcyclists.

17 b. A person shall not operate a commercial motor vehicle
18 registered in this State pursuant to R.S.39:3-20 on or after the
19 effective date of this section unless the commercial motor vehicle is
20 equipped with an underride protection system.

21 c. A person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine
22 of not less than \$50 or more than \$100 for the first offense, and for
23 any subsequent offense not less than \$100 or more than \$200.

24

25 2. a. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
26 Vehicle Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General,
27 shall establish a public awareness campaign to inform the general
28 public about the dangers of crashes resulting in a vehicle sliding
29 under a tractor trailer or other large bus or truck, known as
30 underrides, and to improve public awareness of safe practices to
31 avoid the risk of crashes involving underrides.

32 b. The public awareness campaign shall include development
33 and implementation of public awareness and outreach efforts to
34 inform the public on crashes resulting in a vehicle sliding under a
35 tractor trailer or other large bus or truck, known as an underride,
36 including, but not limited to, best practices to prevent underrides.

37 c. The chief administrator shall provide printed and electronic
38 materials concerning underrides and shall disseminate those
39 materials at public venues throughout the State and shall make the
40 electronic materials available on the commission’s Internet website.

41

42 3. Section 1 of this act shall take effect on the first day of the
43 12th month following enactment. Section 2 of this act shall take
44 effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill prohibits a person from operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) registered in New Jersey unless the CMV is equipped with an underride protection system. The bill defines “underride protection system” as a system consisting of devices installed on the front, rear, and sides of a CMV that reduces the possibility that a person or vehicle may travel underneath the commercial motor vehicle and prevents injuries to passenger automobile occupants, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. A person who operates a CMV registered in this State that is not equipped with an underride protection system is subject to a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$100 for the first offense and not less than \$100 or more than \$200 for subsequent offenses.

The bill also requires the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to establish a public awareness campaign to inform the general public about the dangers of underrides and best practices to prevent underrides.

An underride protection system is designed to withstand the force of a crash to prevent a vehicle from sliding under a tractor trailer or other large bus or truck. From 1994 to 2015, there were 4,195 fatalities due to crashes involving underrides in the United States. The bill is intended to help decrease the risk of fatalities in crashes involving tractor trailers and other large buses and trucks.