

ASSEMBLY, No. 2225

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Coughlin, McGuckin, Assemblywoman McKnight and

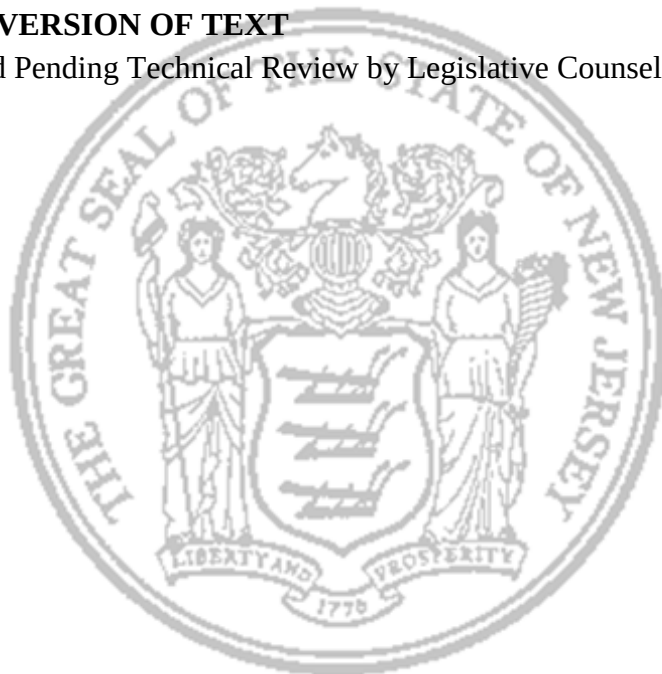
Assemblyman Thomson

SYNOPSIS

Requires interior light of motor vehicle be turned on when stopped by law enforcement under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicle lighting and amending P.L.1997,
2 c.374.

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

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1997, c.374 (C.39:4-57.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. The driver of a motor vehicle equipped with an interior
10 light, when stopped by a law enforcement officer **【during the period**
11 **when lighted lamps are required】**, shall **【**, upon request of the
12 officer,**】** activate an interior light of the vehicle in order to
13 illuminate the driver's compartment of the vehicle during the period
14 when lighted lamps are required, or upon request of the officer
15 during the period when lighted lamps are not required. A fine of
16 **【\$50】** \$35 shall be imposed upon any person who **【purposely**
17 **refuses】** fails to comply with this section.

18 b. The chief administrator shall utilize the Internet and any
19 other available means to promote public awareness that drivers are
20 required to activate the interior light of a motor vehicle during the
21 period when lighted lamps are required, or upon the request of the
22 law enforcement officer during the period when lighted lamps are
23 not required.

24 c. As used in this section, “when lighted lamps are required”
25 means the same as set forth in R.S.39:3-46.

26 (cf: P.L.1997, c.374, s.1)

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28 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
29 next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill requires a driver of a motor vehicle to turn on the
35 vehicle’s interior light when stopped by a law enforcement officer
36 at certain times, including nighttime or during inclement weather,
37 without being requested to do so by the officer. The bill also
38 requires a driver to turn on the interior light at a law enforcement
39 officer’s request.

40 Under current law, a law enforcement officer may request a
41 driver to turn on the interior light of a vehicle: 1) from a half-hour
42 after sunset to a half-hour before sunrise; 2) whenever precipitation
43 or moisture requires the use of windshield wipers; and 3) when
44 there is insufficient light to view persons and vehicles on the

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.

A2225 DANCER, BENSON

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1 highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead. The fine for failing to
2 comply with a law enforcement officer's request is \$50.

3 This bill reduces the fine to \$35. In addition, the bill requires the
4 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
5 to utilize the Internet and any other available means to promote
6 public awareness that drivers are required to activate the interior
7 light when stopped by a law enforcement officer. The bill's
8 effective date is the first day of the fourth month following the date
9 of enactment in order to give drivers time to learn about the change
10 in the law.