

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3113**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Clarifies that members of volunteer first aid squads that bill third parties do not lose right to use emergency warning lights.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning emergency warning lights and amending  
2 P.L.1977, c.223.

3

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

6

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

9 1. a. An active member in good standing of any of the  
10 following organizations may mount and operate, on a motor vehicle  
11 operated by that member, an emergency warning light or lights as  
12 provided in P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.7 et seq.):

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

15 (2) any county or municipal volunteer Office of Emergency  
16 Management recognized by and rendering service in any county or  
17 municipality, provided the member's official duties include  
18 responding to a fire or emergency call.

19 b. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
20 Commission shall not require the member to specify on which  
21 motor vehicles the emergency warning light or lights may be  
22 mounted.

23 c. An active member in good standing of a volunteer fire  
24 company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad recognized by and  
25 rendering service in any municipality may mount emergency  
26 warning lights as provided in this section regardless of whether the  
27 company or squad bills third parties for services rendered.

28 (cf: P.L.2005, c.218, s.1)

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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# STATEMENT

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35 This bill clarifies that members of volunteer first aid or rescue  
36 squads do not lose the right to use emergency flashing lights on  
37 their motor vehicles when responding to an emergency call even if  
38 the squad bills third parties for services rendered.

39 Emergency first aid squads are increasingly engaging in third-  
40 party billing. Under third-party billing systems, the squad bills  
41 private health insurance companies, auto insurance companies, or  
42 government entitlement programs, including Medicaid and  
43 Medicare, for services it has rendered. For example, an auto  
44 insurance company might be billed for the cost of transporting a  
45 victim to the hospital from the scene of the accident. There is

**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 concern that third-party billing threatens the volunteer status of  
2 members of volunteer first aid squads.

3 Under current law, volunteer members in good standing of a  
4 volunteer first aid or rescue squad are authorized to mount and  
5 operate blue emergency warning lights on the member's motor  
6 vehicle while the vehicle is being used to respond to an emergency  
7 call. The statute does not specifically define what constitutes a  
8 volunteer rescue squad. The bill clarifies that members of volunteer  
9 squads that engage in third-party billing would continue to have the  
10 right to mount emergency flashing lights.