

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3568

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes certification card for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **AN ACT** concerning persons diagnosed with an autism spectrum  
2       disorder and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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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.   a.   Upon the request of a person who has been diagnosed  
8       with an autism spectrum disorder by a physician, psychologist, or  
9       any other health care professional licensed pursuant to Title 45 of  
10      the Revised Statutes and authorized to provide such diagnosis, or  
11      upon the request of the guardian or caregiver of the person, the  
12      Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of  
13      Human Services shall issue a certification card denoting that the  
14      person has been medically diagnosed with an autism spectrum  
15      disorder.

16      The certification card, along with the person's driver's license or  
17      State-issued non-driver identification card as necessary, may be  
18      presented to a law enforcement officer or emergency medical  
19      service provider for the purposes of assisting the law enforcement  
20      officer or emergency medical service provider in identifying and  
21      effectively communicating with the person.

22      b.   The certification card, issued pursuant to subsection a. of  
23      this section, shall explain that the person has been diagnosed with  
24      an autism spectrum disorder, may have difficulty communicating or  
25      understanding directions, and may become agitated when physically  
26      touched or in stressful situations.

27      The certification card shall also provide the emergency contact  
28      information of a person who can confirm the cardholder's diagnosis  
29      and a person who can communicate on behalf of the cardholder.

30      c.   The division shall establish the documentation required to be  
31      produced by a person who has been diagnosed with an autism  
32      spectrum disorder, or by the guardian or caregiver of the person, in  
33      order to receive a certification card issued pursuant to subsection a.  
34      The division may collect a reasonable fee for the issuance of the  
35      certification card, which shall not be greater than the cost to issue  
36      the certification card.

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38      2.   This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month  
39      following enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

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44      This bill establishes a certification card, which is to be issued  
45      upon the request of a person who has been diagnosed with an  
46      autism spectrum disorder, or upon the request of the guardian or  
47      caregiver of the person, denoting that the person has been diagnosed  
48      with an autism spectrum disorder. The certification card is to be

1 issued by the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the  
2 Department of Human Services (division).

3 Under the bill, the certification card, along with the person's  
4 basic license or State-issued non-driver identification card as  
5 necessary, may be presented to a law enforcement officer or  
6 emergency medical service provider for the purposes of assisting  
7 the law enforcement officer or emergency medical service provider  
8 in identifying and effectively communicating with the person.

9 The certification card is to explain that the person has been  
10 diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, may have difficulty  
11 communicating or understanding directions, and may become  
12 agitated when touched or in stressful situations. The certification  
13 card is also to provide the emergency contact information of a  
14 person who can confirm the cardholder's diagnosis and a person  
15 who can communicate on behalf of the cardholder.

16 The bill requires the division to establish the documentation  
17 required to be produced by a person who has been diagnosed with  
18 an autism spectrum disorder, or the guardian or caregiver of the  
19 person, in order to receive the certification card and permits the  
20 division to collect a reasonable fee that is not greater than the cost  
21 to issue the certification card.