

ASSEMBLY, No. 3676

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain parking garages to have on-site emergency vehicle capable of accessing low-clearance areas.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning parking garages and supplementing Title 26 of
2 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. The owner or operator of a parking garage with
8 clearance levels preventing an ambulance from accessing any level
9 of that garage shall maintain on the premises an emergency
10 transport vehicle that is capable of accessing each level and which
11 is appropriately equipped to transport persons in need of emergency
12 medical transportation to an ambulance outside the garage.

13 b. For the purposes of this section, a “parking garage” shall
14 mean a building owned or operated by the State, a county, a
15 municipality, or any instrumentality thereof, or a private entity for
16 the purpose of providing parking for motor vehicles on a number of
17 floors or levels and includes, but is not limited to, a parking
18 structure, parking ramp, parking building, parking deck, or indoor
19 parking.

20 c. The Commissioner of Health shall promulgate guidelines for
21 the implementation of this act, including the specifications for an
22 emergency transport vehicle.

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

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill requires parking garages with clearance levels that
31 prevent access by ambulances to have on-site an appropriately
32 equipped emergency transport vehicle that can access every level of
33 the parking garage for the purpose of transporting persons in need
34 of emergency medical transportation to an ambulance outside the
35 garage. Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health would be
36 required to promulgate guidelines governing the specifications for
37 emergency transport vehicles.

38 This bill is in response to the tragic murder of Dustin Friedland
39 in a parking garage at the Short Hills Mall in December 2013. An
40 ambulance arrived just 18 minutes after Mr. Friedland was shot by
41 perpetrators, but the parking garage clearance was too low for the
42 ambulance to enter. Emergency responders lost precious time when
43 they were forced to abandon the ambulance and run on foot with a
44 stretcher to reach Mr. Friedland. Under this bill, an emergency
45 transport vehicle would be available to reach a person in need of
46 emergency services and transport that person to a waiting
47 ambulance.