

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4651

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Requires MVC to provide notation on driver's license or identification card, upon request, of persons diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or other communication disorder.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on January 6, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/8/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning protections for drivers with certain medical
2 conditions and supplementing 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. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
8 Commission ²**],** in consultation with the Commissioner of Human
9 Services, the Superintendent of the Division of State Police within the
10 Department of Law and Public Safety, and at least one organization
11 that advocates on behalf of persons who have been diagnosed with an
12 autism spectrum disorder, shall design ¹**[and make available blue**
13 **envelopes that]** a special driver's license and non-driver identification
14 card bearing a digital imprint visible to law enforcement, which¹ may
15 be utilized by ¹**[a person who has]** persons who have¹ **]** shall allow the
16 holder of a driver's license or non-driver identification card to indicate
17 that the person has² been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder
18 ²or communication disorder².

19 b. ¹**[The blue envelopes developed pursuant to subsection a. of**
20 **this section shall: (1) be of a color shade easily recognizable to law**
21 **enforcement officers; (2) be capable of holding a person's driver's**
22 **license, motor vehicle registration card, and insurance identification**
23 **card; (3) provide written information on the outside of the envelope**
24 **identifying the envelope holder as a person who has been diagnosed**
25 **with an autism spectrum disorder; and (4) provide written guidance to**
26 **assist law enforcement officers in effectively communicating with a**
27 **person who has been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder]**
28 Upon ²**[application]** request² by any person who has been diagnosed
29 with an autism spectrum disorder ²or communication disorder and
30 submission of any documentation required pursuant to subsection c. of
31 this section², the chief administrator shall ²**[issue to the applicant the**
32 special driver's license or non-driver identification card bearing the
33 digital imprint designed in accordance with subsection a. of this
34 section. No fee over and above the required fee for a driver's license
35 or non-driver identification card shall be imposed for the special
36 driver's license or special non-driver identification card¹ **]** indicate the
37 autism spectrum disorder or communication disorder diagnosis by
38 notating such information on the person's driver's license or non-
39 driver identification card under the column designated for restrictions².

40 c. The chief administrator shall, in consultation with the
41 Commissioner of Human Services, establish the documentation
42 required to be produced by a person who has been diagnosed with an
43 autism spectrum disorder ²or communication disorder², or by the
44 parent, guardian, or caregiver of the person, in order to receive ¹**[an**

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted December 9, 2021.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted January 6, 2022.

1 envelope issued pursuant to subsection a.] a ²special² driver's
2 license or non-driver identification card ²issued with the notation
3 authorized² pursuant to subsection b.¹ of this section.

4 ¹d. The ²commission, in consultation with the² Commissioner
5 of Human Services, ²in consultation with² the Superintendent of the
6 Division of State Police within the Department of Law and Public
7 Safety ²,² and at least one organization that advocates on behalf of
8 persons who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder
9 ²or communication disorder², shall provide written guidance to assist
10 law enforcement officers in effectively communicating with a person
11 who has been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder ²or
12 communication disorder². The ²commission commissioner² shall
13 distribute a copy of the written guidance to each police department in
14 the State.¹

15
16 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the thirteenth
17 month following enactment.