

ASSEMBLY, No. 5653

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires attorney identification cards; requires establishment of county-based trust fund for deposit of fees and expenditures for equipment, supplies and services related to cards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning attorney identification and amending P.L.2009,
2 c.11 and supplementing Title 2B of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. (New section) a. The Administrative Director of the Courts
8 in consultation with the Attorney General shall develop and
9 implement a policy requiring all attorneys to have an attorney
10 identification card which is in the attorney's possession while the
11 attorney is in a New Jersey court house or court facility.

12 b. The Administrative Director of the Courts in consultation
13 with the Attorney General shall develop guidelines concerning the
14 application process, which shall include a criminal history record
15 background check, and information to be included on the
16 identification card required pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
17 The information shall include, but need not be limited to, the
18 attorney's name, designation as an attorney licensed in New Jersey,
19 and an up-to-date photograph.

20 c. The policy shall ensure that the attorney identification card
21 of any attorney who is barred from the practice of law in New
22 Jersey is returned.

23

24 2. Section 1 of P.L.2009, c.11 (C.40A:4-22.2) is amended as
25 follows:

26 1. A county **【may】** shall establish a trust fund account entitled,
27 "Attorney Identification Card Program" trust fund into which shall
28 be deposited all fees paid by attorneys for the purchase of
29 identification cards and from which expenditures shall be disbursed
30 exclusively for the procurement of equipment, ongoing maintenance
31 and supplies, and associated services necessary to issue the cards
32 and to operate and maintain the system.

33 (cf: P.L.2009, c.11, s.1)

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35 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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38 STATEMENT

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40 This bill directs the Administrative Director of the Courts in
41 consultation with the Attorney General to develop and implement a
42 policy requiring all attorneys to have an attorney identification card.
43 The ID card must be clearly visible at all times while the attorney is
44 in a New Jersey court house or court facility.

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 Under the bill, the Administrative Director of the Courts in
2 consultation with the Attorney General will develop guidelines
3 concerning the application process, which shall include a criminal
4 history record background check, and the information to be
5 included on the attorney identification card. At a minimum, the
6 information will include the name of the attorney's name,
7 designation as an attorney licensed in New Jersey, and an up-to-date
8 photograph.

9 In 2005, then Attorney General Peter Harvey announced the
10 creation of a uniform identification card for all attorneys in the
11 State of New Jersey. The identification card, which was not
12 mandatory, provided attorneys and sheriffs' officers a more
13 efficient entry process to courthouses throughout the State.
14 Currently section1 of P.L.2009, c.11 (40A:4-22.2) provides that a
15 county may establish a trust fund account entitled, "Attorney
16 Identification Card Program" as the depository for fees currently
17 paid by attorneys for the voluntary purchase of identification cards.
18 This bill directs that counties shall establish a trust fund for this
19 purpose for fees required pursuant to this bill. Pursuant to section1
20 of P.L.2009, c.11 (40A:4-22.2), expenditures from this fund are
21 disbursed exclusively for the procurement of equipment, ongoing
22 maintenance and supplies, and associated services necessary to
23 issue the cards and to operate and maintain the system.