

SENATE, No. 3121

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires MVC to accept certain documents as proof of name change for driver's license.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning certain proofs of name change for driver's
2 licenses and amending P.L.1987, c.20.

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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. Section 2 of P.L.1987, c.20 (C.39:3-9a) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 2. Each driver's license issued pursuant to R.S.39:3-10 shall
10 have the legal name of the licensee endorsed thereon in **his** the
11 licensee's own handwriting.

12 For purposes of this section, legal name shall mean the name
13 recorded on a:

- 14 (1) birth certificate **unless otherwise changed by** ;
15 (2) marriage **[,]** certificate;
16 (3) social security card;
17 (4) divorce decree; or
18 (5) order of court.

19 The **director may** chief administrator shall require that only
20 the legal name be recorded on the driver's license. A person who
21 has been issued a driver's license pursuant to R.S.39:3-10 whose
22 legal name is changed due to marriage, divorce, or by order of court
23 shall notify the **director** chief administrator of the change in legal
24 name within **two weeks** six months after the change is made or
25 upon the next renewal of the driver license, whichever date is
26 sooner.

27 A person who fails to notify the **Director of the Division of**
28 **Motor Vehicles** chief administrator of a change in legal name as
29 required in this section shall be subject to a fine. A person who is
30 fined under this section for a violation of this section shall not be
31 subject to a surcharge under the **New Jersey Merit Rating Plan**
32 Motor Vehicle Violations Surcharge System as provided in section
33 6 of P.L.1983, c.65 (C.17:29A-35).

34 For the purposes of this section, a digitized signature image shall
35 constitute a licensee's signature in **his** the licensee's own
36 handwriting. A digitized signature image is an electronic
37 representation of a person's written signature.

38 (cf: P.L.1999, c.28, s.1)

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40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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45 This bill requires the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
46 (MVC) to accept a licensee's birth certificate, marriage certificate,

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 social security card, divorce decree, or court order as sufficient
2 proof of the licensee's legal name for display on the driver's
3 license. The bill also extends the time period that a licensee has to
4 change the licensee's name with MVC from two weeks after a legal
5 name change to six months after a legal name change or upon the
6 next driver's license renewal, whichever date is sooner.

7 It is the sponsor's intent to remove the barriers to changing a
8 licensee's legal name on a driver's license that have been created by
9 the MVC. The MVC does not currently permit a licensee to change
10 the middle name of a licensee's legal name, as a result of marriage,
11 without a court order, despite the fact that the Social Security
12 Administration and many other States allow this change.