SENATE, No. 3612

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 19, 2021

Sponsored by:
Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI
District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)
Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.
District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Aligns commercial driver license forfeiture for certain DWI offenses involving non-commercial motor vehicle with forfeiture of basic driver's license for these offenses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/26/2021)

AN ACT concerning forfeiture of a commercial driver license for certain drunk driving violations and amending P.L.1990, c.103.

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

1. Section 12 of P.L.1990, c.103 (C.39:3-10.20) is amended to read as follows:

12. a. In addition to the imposition of any other penalty provided by law, the chief administrator shall suspend for not less than one year nor more than three years the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person convicted for a first violation of:

(1) R.S.39:4-50 if the motor vehicle was a commercial motor vehicle or section 5 of this act.

(2) R.S.39:4-129 if the motor vehicle was a commercial motor vehicle operated by the person.

(3) Using a commercial motor vehicle in the commission of any "crime" as defined in subsection a., c., or d. of N.J.S.2C:1-4.

(4) Refusal to submit to a chemical test under section 2 of P.L.1966, c.142 (C.39:4-50.2) or section 16 of this act if the motor vehicle was a commercial motor vehicle.

(5) Paragraph (1) of subsection b. of section 10 of this act.

(6) A violation, arising in connection with a fatal accident, of State or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, regardless of whether the motor vehicle operated by the person was a commercial motor vehicle or a non-commercial motor vehicle.

b. If a first violation of any of the violations specified in subsection a. of this section takes place while transporting hazardous material or takes place in a vehicle displaying a hazardous material placard, the chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of the person for three years.

c. Subject to the provisions of subsection d. of this section, the chief administrator shall revoke for life the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person for a second or subsequent violation of any of the offenses specified in subsections a. and j. of this section or any combination of those offenses arising from two or more separate incidents.

d. The chief administrator may issue rules and regulations establishing guidelines, including conditions under which a revocation of commercial motor vehicle driving privilege for life under subsection c. may be reduced to a period of not less than 10 years.

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 <u>thus</u> is new matter.

e. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the chief administrator shall revoke for life the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person who uses a commercial motor vehicle or a non-commercial motor vehicle in the commission of a crime involving the manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled substance or controlled substance analog, or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled substance or controlled substance analog. A revocation under this subsection shall not be subject to reduction in accordance with subsection d. of this section.

f. (1) The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person for a period of not less than 60 days if the person is convicted of a serious traffic violation, other than a violation arising in connection with a fatal accident as set forth in paragraph (6) of subsection a. of this section, and that conviction constitutes the second serious traffic violation committed in a commercial motor vehicle or non-commercial motor vehicle in this or any other state arising from separate incidents occurring within a three-year period. The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege for 120 days if the conviction constitutes the third or subsequent serious traffic violation, other than a violation arising in connection with a fatal accident as set forth in paragraph (6) of subsection a. of this section, committed in a commercial motor vehicle or non-commercial motor vehicle in this or any other state arising from separate incidents occurring within a three-year period.

(2) The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person for a period of not less than 60 days if the person is convicted of a violation of R.S.39:4-128; section 68 of P.L.1951, c.23 (C.39:4-127.1); or section 10 of P.L.2005, c.147 (C.39:4-128.11). The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege for not less than 120 days if the conviction constitutes the second violation of R.S.39:4-128; section 68 of P.L.1951, c.23 (C.39:4-127.1); section 10 of P.L.2005, c.147 (C.39:4-128.11) or any combination of such violations in this or any other state arising from separate incidents occurring within a three-year period. The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege for not less than one year if the conviction constitutes the third or subsequent violation of R.S.39:4-128; section 68 of P.L.1951, c.23 (C.39:4-127.1); section 10 of P.L.2005, c.147 (C.39:4-128.11) or any combination of such violations in this or any other state arising from separate incidents occurring within the past three years.

(3) The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person for a period of not less than 180 days or more than one year if the person is convicted of violating a driver, commercial motor vehicle, or motor carrier operation out-of-service order while driving a commercial motor

vehicle transporting nonhazardous materials. The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person for a period of not less than two years or more than five years if the conviction constitutes the second conviction in a separate incident in this or any other state within a 10-year period of violating a driver, commercial motor vehicle, or motor carrier operation out-of-service order while driving a commercial motor vehicle transporting nonhazardous materials. The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person for a period of not less than three years or more than five years if the conviction constitutes the third or subsequent conviction in a separate incident in this or any other state within a 10-year period of violating a driver, commercial motor vehicle, or motor carrier operation out-of-service order while driving a commercial motor vehicle transporting nonhazardous materials.

(4) The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person for a period of not less than 180 days or more than two years if the person is convicted of violating a driver, commercial motor vehicle, or motor carrier operation out-of-service order while driving a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under Subpart F of 49 C.F.R. s.172, or while operating a vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver. The chief administrator shall suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person for a period of not less than three years or more than five years if the conviction constitutes a second or subsequent conviction in a separate incident within a 10-year period in this or any other state of violating a driver, commercial motor vehicle, or motor carrier operation out-of-service order while driving a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under Subpart F of 49 C.F.R. s.172, or while operating a vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.

g. A court shall make a report to the chief administrator within three days in such form as the chief administrator may require concerning conviction for violation of P.L.1990, c.103 (C.39:3-10.9 et seq.). The chief administrator shall notify the Commercial Driver License Information System of the suspension, revocation, or cancellation. In the case of non-residents, the chief administrator also shall notify the licensing authority of the state which issued the commercial driver license or the state where the person is domiciled. The chief administrator shall provide these notices within 10 days after the suspension, revocation, cancellation, or disqualification.

h. The chief administrator shall in accordance with this section suspend a commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person holding, or required to hold, a commercial driver license issued by

this State if the person is convicted in another state or foreign jurisdiction of an offense of a substantially similar nature to the offenses specified in subsection a., e., f., g., h., i. or j. of this section. For purposes of this section, a violation such as driving while intoxicated, driving under the influence, or driving while ability is impaired shall be considered substantially similar offenses. For purposes of this section, a violation committed in another state but substantially similar to those enumerated in subsection a., e., f., g., h., i. or j. of this section committed in this State shall be included.

i. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a conviction under this section, or section 5 or 16 of this act, shall not merge with a conviction for a violation of R.S.39:4-50 or section 2 of P.L.1966, c.142 (C.39:4-50.2).

j. In addition to any other penalty provided by law, the chief administrator shall suspend **[**for one year**]** or require forfeiture of the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person for a first violation of:

(1) R.S.39:4-50 while operating a non-commercial motor vehicle;

(2) R.S.39:4-129 while operating a non-commercial motor vehicle;

(3) Refusing to submit to a chemical test under section 2 of P.L.1966, c.142 (C.39:4-50.2) while operating a non-commercial motor vehicle; or

(4) Using a non-commercial motor vehicle in the commission of any "crime" as defined in subsection a., c., or d. of N.J.S.2C:1-4.

The person’s commercial motor vehicle driving privilege shall be suspended for a violation of paragraph (2) or (4) of this subsection for one year. The person’s right to operate a commercial motor vehicle over the highways of this State shall be forfeited for a violation of paragraph (1) or (3) of this subsection until the person installs an ignition interlock device in one motor vehicle the person owns, leases, or principally operates, whichever the person most often operates, for the purpose of complying with the provisions of P.L.1999, c.417 (C.39:4-50.16 et al.).

k. The chief administrator shall in accordance with this section suspend the commercial motor vehicle driving privilege of a person holding, or required to hold, a commercial driver license issued by this State if that person has been disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration pursuant to 49 C.F.R. s.383.52 because that person's driving has been determined to constitute an imminent hazard.

l. The Motor Vehicle Commission shall maintain records of accidents, convictions, and disqualification for persons holding, or required to hold, a commercial driver license in accordance with 49 C.F.R. s.384.225 and the AAMVAnet, Inc.'s "Commercial Driver

License Information System State Procedures," as amended and supplemented.

m. Any driver who is found to be in violation of the provisions of paragraph (a) or (b) of 49 C.F.R. s.392.5, relating to the use of alcohol, being under the influence of alcohol, having any measured alcohol concentration or detected presence of alcohol, or possessing alcohol, shall be placed out-of-service immediately for a period of 24 hours.

(cf: P.L.2009, c.271, s.3)

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

STATEMENT

This bill aligns the commercial driver license (CDL) suspension for operating a non-commercial vehicle while intoxicated (DWI) or refusing to submit to a breathalyzer test with the forfeiture of a basic driver's license for committing these violations while operating a motor vehicle.

Current law requires a CDL to be suspended for one year if the licensee commits a DWI or refuses to submit to a breathalyzer while operating a non-commercial motor vehicle. Under current law, basic driver's license holders who commit these offenses with their personal motor vehicle forfeit their basic driver's license only until the person installs an ignition interlock device in one motor vehicle the person owns, leases, or principally operates, whichever the person most often operates.

Under the bill, CDL holders who are convicted of DWI or refusing to submit to a breathalyzer while operating a non-commercial vehicle would forfeit both their basic driver's license and CDL until they install an ignition interlock in the vehicle the person most often operates.