

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 19

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR.

District 13 (Monmouth)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Urges AG to study best practices regarding law enforcement emergency vehicle lights and sirens and speeding.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Attorney General to study best
2 practices for law enforcement regarding emergency vehicle
3 warning lights and sirens and when to exceed the speed limit.

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5 **WHEREAS**, By safely and efficiently responding to service calls, law
6 enforcement officers help to ensure the safety of the citizens and
7 residents of this State; and

8 **WHEREAS**, On any given day, a law enforcement officer may respond
9 to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service; and

10 **WHEREAS**, A law enforcement officer must quickly calculate how best
11 to respond by considering the nature of the call, the community the
12 officer is travelling through, and the road conditions; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Depending on the urgency of the call, it may be necessary
14 for a law enforcement officer to exceed the posted speed limit; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The decision concerning when to exceed the speed limit
16 and utilize the vehicle's emergency light and siren system is often
17 left to the discretion of the individual officer; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The safety of citizens, residents, and law enforcement
19 officers alike is compromised when an officer fails to appropriately
20 utilize a vehicle's emergency light and siren system when
21 exceeding the speed limit; and

22 **WHEREAS**, A number of tragic accidents have highlighted the need to
23 determine when it is appropriate for an officer to exceed the speed
24 limit and use emergency lights and sirens when responding to a
25 service call; and

26 **WHEREAS**, The Attorney General guidelines regarding police
27 vehicular pursuit, last updated on September 17, 2009, outline the
28 proper procedures to be followed when police officers are
29 confronted with the possibility of pursuing a fleeing vehicle; and

30 **WHEREAS**, Accordingly, it is in the public interest for the Attorney
31 General to study the implementation of best practices for law
32 enforcement regarding the proper use of a vehicle's emergency
33 light and siren system and when to exceed the speed limit; now,
34 therefore,

35
36 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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38 1. The Attorney General of New Jersey is urged to conduct a
39 study of best practices for law enforcement regarding the proper use
40 of a vehicle's emergency light and siren system, when to exceed the
41 speed limit, and whether the Attorney General guidelines regarding
42 police vehicular pursuit should be updated and to report the results
43 of this study to the Governor, and to Legislature pursuant to section
44 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) at the earliest possible date.

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46 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the
47 President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall
48 be transmitted to the Attorney General.

STATEMENT

This Senate resolution urges the Attorney General of New Jersey to undertake a study of best practices for law enforcement regarding the proper use of emergency vehicle warning lights and sirens and speeding.

By safely and efficiently responding to service calls, law enforcement officers help to ensure the safety of the citizens and residents of this State. On any given day, a law enforcement officer may respond to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service. A law enforcement officer must quickly calculate how best to respond by considering the nature of the call, the community the officer is travelling through, and the road conditions. Depending on the urgency of the call, it may be necessary for a law enforcement officer to exceed the posted speed limit. The decision concerning when to exceed the speed limit and utilize the vehicle's emergency light and siren system is often left to the discretion of the individual officer. The safety of citizens, residents, and law enforcement officers alike is compromised when an officer fails to appropriately utilize a vehicle's emergency light and siren system when exceeding the road's speed limit. A number of tragic accidents have highlighted the need to determine when it is appropriate for an officer to exceed the speed limit and use emergency lights and sirens when responding to a service call. The Attorney General guidelines regarding police vehicular pursuit outline the proper procedures to be followed when police officers are confronted with the possibility of pursuing a fleeing vehicle; however, these guidelines were last updated on September 17, 2009.

Accordingly, it is in the public interest for the Attorney General to study the implementation of best practices for the use of a vehicle's emergency light and siren system, when to exceed the speed limit, and whether the Attorney General guidelines regarding police vehicular pursuit should be updated.