

39: 3-10

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 39:3-10

(Driver license examinations - includes questions on alcohol and drug use)

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 162

Bill No: S1754

Sponsor(s): Bassano and Graves

Date Introduced: Sept. 23, 1982

Committee: Assembly: Judiciary, Law, Public Safety and Defense

Senate: Law, Public Safety and Defense

Amended during passage: /// No Substituted for A1979 (not attached since identical to S1754)

Date of Passage: Assembly: April 11, 1983

Senate: Nov. 29, 1982

Date of Approval: May 2, 1983

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement:		Yes	//
Committee statement:	Assembly	Yes	//
	Senate	Yes	// not attached since identical to Assembly statement
Fiscal Note:		///	No
Veto Message:		///	No
Message on Signing:		<u>Yes</u> ///	No
Following were printed:			
Reports:		///	No
Hearings:		///	No

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CHAPTER 162 LAWS OF N. J. 1983
APPROVED 5-2-83

SENATE, No. 1754

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 23, 1982

By Senators BASSANO and GRAVES

Referred to Committee on Law, Public Safety and Defense

AN ACT concerning alcohol and drug prevention and amending
R. S. 39:3-10.

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

1 1. R. S. 39:3-10 is amended to read as follows:

2 39:3-10. No person shall drive a motor vehicle on a public high-
3 way in this State unless licensed to do so in accordance with this
4 article. No person under 17 years of age shall be licensed to drive
5 motor vehicles, nor shall a person be licensed until he has passed
6 a satisfactory examination as to his ability as an operator. The
7 examination shall include a test of the applicant's vision, his
8 ability to understand traffic control devices, his knowledge of safe
9 driving practices *and of the effects that ingestion of alcohol or*
10 *drugs has on a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle*, his
11 knowledge of such portions of the mechanism of motor vehicles
12 as is necessary to insure the safe operation of a vehicle of the
13 kind or kinds indicated by the applicant and of the laws and
14 ordinary usages of the road and a demonstration of his ability to
15 operate a vehicle of the class designated.

16 *The director shall expand the driver's license examination by*
17 *20%. The additional questions to be added shall consist solely of*
18 *questions developed in conjunction with the State Department of*
19 *Health concerning the use of alcohol or drugs as related to highway*
20 *safety. The director shall develop in conjunction with the State*
21 *Department of Health supplements to the driver's manual which*
22 *shall include information necessary to answer any question on the*

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

23 *driver's license examination concerning alcohol or drugs as related*
24 *to highway safety.*

24A Any person applying for a driver's license to operate a motor
25 vehicle or motorized bicycle in this State shall surrender to the
26 director any current driver's license issued to him by another state
27 or foreign country upon his receipt of a driver's license for this
28 State. The director shall refuse to issue a driver's license if the
29 applicant fails to comply with this provision.

30 The director shall create classified licensing of drivers covering
31 the following classifications:

32 a. Motorcycles;

33 b. Omnibuses as classified by R. S. 39:3-10.1 and school buses
34 classified under N. J. S. 18A :39-1 et seq.;

35 c. Articulated vehicles means a combination of a commercial
36 motor vehicle registered at a gross weight in excess of 18,000
37 pounds and one or more motor-drawn vehicles joined together by
38 means of a coupling device;

39 d. All motor vehicles not included in classifications a., b. and c.
40 A license issued pursuant to this classification d. shall be referred
41 to as the "basic driver's license."

42 Every applicant for a license under classification b. or c. shall
43 be a holder of a basic driver's license. Any issuance of a license
44 under classification b. or c. shall be by endorsement on the basic
45 driver's license.

46 A driver's license for motorcycles may be issued separately, but
47 if issued to the holder of a basic driver's license, it shall be by
48 endorsement on the basic driver's license.

49 The director, upon payment of the lawful fee and after he or an
50 inspector of his has examined the applicant and is satisfied of the
51 applicant's ability as an operator, may, in his discretion, license
52 the applicant to drive a motor vehicle. The license shall authorize
53 him to drive any registered vehicle, of the kind or kinds indicated,
54 and shall expire, except as otherwise provided, on the last day of
55 the forty-eighth calendar month following the calendar month in
56 which such license was issued.

57 The director may issue a renewal of a basic driver's license
58 which does not bear a photograph, and which shall expire on the
59 last day of the twenty-fourth calendar month following the
60 calendar month in which such license was issued, to any person
61 60 years of age or older who makes application for such a license.

62 The director may, at his discretion and for good cause shown,
63 issue licenses which shall expire on a date fixed by him. The fee
64 for such licenses shall be fixed by the director in amounts pro-
65 portionately less or greater than the fee herein established.

66 The required fee for a license for the 48-month period shall be
67 as follows:

68	Motorcycle license or endorsement	\$8.00
69	Omnibus or school bus endorsement	\$16.00
70	Articulated vehicle endorsement	\$8.00
71	Basic driver's license	\$16.00

72 The required fee for a basic driver's license for the 24-month
73 period shall be \$8.00.

74 The required fee for a license for the 36-month period shall be
75 as follows:

76	Motorcycle license or endorsement	\$6.00
77	Omnibus or school bus endorsement	\$12.00
78	Articulated vehicle endorsement	\$6.00
79	Basic driver's license	\$12.00

80 The director shall waive the payment of fees for issuance of
81 omnibus endorsements whenever an applicant establishes to the
82 director's satisfaction that said applicant will use the omnibus en-
83 dorsement exclusively for operating omnibuses owned by a non-
84 profit organization duly incorporated under Title 15 or 16 of the
85 Revised Statutes.

86 The driver's license shall have the legal name of the licensee
87 endorsed thereon in his own handwriting. For purposes of this
88 section, legal name shall mean the name recorded on a birth cer-
89 tificate unless otherwise changed by marriage, divorce or order of
90 court. The director may require that only the legal name be re-
91 corded on the driver's license. A licensee whose name is changed
92 due to marriage, divorce, or by judgment of the court, shall notify
93 the director of the change in name within 2 weeks after the change
94 is made. A person who violates this provision shall be subject to
95 a penalty of not more than \$10.00.

96 The director shall issue licenses for the following license period
97 on and after the first day of the calendar month immediately pre-
98 ceding the commencement of such period, such licenses to be effec-
99 tive immediately.

100 All applications for renewals of licenses shall be made on forms
101 prescribed by the director and in accordance with procedures
102 established by him.

103 The director in his discretion may refuse to grant a license to
104 drive motor vehicles to a person who is, in his estimation, not a
105 proper person to be granted such a license, but no defect of the
106 applicant shall debar him from receiving a license unless it can be
107 shown by tests approved by the Director of the Division of Motor
108 Vehicles that the defect incapacitates him from safely operating
109 a motor vehicle.

110 A person violating this section shall be subject to a fine not ex-
111 ceeding \$500.00 or imprisonment in the county jail for not more
112 than 60 days, but if that person has never been licensed to drive in
113 this State or any other jurisdiction, he shall be subject to a fine of
114 not less than \$200.00 and, in addition, the court shall issue an order
115 to the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles requiring the
116 director to refuse to issue a license to operate a motor vehicle to
117 the person for a period of not less than 180 days. The penalties
118 provided for by this paragraph shall not be applicable in cases
119 where failure to have actual possession of the operator's license is
120 due to an administrative or technical error by the Division of
121 Motor Vehicles.

122 Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or extend the
123 expiration of any license issued prior to the date this amendatory
124 and supplementary act becomes operative.

1 2. This act shall take effect three months following enactment.

STATEMENT

In 1981, young drivers under age 21 were involved in 30,151 serious motor vehicle accidents in this State resulting in 287 fatalities and 29,864 injuries. Although this age group accounts for only 7.5% of the State's drivers, the group accounts for 16% of all fatal crashes, 15% of all injuries and 18% of all alcohol-related crashes. Statistics reveal an enormous increase in alcohol-related accidents involving drivers between age 18 and 20 from 8.9% of the number of accidents in 1972 to 32% of the total number of accidents in 1978.

This bill authorizes the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles to expand the current driver's license examination by 20%. The additional questions to be added to the examination would cover the subject of alcohol or drugs as related to highway safety. The director is authorized to expand the driver's manual to include supplemental information required to be known for the driver's license examination.

Increased emphasis on preventive education should yield savings in lives and suffering, savings of millions of dollars annually in health care costs for persons injured or incapacitated by drunk drivers and savings in the high cost of property damage.

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51754 (1982)

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 1754

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 14, 1983

The purpose of this bill is to increase awareness among New Jersey's drivers of the effects of drugs and alcohol upon a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle. To accomplish this purpose, the bill would require that the driver's license test a person must pass before being licensed to drive a motor vehicle include questions dealing with the effects of alcohol and drugs on a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle.

The bill would require that the number of questions contained in the test be increased by 20%. The additional questions would be developed in conjunction with the State Department of Health and would cover the relationship between the use of alcohol or drugs and highway safety.

The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles would be required to supplement the driver's manual with information about the relationship between highway safety and the use of liquor and drugs.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 1754

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 18, 1982

The purpose of this bill is to increase awareness among New Jersey's drivers of the effects of drugs and alcohol upon a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle. To accomplish this purpose, the bill would require that the driver's license test include questions dealing with the effects of alcohol and drugs on a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle.

The bill would require that the number of questions contained in the test be increased by 20%. The additional questions would be developed in conjunction with the State Department of Health and would cover the relationship between the use of alcohol or drugs and highway safety.

The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles also would be required to supplement the driver's manual with information about the relationship between highway safety and the use of liquor and drugs.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CARL GOLDEN

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1983

Governor Thomas H. Kean today signed the following bills:

S-1754, sponsored by Senator C. Louis Bassano, R-Union, to expand the current drivers' license examination to include information and questions concerning alcohol or drugs as related to highway safety.

S-1869, also sponsored by Senator Bassano, to eliminate the requirement that a person surrender a current drivers' license issued by a foreign country upon receipt of a New Jersey drivers' license.

S-866, sponsored by Senator Raymond Zane, D- Gloucester, to appropriate \$61,614 to the Department of Agriculture to indemnify the owners of several cattle dairy herds which the Department has determined must be destroyed due to the incidence of brucellosis, a contagious and fatal disease.

S-1604, sponsored by Senator Wynona Lipman, D-Essex, to appropriate \$115,000 to the Newark Public Library. The bill was conditionally vetoed by the Governor to reduce the amount from \$200,000 as originally provided. The additional \$85,000 would be provided by legislative passage of a bill to provide an additional \$2.05 million appropriation for additional aid to libraries throughout the state.

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