

39:3-10f

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 39:3-10f et al (Photo drivers licenses-- require only for first time issuance)

LAWS OF: 1985 **CHAPTER:** 264

BILL NO: A3610/S2952/A1099

SPONSOR(S): Bocchini

Date Introduced: April 29, 1985

Committee: **Assembly:** _____
Senate: Law, Public Safety and Defense

Amended during passage: Yes Senate Committee Substitute enacted.

Date of Passage: **Assembly:** June 20, 1985
Senate: June 27, 1985

Date of Approval: July 31, 1985

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement:	Yes	Assembly amendments, adopted 5-6-85 (with statement)-- attached
Committee statements:	Assembly No	
	Senate Yes	
Fiscal Note:	No	
Veto Message:	No	
Message on Signing:	Yes	
Following were printed:		
Reports:	No	
Hearings:	Yes	

(OVER)

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Assembly Law, Public Safety
A939 and Defense Committee.
1985a Public hearing on A166 and A3610, held 5-1-85
Trenton, 1985.

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Assembly Law, Public Safety
A939 and Defense Committee.
1985b Public hearing on implementation of photo drivers' license
system, held 5-6-85 Trenton, 1985.

See newspaper clipping file in New Jersey Reference Department, "New Jersey
Automobiles-- Licenses-- 1985".

RDV

CHAPTER 269 LAWS OF N. J. 1985
APPROVED 7-31-85

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY No. 3610 OCR,
SENATE No. 2952 and ASSEMBLY No. 1099

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED JUNE 20, 1985

Sponsored by Assemblyman BOCCHINI, Senator GRAVES, Assemblyman PATERO, Senators CONTILLO, CAUFIELD, BASSANO and BUBBA

AN ACT concerning motor vehicle drivers' licenses and amending
P. L. 1979, c. 261 and R. S. 39:3-10.

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

1 1. Section 1 of P. L. 1979, c. 261 (C. 39:3-10f) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 1. In addition to the requirements for the form and content of a
4 motor vehicle driver's license under R. S. 39:3-10, each initial New
5 Jersey license issued to a person under the age of 21 after the
6 effective date of this act shall have a color photograph of the li-
7 censee. Each initial motor vehicle license issued to a person 21
8 years of age or older on or after May 1, 1982, shall have a color
9 photograph of the licensee. [Every renewal of a motor vehicle
10 license, except as provided in this amendatory and supplementary
11 act, issued to a person on or after January 2, 1984 shall have a
12 color photograph of the licensee. To facilitate transition to color
13 photograph driver licenses the director shall arrange and notify
14 the holders of approximately 1/2 of the driver licenses expiring in
15 1982 and 1983 that a color photograph is required for renewal of
16 their licenses. Any initial motor vehicle license issued prior to
17 May 1, 1982 to a person under the age of 21 shall be valid for a
18 period of 36 calendar months.] *At the option of the licensee, a*
19 *renewal of any motor vehicle driver's license shall be either a photo-*
20 *license or a license that does not bear a photograph of the licensee.*
21 All [other] licenses bearing a color photograph of the licensee as

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 printed in italics thus is new matter.

22 provided in this act shall be valid for a period of 48 calendar
23 months.

24 To replace a photo-license for a licensee who is temporarily out
25 of this State, the director may issue a "valid without photo" photo-
26 license for the unexpired term of the license.

1 2. 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 as is
12 necessary to insure the safe operation of a vehicle of the kind or
13 kinds indicated by the applicant and of the laws and ordinary
14 usages of the road and a demonstration of his ability to operate a
15 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
23 driver's license examination concerning alcohol or drugs as related
24 to highway safety.

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

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

33 a. Motorcycles, except that for the purposes of this section, motor-
34 cycle shall not include any three-wheeled motor vehicle equipped
35 with a single cab with glazing enclosing the occupant, seats similar
36 to those of a passenger vehicle or truck, seat belts and automotive
37 steering;

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

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

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

47 Every applicant for a license under classification b. or c. shall
48 be a holder of a basic driver's license. Any issuance of a license
49 under classification b. or c. shall be by endorsement on the basic
50 driver's license.

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

54 The director, upon payment of the lawful fee and after he or a
55 person authorized by him has examined the applicant and is satisfied
56 of the applicant's ability as an operator, may, in his discretion,
57 license the applicant to drive a motor vehicle. The license shall
58 authorize him to drive any registered vehicle, of the kind or kinds
59 indicated, and shall expire, except as otherwise provided, on the
60 last day of the forty-eight calendar month following the calendar
61 month in which such license was issued.

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

67 The director may, at his discretion and for good cause shown,
68 issue licenses which shall expire on a date fixed by him. The fee for
69 such licenses shall be fixed by the director in amounts proportion-
70 ately less or greater than the fee herein established.

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

73	Motorcycle license or endorsement	\$8.00
74	Omnibus or school bus endorsement	\$16.00
75	Articulated vehicle endorsement	\$8.00
76	Basic driver's license	\$16.00

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

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

81	Motorcycle license or endorsement	\$6.00
82	Omnibus or school bus endorsement	\$12.00
83	Articulated vehicle endorsement	\$6.00
84	Basic driver's license	\$12.00]

85 The director shall waive the payment of fees for issuance of
 86 omnibus endorsements whenever an applicant establishes to the
 87 director's satisfaction that said applicant will use the omnibus
 88 endorsement exclusively for operating omnibuses owned by a
 89 nonprofit organization duly incorporated under Title 15 or 16 of
 90 the Revised Statutes or Title 15A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

101 The director shall issue licenses for the following license period
 102 on and after the first day of the calendar month immediately pre-
 103 ceding the commencement of such period, such licenses to be effec-
 104 tive immediately.

105 All applications for renewals of licenses shall be made on forms
 106 prescribed by the director and in accordance with procedures
 107 established by him.

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

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

124 where failure to have actual possession of the operator's license
125 is due to an administrative or technical error by the Division of
126 Motor Vehicles.

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

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE, No. 2952

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 6, 1985

By Senator GRAVES

Referred to Committee on Labor, Industry and Professions

AN ACT concerning motor vehicle drivers' licenses and amending
P. L. 1979, c. 261.

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

1 1. Section 1 of P. L. 1979, c. 261 (C. 39:3-10f) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 1. In addition to the requirements for the form and content of a
4 motor vehicle driver's license under R. S. 39:3-10, each initial New
5 Jersey license issued to a person under the age of 21 after the
6 effective date of this act shall have a color photograph of the li-
7 censee. Each initial motor vehicle license issued to a person 21
8 years of age or older on or after May 1, 1982, shall have a color
9 photograph of the licensee. Every renewal of a motor vehicle
10 license, except as provided in **[this amendatory and supplementary**
11 **act]** *R. S. 39:3-10*, issued to a person on or after January 2, **[1984]**
12 *1986* shall have a color photograph of the licensee. **[To facilitate**
13 **transition to color photograph driver licenses the director shall**
14 **arrange and notify the holders of approximately 1/2 of the driver**
15 **licenses expiring in 1982 and 1983 that a color photograph is re-**
16 **quired for renewal of their licenses.]** Any initial motor vehicle
17 license issued prior to May 1, 1982 to a person under the age of 21
18 shall be valid for a period of 36 calendar months. All other licenses
19 bearing a color photograph of the licensee as provided in this act
20 shall be valid for a period of 48 calendar months.

21 To replace a photo-license for a licensee who is temporarily out
22 of this State, the director may issue a "valid without photo" photo-
23 license for the unexpired term of the license.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

**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 printed in italics thus is new matter.

STATEMENT

This bill delays from January 2, 1984, until January 2, 1986, the date by which all drivers' license renewals are required to be photo-licenses.

Because the photo driver's license program has not been fully implemented as required by law and because of the current state of confusion and controversy surrounding the program, a delay in the deadline is necessary so that the Division of Motor Vehicles can ascertain how to solve the program's problems.

This bill does not affect the requirement that all initial driver's licenses issued to persons under the age of 21 years must be photo-licenses.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3610

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 29, 1985

By Assemblymen BOCCHINI, PATERO, Assemblywoman FORD,
ASSEMBLY PELLY, LaROCCA, MARTIN and KARCHER

AN ACT concerning motor vehicle drivers' licenses and amending
P. L. 1979, c. 261.

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

1 1. Section 1 of P. L. 1979, c. 261 (C. 39:3-10f) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 1. In addition to the requirements for the form and content of a
4 motor vehicle driver's license under R. S. 39:3-10, each initial
5 New Jersey license issued to a person under the age of 21 after the
6 effective date of this act shall have a color photograph of the li-
7 censee. Each initial motor vehicle license issued to a person 21
8 years of age or older on or after May 1, 1982, shall have a color
9 photograph of the licensee. Every renewal of a motor vehicle
10 license, except as provided in this amendatory and supplementary
11 act, issued to a person on or after January 2, 1984 shall have a
12 color photograph of the licensee. To facilitate transition to color
13 photograph driver licenses the director shall arrange and notify
14 the holders of approximately 1/2 of the driver licenses expiring in
15 1982 and 1983 that a color photograph is required for renewal of
16 their licenses. Any initial motor vehicle license issued prior to
17 May 1, 1982 to a person under the age of 21 shall be valid for a
18 period of 36 calendar months. All other licenses bearing a color
19 photograph of the licensee as provided in this act shall be valid
20 for a period of 48 calendar months.

21 To replace a photo-license for a licensee who is temporarily out

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

22 of this State, the director may issue a "valid without photo" photo-
23 license for the unexpired term of the license.

24 *From the effective date of this 1985 amendatory act until January*
25 *2, 1986, no initial motor vehicle drivers' license or renewal of a*
26 *license bearing a color photograph of the licensee shall be issued*
27 *to any person except to a person under the age of 21 years.*

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill prohibits the Division of Motor Vehicles from issuing photo drivers' licenses until January 2, 1986, except to persons under the age of 21.

This bill is necessary because of the current state of chaos in the photo drivers' license program. Temporarily halting the issuing of photo licenses will provide a period of time in which the photo license program can be studied so that new solutions to its problems can be devised.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1099

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 1984

By Assemblyman PATERO

AN ACT concerning motor vehicle drivers' licenses, amending R. S.
39:3-10 and amending and supplementing P. L. 1979, c. 261.

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 as
12 is necessary to insure the safe operation of a vehicle of the kind or
13 kinds indicated by the applicant and of the laws and ordinary usages
14 of the road and a demonstration of his ability to operate a vehicle
15 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

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is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

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

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

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

33 a. Motorcycles;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

81 The director shall waive the payment of fees for issuance of
82 omnibus endorsements whenever an applicant establishes to the
83 director's satisfaction that said applicant will use the omnibus
84 endorsement exclusively for operating omnibuses owned by a
85 nonprofit organization duly incorporated under Title 15 or 16 of
86 the Revised Statutes or Title 15A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 2. Section 1 of P. L. 1979, c. 261 (C. 39:3-10f) is amended to
 2 read as follows:

3 1. In addition to the requirements for the form and content of a
 4 motor vehicle driver's license under R. S. 39:3-10, each initial New
 5 Jersey license issued to a person under the age of 21 after the
 6 effective date of this act shall have a color photograph of the li-
 7 censee. *Any other initial licensee shall have the option of obtain-*
 8 *ing a license with his color photograph on it.* [Each initial motor
 9 vehicle license issued to a person 21 years of age or older on or
 10 after May 1, 1982, shall have a color photograph of the licensee.
 11 Every renewal of a motor vehicle license, except as provided in
 12 this amendatory and supplementary act, issued to a person on or
 13 after January 2, 1984 shall have a color photograph of the licensee.

14 To facilitate transition to color photograph driver licenses the
 15 director shall arrange and notify the holders of approximately ½
 16 of the driver licenses expiring in 1982 and 1983 that a color photo-
 17 graph is required for renewal of their licenses. Any initial motor
 18 vehicle license issued prior to May 1, 1982 to a person under the
 19 age of 21 shall be valid for a period of 36 calendar months.] All
 20 [other] licenses bearing a color photograph of the licensee as pro-
 21 vided in this act shall be valid for a period of 48 calendar months.

22 To replace a photo-license for a licensee who is temporarily out
 23 of this State, the director may issue a "valid without photo"
 24 photo-license for the unexpired term of the license.

1 3. (New section) Any initial photo-license issued prior to May
 2 1, 1982 to a person under the age of 21 and valid for a period of
 3 36 calendar months shall be valid for an additional 12 months after
 4 expiration. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles is di-

5 rected to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the pur-
6 poses of this section and may charge an additional proportional
7 fee in accordance with R. S. 39:3-10 for this additional 12 months.

1 4. (New section) Any person licensed prior to the effective date
2 of this act shall, at the time of renewal, have the option of obtain-
3 ing a license with a color photograph affixed.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately and be retroactive to
2 January 2, 1984.

STATEMENT

This bill amends the current law concerning photo drivers' licenses to make photo-licenses mandatory for all initial licensees under 21 years of age and optional for all other licensees. Basically the amendment restores the original law (P. L. 1979, c. 261) and reverses most of the later amendment (P. L. 1981, c. 322).

Since the photo-license law has been in effect since October 2, 1980, all new licensees under the age of 21 have been obtaining photo-licenses since that date and almost all drivers under the age of 21 now have photo-licenses with the exception of some 20 year olds who may have just missed the effective date of the 1979 act.

This bill makes all photo-licenses valid for four years and therefore amends R. S. 39:3-10 to omit the 36 month fee schedule.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY No. 3610 OCR,
SENATE No. 2952 and ASSEMBLY No. 1099

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 20, 1985

The Senate Law, Public Safety and Defense Committee reported Assembly Bill No. 1099, Assembly Bill No. 3610 OCR, and Senate Bill No. 2952 by Senate Committee Substitute.

The Senate Committee Substitute requires that photo-licenses be issued to all initial licensees (new drivers as well as persons moving into the State who already have licenses in other states) and that the option of obtaining either a photo-license or a license that does not bear a photograph be given to all licensees upon renewal.

The committee believes that requiring all initial licenses to be photo-licenses will not impose additional inconvenience on initial licensees, because initial licensees already must go to a motor vehicle agency to obtain their licenses.

The committee substitute requires that all driver's licenses, whether or not they are photo-licenses and whether or not they are issued to the elderly, must expire in 48 months from the day they are issued. For the 48-month period, the fee for a photo-license is \$17.50 and for a license without a photo, \$16.00; these fees are the same as the fees required by current law.

The committee believes that by eliminating the option of a two-year license, the bill will significantly decrease the volume of transactions at motor vehicle agencies, resulting in less inconvenience to the public in general.

Under the committee substitute as under current law, initial licensees under the age of 21 years must obtain a photo-license.

Prior to being incorporated into the Senate Committee Substitute, the three bills accomplished the following purposes:

Assembly Bill No. 3610 OCR required that all initial licensees over the age of 21 years and all persons initially licensed prior to the effective date of the bill who were renewing their licenses be given the option of whether to get a photo-license or a license without a photograph. The bill also required that from its effective date until January 2, 1986, no

initial or renewal photo-license be issued to anyone except persons under the age of 21 years.

Senate Bill No. 2952 delayed from January 2, 1984, until January 2, 1986, the date by which all drivers' license renewals must be photo licenses.

Assembly Bill No. 1099 required that photo-licenses be required for initial licensees under the age of 21 years and optional for all other licensees obtaining initial or renewal licenses.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001
Contact: PAUL WOLCOTT
609-292-8956

TRENTON, N.J. 08625
Release: THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 198

Governor Thomas H. Kean has signed legislation making optional the requirement that persons over the age of 21 have a driver's license with a photograph on it. The bill also eliminates the two-year renewal period for conventional paper licenses, making all driver's licenses valid for four years.

The bill A-3610/S-2952, ^{A1099} was sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph Patero, D-Somerset and State Senator Frank X. Graves, D-Passaic.

"This bill will give our citizens the option of carrying a photo driver's license, which must have a new photograph every four years, or choosing a paper license which requires no photo," Kean said. "Since there is a degree of inconvenience associated with obtaining a photo license, it is important that citizens be able to decide for themselves which license they want."

The Governor praised Senator Graves for his leadership in the effort to establish the photo licensing program.

"Senator Graves has long been an advocate of photo licenses and I respect his motivations for requiring this easily confirmed means of identification," Kean said.

The Governor noted that drivers over 21 who are obtaining a New Jersey license for the first time must still have a photo license for their initial license.