

39:4-131; 39:4-131.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

WJSA 39:4-131; 39:4-131.1 (Motor vehicle accidents--Police reports-- Establishes fees for copies)

LAWS OF 1979 CHAPTER 412

Bill No. A359

Sponsor(s) Weidel, Orechio and Littell

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Judiciary, Law, Public Safety and Defense

Senate Judiciary

Amended during passage Yes No

Date of Passage: Assembly April 27, 1978

Senate Dec. 17, 1979

Date of approval Feb. 8, 1980

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes (Below) No

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes No

Senate Yes No

Fiscal Note Yes No

Veto message Yes No

Message on signing Yes No

Following were printed:

Reports Yes No

Hearings Yes No

Sponsor's statement:

The fee charged by municipalities for copies of police accident reports varies widely throughout the State. In some municipalities the fee is as high as \$10.00 for a single page report. This bill affirms that such reports are public records and establishes the charge as that established for copies of all other public records by section 2 of P.L. 1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-2)

8/1/78

Assembly

ASSEMBLY, No. 359

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1978 SESSION

By Assemblymen WEIDEL, ORECHIO and LITTELL

AN ACT concerning police reports of motor vehicle accidents, amending R. S. 39:4-131 and supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1 1. R. S. 39:4-131 is amended to read as follows:

2 39:4-131. The division shall prepare and supply to police de-
3 partments and other suitable agencies, forms for accident reports
4 calling for sufficiently detailed information with reference to a
5 motor vehicle accident, including the cause, the conditions then
6 existing, the persons and vehicles involved and such information
7 as the director may require.

8 Every law enforcement officer who investigates a vehicle accident
9 of which report must be made as required in this Title, or who
10 otherwise prepares a written report as a result of an accident or
11 thereafter by interviewing the participants or witnesses, shall for-
12 ward a written report of such accident to the division, on forms
13 furnished by it, within 5 days after his investigation of the accident.

14 Such written reports required to be forwarded by law enforce-
15 ment officers and the information contained therein shall not be
16 privileged or held confidential. *Every citizen of this State shall*
17 *have the right, during regular business hours and under super-*
18 *vision, to inspect and copy such reports and shall also have the*
19 *right to purchase copies of the reports at the fee established by*
20 *section 2 of P. L. 1963, c. 73 (C. 47:1A-2).*

1 2. (New section) Any rule, regulation, resolution or ordinance
2 inconsistent with this act or establishing a fee in excess of the fee
3 permitted by section 2 of P. L. 1963, c. 73 (C. 47:1A-2) is super-
4 seded insofar as it is inconsistent or to the extent that it exceeds
5 the fee so established.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

The fee charged by municipalities for copies of police accident reports varies widely throughout the State. In some municipalities the fee is as high as \$10.00 for a single page report. This bill affirms that such reports are public records and establishes the charge as that established for copies of all other public records by section 2 of P. L. 1963, c. 73 (C. 47:1A-2).

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 359

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 19, 1979

The fee charged by municipalities for copies of police accident reports varies widely throughout the State. In some municipalities the fee is as high as \$10.00 for a single page report. This bill affirms that such reports are public records and establishes the charge as that established for copies of all other public records by section 2 of P. L. 1963, c. 73 (C. 47:1A-2). The fee is \$0.50 per page for the first ten pages, \$0.25 for pages 11 through 20 and \$0.10 per page for all pages over 20.

S-1451, sponsored by Wayne Dumont, Jr. (R-Warren), which amends several statutes dealing with the responsibility of parents for the support of their children, clarifying that the legal obligation of parents is limited to children under 18.

S-3274, sponsored by Senator Joseph P. Merlino (D-Mercer), which repeals certain sections of Title 51 of the Revised Statutes, which have become obsolete. The sections repealed include laws prescribing the standard size for cranberry barrels and the dimension for "climax baskets" for fruits and vegetables.

S-1471, sponsored by Senator Raymond J. Zane (D-Gloucester), which permits boards of education to allow school buses owned or leased by the school district to be used for transportation of senior citizens' groups and handicapped citizens to and from events within the district or another district as may be approved by the board.

A-359, sponsored by Assemblyman Karl Weidel (R-Mercer), which provides that police accident reports are public records, establishing the charge for copies as that established for copies of all other public records.

A-1050, sponsored by Assemblyman Michael J. Matthews (D-Atlantic), which increases the lien period for inheritance taxes from ten to fifteen years, and reduces the time limit of the liability from 20 years to 15 years.

In order to establish uniformity, this bill reduces the liability period to fifteen years, and at the same time increases the lien period to fifteen years. Thus, after fifteen years, there will be no lien, no liability, no waiver requirements and no necessity to file an inheritance tax return.

A-3067, sponsored by Assemblyman Buddy Fortunato (D-Essex), which eliminates the role of county and local governments in licensing solid fuel dealers, and streamlines the licensing system.

A-579, sponsored by Assemblyman Albert Burstein (D-Bergen), which requires service of notice an in rem foreclosure action upon all those whose names appear on a municipality tax roll.

A-758, sponsored by Assemblyman James R. Hurley (R-Cumberland), which amends R.S. 44:7-15 to clarify that the effective period of a judgement lien filed by a county welfare agency for assistance advanced to a recipient is twenty years.