

48:3-42 to 48:3-48

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 48:3-42 to 48:3-48 (Public utility employees--wear ID badges.)

Laws of 1977 Chapter 35

Bill No. A1514

Sponsor(s) Bassano and others

Date Introduced February 19, 1976

Committee: Assembly Transportation and Communication

Senate Transportation and Communications

Amended during passage Yes ~~No~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of passage: Assembly November 9, 1976

Senate February 7, 1977

Date of approval March 8, 1977

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes ~~No~~ Below

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 newspapers and police files are filled with accounts of assaults, murders, rapes and robberies committed by persons who gained access to their victims by masquerading as employees of public utilities. This bill is an attempt to remedy this situation and thus protect the public.

10/4/76

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3/8/77

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ASSEMBLY, No. 1514

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 19, 1976

By Assemblymen BASSANO, McDERMOTT, FORAN, KAVANAUGH, D. GALLO, SNEDEKER, MARKERT, Assemblywoman MUHLER, Assemblymen ALBANESE, DORSEY, HURLEY, ESPOSITO, BURNS, RYS, OLSZOWY, EWING, BARRY, SPIZZIRI, DiFRANCESCO, DENNIS, WEIDEL, SAXTON, CALI, GREGORIO, JACKMAN, HAWKINS, GORMAN, OWENS and CHINNICI

Referred to Committee on Transportation and Communications

AN ACT requiring certain employees of public utilities to wear identification badges and supplementing Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1 1. No employee of a public utility*, as defined in R. S. 48:2-13,*
 2 shall have the right of reasonable access to a customer's premises
 3 and to all property furnished by the utility, at all reasonable times
 4 for the purpose of ***[inspection of customer's premises incident to**
 5 **the rendering of service,]*** collection of coin-boxes***[,]*** *or** read-
 6 ing meters, ***[or inspecting, testing, or repairing its facilities used**
 7 **in connection with supplying the service or for the removal of its**
 8 **property,]*** unless said employee is wearing a plainly visible
 9 identification badge on the upper left corner of his torso.

1 2. The identification badge shall *not* be ***[a white card]***
 2 *larger than* 2" x 4" and shall be made in such a way and of such
 3 material that any attempt to alter said badge will result in it being
 4 immediately, permanently and obviously ruined. The card shall
 5 be in the following form:

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

* [Color Photograph of Employee's face four square inches	PUBLIC UTILITY'S NAME EMPLOYEE'S NAME
	EMPLOYEE'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER]*
Expiration date	

<i>*Color Photograph of Employee's Face in a size adequate to permit recognition Validation</i>	<i>Employee's Name Employee's Soc. Sec. No. Date of Issuance Employee's Signature Public Utility's Name*</i>
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1 3. A new identification badge shall be made and issued by the
2 public utility ***[**every 12 months]* **from time to time to reflect*
3 *any substantial changes in the employee's appearance, but in any*
4 *case, a new badge shall be issued at least once every 6 years*.*

5 Each new identification badge shall contain a new color photograph
5A of the employee's face and said photograph shall be taken not more
5B than 2 weeks before the date upon which the new identification
5C badge is issued.

6 A new identification badge shall also be issued to an employee
7 whenever the facial appearance of said employee undergoes a
8 noticeable alteration. For the purposes of this act, "noticeable
9 alteration" means a change in the facial appearance such as, but
10 not limited to, a change in hair color, style, shape or length ***[**of two
11 or more inches]*, the growth, alteration or removal of beards,
12 goatees, mustaches or sideburns, the wearing of spectacles or
13 contact lenses in lieu of spectacles previously worn, or a major
14 change caused by an accident or surgery.

1 4. No employee of a public utility who is in possession of any
2 identification badge, as provided for by this act, shall loan, allow
3 or permit any other person to use or display such identification
4 badge; in case of the loss of any such identification badge, the em-
5 ployee shall forthwith notify the public utility of such loss and the
6 circumstances surrounding the same. Any person violating the pro-
7 visions of this section or any person who shall display or use the
8 identification badge of another, for the purpose of deceiving any
9 person as to his identity shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

1 5. Any public utility that fails to issue an identification badge to
2 each employee whose job requires that he inspect customer's
3 premises, shall, in addition to having said employee denied the
4 right of reasonable access as set forth in section 1 of this act, be
5 subject to a civil penalty of \$15.00 for each instance in which said
6 utility failed to issue an identification badge.

1 6. Any employee of a public utility who has been issued an
2 identification badge by said public utility and who fails to wear
3 said identification badge while attempting to exercise the right of
4 reasonable access as set forth in section 1 of this act, shall be
5 subject to a civil penalty of \$15.00 for each offense. The penalties
6 set forth in this section and section 5 of this act shall be collected in
7 accordance with the Penalty Enforcement Law (N. J. S. 2A:58-1
8 et seq.) and all money collected shall be remitted to the State of
9 New Jersey.

1 7. On or before January 31 of each year, each public utility
2 requiring the right of reasonable access to a customer's premises
3 shall notify said customer by mail **or other public means** that no
4 employee of said public utility shall have the right of reasonable
5 access as set forth in section 1 of this act, unless he is wearing an
6 identification badge. Each such public utility shall accompany said
7 notice with a reproduction of an identification badge. The word
8 "void" shall be stamped in large ***[black]*** letters across the
9 reproduction.

1 8. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day next following
2 enactment.

REFERENCE USE ONLY

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1514

with Assembly committee amendments

—◆—
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
—◆—

DATED: MAY 12, 1976

The purpose of this bill is to remedy the situation whereby individuals have committed crimes by gaining access to their victims' homes by masquerading as employees of public utilities.

This bill, as amended, provides that no employee of a public utility shall have the right of reasonable access to a customer's premises for the purpose of collection of coin-boxes or reading meters unless said employee is wearing a plainly visible identification badge on the upper left corner of his torso. The bill, as amended, also provides that a new identification badge shall be made and issued by a public utility requiring said collection of coin-boxes or reading of meters at least once every 6 years and more frequently in cases where the facial appearance of said employee undergoes a noticeable alteration. In addition, the committee amended this legislation to require the following information on the identification badge: Color photograph of employee's face in a size adequate to permit recognition, validation, employee's name, employee's Social Security number, date of issuance, employee's signature and the public utility's name. The bill as reported by the committee, also states that each public utility required to provide the above-mentioned information on its employees identification badge shall notify its customers of such badge by mail or other public means on or before January 31 of each year and with a reproduction of said badge with the word "void" stamped in large letters across the reproduction.

The Public Utilities Commission finds this bill acceptable.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

ASSEMBLY, No. 1514

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 24, 1977

The purpose of this bill is to protect the public from criminals who gain access to their victims' homes by masquerading as employees of public utilities.

This legislation provides that no employee of a public utility shall have access rights to a customer's premises unless the employee is wearing a plainly visible identification badge on the upper left corner of his torso. The badge shall contain the employee's photograph and shall be made in such a way that any attempt at alteration will ruin it. A new identification badge shall be issued whenever there is any substantial change or noticeable alteration in the employees appearance. In no case, however, shall an identification badge be used for more than 6 years. No public utility employee shall loan or allow another person to display his identification badge. The bill also provides that every public utility requiring the right of reasonable access to a customer's premises shall, on or before January 31 of each year, notify its customers of the identification badge requirement for access.