

**39:4-134.2**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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**LAWS OF:** 2022                    **CHAPTER:** 117

**NJSA:** 39:4-134.2  
(Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into "Next-of-Kin Registry.")

**BILL NO:** A4101                    (Substituted for S2666 (1R))

**SPONSOR(S)** Yvonne Lopez and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 6/2/2022

**COMMITTEE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Transportation and Independent Authorities  
Budget

**SENATE:** ---

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**    **ASSEMBLY:** 10/3/2022

**SENATE:** 10/17/2022

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 10/21/2022

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (Second Reprint enacted)                    Yes

**A4101**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement)                    Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**    **ASSEMBLY:**                    Yes                    Budget

**SENATE:**                    No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**                    No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**                    Yes                    7/5/2022  
10/6/2022

**S2666 (1R)**

**INTRODUCED BILL:** (Includes sponsor(s) statement)                    Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**    **ASSEMBLY:**                    No

**SENATE:**                    Yes                    Transportation  
Budget & Appropriations

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:**                    No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**

Yes 7/5/2022

**VETO MESSAGE:**

Yes

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:**

Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:**

No

**HEARINGS:**

No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:**

No

end

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 117, *approved October 21, 2022*  
Assembly, No. 4101, (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the “Next-of-Kin Registry” and amending  
2 P.L.2011, c.47.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of <sup>1</sup>**[P.L.2011]** P.L.2011<sup>1</sup>, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2) is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 1. a. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
10 Commission shall develop an emergency contact information  
11 registry program. Under the program, the chief administrator shall  
12 establish and maintain an automated Statewide registry to be known  
13 as the "Next-of-Kin Registry," which shall be capable of storing  
14 emergency contact information to be accessible by law enforcement  
15 officials for the purposes established in section 2 of P.L.2011, c.47  
16 (C.39:4-134.3). Under the program, the holder of any New Jersey  
17 State validated permit or probationary or basic driver's license may  
18 voluntarily submit the name and telephone number of two  
19 emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of any  
20 vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit holder  
21 or licensee to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" **[either]** through an in-  
22 person application, through the commission's website, or by mail  
23 and the holder of any New Jersey non-driver identification card may  
24 voluntarily submit the name and telephone number of two  
25 emergency contacts to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" **[either]** through  
26 an in-person application, through the commission's website, or by  
27 mail.

28 b. In implementing this program, the chief administrator shall  
29 establish a process whereby the holder of any validated permit,  
30 probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver identification  
31 card may:

32 (1) electronically sign onto the commission's web site using: (a)  
33 the holder's validated permit or probationary or basic driver's  
34 license number to submit the name and telephone number of up to  
35 two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
36 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
37 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry;" or (b)  
38 the holder's non-driver identification card number to submit the  
39 name and telephone number of up to two emergency contacts to be  
40 stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; **[or]**

**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 underlined thus is new matter

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly ABU committee amendments adopted June 27, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's  
recommendations September 29, 2022.

1 (2) (a) for the holder of any validated permit or probationary or  
2 basic driver's license, submit the name and telephone number of up  
3 to two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
4 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
5 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" by  
6 mail using paper applications provided by the commission in the  
7 commission's customer service facilities or through commission  
8 mailings; or (b) for the holder of any non-driver identification card,  
9 submit the name and telephone number of up to two emergency  
10 contacts to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" by mail using  
11 paper applications provided by the commission in the commission's  
12 customer service facilities or through commission mailings; or

13 (3) (a) for the holder of any validated permit or probationary or  
14 basic driver's license, use an application <sup>1</sup>**[in-person]** in person<sup>1</sup> at  
15 a commission agency location to submit the name and telephone  
16 number of up to two emergency contacts and the vehicle  
17 identification number of any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to  
18 be used by the permit holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-  
19 of-Kin Registry"; or

20 (b) for the holder of any non-driver identification card, use an  
21 application <sup>1</sup>**[in-person]** in person<sup>1</sup> at a commission agency  
22 location to submit the name and telephone number of up to two  
23 emergency contacts to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry."

24 A permit holder, licensee, or non-driver identification card  
25 holder who submits the name and telephone number of an  
26 emergency contact or vehicle identification number shall have the  
27 opportunity to revise or update the emergency contact and vehicle  
28 identification number information at any time. The commission  
29 shall automatically prompt a person <sup>2</sup>**[applying]** who has used the  
30 commission's internet website to schedule an appointment to apply<sup>2</sup>  
31 for a validated permit, probationary driver's license, or initial  
32 driver's license or non-driver identification card, or <sup>2</sup>who is<sup>2</sup>  
33 renewing a driver's license or non-driver identification card <sup>2</sup>**[in**  
34 person at a commission agency location or]<sup>2</sup> online through the  
35 commission's Internet website<sup>1</sup>, to enter information for the "Next-  
36 of-Kin Registry" in accordance with the provisions of this section.

37 c. Information in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" shall be available  
38 for the exclusive use of law enforcement officials, and employees of  
39 the commission who are designated by the chief administrator, for  
40 the purposes of discharging their duties pursuant to P.L.2011, c.47  
41 (C.39:4-134.2 et al.). <sup>2</sup>**[Law]** The commission shall afford law<sup>2</sup>  
42 enforcement <sup>2</sup>**[officials shall have]** officers with<sup>2</sup> direct access to  
43 the information in the registry <sup>2</sup>, provided that the chief  
44 administrator, in consultation with the Superintendent of State  
45 Police, may impose reasonable restrictions and conditions on such  
46 access<sup>2</sup>. Any emergency contact or vehicle identification number  
47 information submitted to the commission shall not be considered a

1 government record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.),  
2 P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.), or the common law concerning  
3 access to public records and shall not be discoverable as a  
4 government record by any person, entity, or governmental agency,  
5 except upon a subpoena issued by a grand jury or a court order in a  
6 criminal matter.

7 d. The chief administrator and employees of the commission  
8 who are designated by the chief administrator, for the purposes of  
9 discharging their duties pursuant to P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2 et  
10 al.), shall not be liable to any person for civil damages, or subject to  
11 criminal prosecution resulting from or caused by: (1) any disruption  
12 or failure in Internet service caused by any accident, malfunction,  
13 act of sabotage or God, or any other condition or circumstance that  
14 the commission has not, directly or indirectly, caused and which  
15 results in, or prevents, the holder of any New Jersey State validated  
16 permit, probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver  
17 identification card from accessing, or inputting information into, the  
18 "Next-of-Kin Registry" or which results in, or prevents, the chief  
19 administrator and designated commission employees and law  
20 enforcement officers from accessing, establishing, or maintaining  
21 the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; (2) any misuse of, or the failure or  
22 omission to input accurate information, or the inputting of  
23 inaccurate or outdated information into the "Next-of-Kin Registry"  
24 by any holder of any New Jersey State validated permit,  
25 probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver identification  
26 card; or (3) the inability of any law enforcement officer to make  
27 contact, in good faith, with any designated emergency contact  
28 person. This limitation of liability is inapplicable if such failure  
29 resulted from a malicious purpose or a wanton and willful disregard  
30 for the safety of persons or property.

31 e. <sup>2</sup>(1)<sup>2</sup> The commission shall <sup>2</sup>engage in a public awareness  
32 campaign and<sup>2</sup> coordinate with all other appropriate executive  
33 branch departments and agencies for the purpose of raising public  
34 awareness about the "Next-of-<sup>1</sup>King<sup>1</sup> Kin<sup>1</sup> Registry<sup>2, 2</sup>."

35 <sup>2</sup>[and raising] (2) The Attorney General, in consultation with the  
36 Superintendent of State Police, shall take appropriate steps to raise<sup>2</sup>  
37 awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on the  
38 proper use of the registry.

39 f. For the purposes of P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2 et al.),  
40 "emergency contact person" or "emergency contact" means a  
41 person, eighteen years of age or older, whom the holder of any New  
42 Jersey State validated permit, probationary or basic driver's license,  
43 or non-driver identification card has designated to be contacted by  
44 law enforcement personnel when the permit holder, licensee, or  
45 non-driver identification card holder is rendered unable to  
46 communicate due to a motor vehicle accident resulting in the  
47 serious bodily injury, death, or incapacitation of the permit holder,

1 licensee, or non-driver identification card holder. An "emergency  
2 contact person" or "emergency contact" may or may not be the  
3 next-of-kin of the permit holder, licensee, or non-driver  
4 identification card holder; except that if the permit holder, licensee,  
5 or card holder is under the age of eighteen and is not emancipated,  
6 the emergency contact person shall be the parent or guardian of that  
7 permit holder, licensee, or card holder.

8 (cf: P.L.2017, c.382, s.1)

9

10 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
11 month following enactment but the Chief Administrator of the New  
12 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall take such anticipatory  
13 action in advance thereof for the timely implementation of this act.

14

15

16

17

18 Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to  
19 enter information into "Next-of-Kin Registry."

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4101

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into “Next-of-Kin Registry.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



A4101 LOPEZ, COUGHLIN

2

1 AN ACT concerning the "Next-of-Kin Registry" and amending  
2 P.L.2011, c.47.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
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11 registry program. Under the program, the chief administrator shall  
12 establish and maintain an automated Statewide registry to be known  
13 as the "Next-of-Kin Registry," which shall be capable of storing  
14 emergency contact information to be accessible by law enforcement  
15 officials for the purposes established in section 2 of P.L.2011, c.47  
16 (C.39:4-134.3). Under the program, the holder of any New Jersey  
17 State validated permit or probationary or basic driver's license may  
18 voluntarily submit the name and telephone number of two  
19 emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of any  
20 vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit holder  
21 or licensee to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" **【either】** through an in-  
22 person application, through the commission's website, or by mail  
23 and the holder of any New Jersey non-driver identification card may  
24 voluntarily submit the name and telephone number of two  
25 emergency contacts to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" **【either】** through  
26 an in-person application, through the commission's website, or by  
27 mail.

28 b. In implementing this program, the chief administrator shall  
29 establish a process whereby the holder of any validated permit,  
30 probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver identification  
31 card may:

32 (1) electronically sign onto the commission's web site using: (a)  
33 the holder's validated permit or probationary or basic driver's  
34 license number to submit the name and telephone number of up to  
35 two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
36 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
37 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry;" or (b)  
38 the holder's non-driver identification card number to submit the  
39 name and telephone number of up to two emergency contacts to be  
40 stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; **【or】**

41 (2) (a) for the holder of any validated permit or probationary or  
42 basic driver's license, submit the name and telephone number of up  
43 to two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
44 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
45 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" by  
46 mail using paper applications provided by the commission in the  
47 commission's customer service facilities or through commission

**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 underlined thus is new matter.



1 mailings; or (b) for the holder of any non-driver identification card,  
2 submit the name and telephone number of up to two emergency  
3 contacts to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" by mail using  
4 paper applications provided by the commission in the commission's  
5 customer service facilities or through commission mailings; or

6 (3) (a) for the holder of any validated permit or probationary or  
7 basic driver's license, use an application in-person at a commission  
8 agency location to submit the name and telephone number of up to  
9 two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
10 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
11 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; or

12 (b) for the holder of any non-driver identification card, use an  
13 application in-person at a commission agency location to submit the  
14 name and telephone number of up to two emergency contacts to be  
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16 A permit holder, licensee, or non-driver identification card  
17 holder who submits the name and telephone number of an  
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19 opportunity to revise or update the emergency contact and vehicle  
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21 shall automatically prompt a person applying for a validated permit,  
22 probationary driver's license, or initial driver's license or non-  
23 driver identification card, or renewing a driver's license or non-  
24 driver identification card, to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin  
25 Registry" in accordance with the provisions of this section.

26 c. Information in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" shall be available  
27 for the exclusive use of law enforcement officials, and employees of  
28 the commission who are designated by the chief administrator, for  
29 the purposes of discharging their duties pursuant to P.L.2011, c.47  
30 (C.39:4-134.2 et al.). Law enforcement officials shall have direct  
31 access to the information in the registry. Any emergency contact or  
32 vehicle identification number information submitted to the  
33 commission shall not be considered a government record pursuant  
34 to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5  
35 et al.), or the common law concerning access to public records and  
36 shall not be discoverable as a government record by any person,  
37 entity, or governmental agency, except upon a subpoena issued by a  
38 grand jury or a court order in a criminal matter.

39 d. The chief administrator and employees of the commission  
40 who are designated by the chief administrator, for the purposes of  
41 discharging their duties pursuant to P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2 et  
42 al.), shall not be liable to any person for civil damages, or subject to  
43 criminal prosecution resulting from or caused by: (1) any disruption  
44 or failure in Internet service caused by any accident, malfunction,  
45 act of sabotage or God, or any other condition or circumstance that  
46 the commission has not, directly or indirectly, caused and which  
47 results in, or prevents, the holder of any New Jersey State validated  
48 permit, probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver

1 identification card from accessing, or inputting information into, the  
2 "Next-of-Kin Registry" or which results in, or prevents, the chief  
3 administrator and designated commission employees and law  
4 enforcement officers from accessing, establishing, or maintaining  
5 the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; (2) any misuse of, or the failure or  
6 omission to input accurate information, or the inputting of  
7 inaccurate or outdated information into the "Next-of-Kin Registry"  
8 by any holder of any New Jersey State validated permit,  
9 probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver identification  
10 card; or (3) the inability of any law enforcement officer to make  
11 contact, in good faith, with any designated emergency contact  
12 person. This limitation of liability is inapplicable if such failure  
13 resulted from a malicious purpose or a wanton and willful disregard  
14 for the safety of persons or property.

15 e. The commission shall coordinate with all other appropriate  
16 executive branch departments and agencies for the purpose of  
17 raising public awareness about the "Next-of-Kin Registry" and  
18 raising awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on  
19 the proper use of the registry.

20 f. For the purposes of P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2 et al.),  
21 "emergency contact person" or "emergency contact" means a  
22 person, eighteen years of age or older, whom the holder of any New  
23 Jersey State validated permit, probationary or basic driver's license,  
24 or non-driver identification card has designated to be contacted by  
25 law enforcement personnel when the permit holder, licensee, or  
26 non-driver identification card holder is rendered unable to  
27 communicate due to a motor vehicle accident resulting in the  
28 serious bodily injury, death, or incapacitation of the permit holder,  
29 licensee, or non-driver identification card holder. An "emergency  
30 contact person" or "emergency contact" may or may not be the  
31 next-of-kin of the permit holder, licensee, or non-driver  
32 identification card holder; except that if the permit holder, licensee,  
33 or card holder is under the age of eighteen and is not emancipated,  
34 the emergency contact person shall be the parent or guardian of that  
35 permit holder, licensee, or card holder.

36 (cf: P.L.2017, c.382, s.1)

37

38 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
39 month following enactment but the Chief Administrator of the New  
40 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall take such anticipatory  
41 action in advance thereof for the timely implementation of this act.

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#### STATEMENT

45

46 This bill requires the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission  
47 (commission) to allow individuals to submit information for the  
48 "Next-of-Kin Registry" in-person at commission agencies. The

**A4101 LOPEZ, COUGHLIN**

5

1 bill requires the commission to automatically prompt any individual  
2 who is applying for a validated permit, probationary driver's  
3 license, or new or renewal driver's license or non-driver  
4 identification card to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin  
5 Registry." The bill provides that law enforcement officials are to  
6 have direct access to the information in the registry, meaning law  
7 enforcement officials will not need to access the information  
8 through an intermediary.

9 The bill also requires the commission to coordinate with other  
10 executive branch departments and agencies to raise public  
11 awareness about the registry and the raise awareness among law  
12 enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry.

# ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 4101

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4101, with committee amendments.

As amended and reported, this bill requires the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to allow individuals to submit information for the “Next-of-Kin Registry” in person at commission agencies. The bill requires the commission to automatically prompt any individual who is applying for a validated permit, probationary driver’s license, or new or renewal driver’s license or non-driver identification card to enter information for the “Next-of-Kin Registry.” The bill provides that law enforcement officials are to have direct access to the information in the registry, meaning law enforcement officials will not need to access the information through an intermediary.

The bill also requires the commission to coordinate with other executive branch departments and agencies to raise public awareness about the registry and the raise awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the commission is required to prompt a person renewing a driver’s license or non-driver identification card to enter information in the “Next-of-Kin Registry” if the person is renewing a license or non-driver identification card in person at a commission agency location or online through the commission’s Internet website. The committee amendments make grammatical corrections and correct a reference to the “Next-of-Kin Registry.”

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 4101

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 5, 2022

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into “Next-of-Kin Registry.”
- Type of Impact:** State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost Increase		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill would result in a small cost increase to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC). However, the OLS is unable to quantify the anticipated cost increase.
- This bill requires the MVC to allow the submission of emergency contact information in person at commission agency locations and to prompt a person applying for certain identification documents to enter information for the “Next-of-Kin Registry” when applying in person or online. These requirements should result in a small but indeterminate cost increase for the commission, which should largely be able to be satisfied by existing MVC staff and resources.
- The bill also provides that law enforcement officials are required to have direct access to information in the registry and the commission is required to coordinate with other executive branch departments and agencies to raise awareness regarding the registry. The OLS is unable to determine the cost of providing direct access to information in the registry to law enforcement officials. The State would likely incur a small but indeterminate cost increase to coordinate an awareness campaign regarding the registry.

#### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the MVC to automatically prompt an applicant for a validated permit, probationary driver’s license, initial driver’s license, initial non-driver identification card, renewal

driver's license, or renewal non-driver identification card to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin Registry" maintained by the commission. The MVC is required to prompt the applicant if the application is done in person or online. The bill also requires the commission to allow an individual to submit emergency contact information in person at a commission agency.

The bill provides that law enforcement officials are required to have direct access to information in the registry. The bill requires the MVC to coordinate with all other appropriate executive branch departments and agencies to raise public awareness about the registry and to raise awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that this bill would result in a small cost increase to the MVC. However, the OLS is unable to quantify the anticipated cost increase.

Allowing for the submission of information to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" in person at MVC facilities merely represents a new method of submitting information that is already processed by the commission. Accordingly, existing MVC staff should be able to implement this portion of the legislation. Similarly, requiring the MVC to prompt in-person applicants to submit information to the registry should be able to be implemented by existing commission staff. However, requiring that online applicants be prompted to submit information to the registry may require some technological modification to the commission's existing online application process. The OLS finds that this will result in a small but indeterminate cost to the MVC.

Currently, law enforcement officials have access to the information in the registry. The bill provides that law enforcement officials are to have direct access. The OLS is unable to determine how the MVC will provide direct access to law enforcement officials and to what degree this differs from how the information in the registry is currently accessible to law enforcement officials. Accordingly, the OLS is unable to determine the cost of this requirement.

The bill also requires the commission to coordinate with other appropriate executive branch departments and agencies for the purpose of raising awareness about the "Next-of-Kin Registry" and raising awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry. An awareness campaign such as this depends on how an executive branch agency chooses to implement it; however, the cost is generally small and much of the work can be produced by existing staff with existing resources.

*Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications*

*Analyst: Lauren M. Stutz  
Senior Counsel*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 4101

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 6, 2022

#### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into “Next-of-Kin Registry.”
- Type of Impact:** Increase in State expenditures.
- Agencies Affected:** New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission; Department of Law and Public Safety.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual Impact</u></b>
<b>State Expenditure Increase</b>	Indeterminate, Marginal

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill would result in an indeterminate, marginal increase in annual expenditures for the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) due to the requirement to undertake certain additional actions related to the “Next-of-Kin Registry.”
- Under the bill, the MVC is required to: (1) allow the submission of emergency contact information during certain in-person applications; (2) prompt certain persons to enter information for the “Next-of-Kin Registry,” including certain online applicants and persons using the MVC’s website to schedule certain appointments; and (3) engage in a public awareness campaign relating to the registry. These requirements would result in a marginal increase in MVC expenditures, which may be wholly or partially supported using existing MVC staff and resources.
- The bill also provides that law enforcement officers would have direct access to information in the registry, subject to reasonable restrictions, and requires the Attorney General to raise awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers regarding the proper use of the registry. These requirements are also expected to result in a marginal increase in State expenditures, which may also be supported through existing staff and resources.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires the MVC to automatically prompt persons who schedule an appointment online for a validated permit, probationary driver's license, initial driver's license, or initial non-driver identification card or who renew a driver's license or non-driver identification card online, to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin Registry" maintained by the commission. The bill also requires the commission to allow an individual to submit emergency contact information in person at a commission agency.

The bill provides that law enforcement officials are required to have direct access to information in the registry. The bill requires the MVC to engage in a public awareness campaign and coordinate with all other appropriate executive branch departments and agencies to raise public awareness about the registry. The bill also requires the Attorney General to take appropriate steps to raise awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that this bill would result in a marginal increase in annual State expenditures associated with the requirement to undertake certain additional actions related to the "Next-of-Kin Registry." However, the OLS lacks sufficient information to quantify the magnitude of these cost increases.

Under the bill, the MVC is required to: (1) allow the submission of emergency contact information during the process of an in-person application; and (2) prompt certain persons to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin Registry," including certain online applicants and persons using the MVC's website to schedule certain appointments. These requirements would result in a marginal increase in MVC expenditures, which may be wholly or partially supported using existing staff and resources. Notably, the submission of emergency contact information during in-person applications represents an alternative method of submitting information that is already processed by the MVC. Accordingly, the OLS assumes that the MVC could satisfy this requirement using existing resources. In contrast, however, the requirement to prompt online applicants to submit information for the registry may require the MVC to undertake technological modifications to its existing online application process. As a result, these modifications may result in a marginal, but indeterminate, increase in expenditures for the MVC.

In addition, the bill is expected to increase State expenditures related to the requirements for law enforcement officers to have direct access to information in the registry, subject to reasonable restrictions established by the Attorney General. Although law enforcement officers currently have access to the information in the registry, law enforcement officers currently do not have direct access to this information. Importantly, the OLS is unable to determine the manner in which direct access to this information will be provided to law enforcement officials, as well as the degree to which this process may differ from current practices. Accordingly, the OLS is unable to determine the magnitude of these cost increases, although the OLS also expects these expenses to be wholly or partially supported using existing staff and resources.



The bill also requires the MVC and Attorney General to engage in certain activities to raise awareness about the registry. Specifically, the bill requires the MVC to undertake a public awareness campaign and coordinate with other executive agencies concerning the use of the registry. Additionally, the bill requires the Attorney General to take appropriate steps to raise awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers concerning the proper use of the registry. In both cases, these requirements are expected to increase State expenditures. However, because these expenditures will depend on the manner in which these activities are implemented, the OLS is unable to quantify the fiscal impact of these requirements. Regardless, the OLS expects the MVC and Attorney General to satisfy these requirements using existing resources.

*Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications*

*Analyst: Joseph A. Pezzulo  
Senior Research Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# SENATE, No. 2666

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 16, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into “Next-of-Kin Registry.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/9/2022)

S2666 VITALE, CORRADO

2

1 AN ACT concerning the "Next-of-Kin Registry" and amending  
2 P.L.2011, c.47.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 1. a. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
10 Commission shall develop an emergency contact information  
11 registry program. Under the program, the chief administrator shall  
12 establish and maintain an automated Statewide registry to be known  
13 as the "Next-of-Kin Registry," which shall be capable of storing  
14 emergency contact information to be accessible by law enforcement  
15 officials for the purposes established in section 2 of P.L.2011, c.47  
16 (C.39:4-134.3). Under the program, the holder of any New Jersey  
17 State validated permit or probationary or basic driver's license may  
18 voluntarily submit the name and telephone number of two  
19 emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of any  
20 vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit holder  
21 or licensee to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" **【either】** through an in-  
22 person application, through the commission's website, or by mail  
23 and the holder of any New Jersey non-driver identification card may  
24 voluntarily submit the name and telephone number of two  
25 emergency contacts to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" **【either】** through  
26 an in-person application, through the commission's website, or by  
27 mail.

28 b. In implementing this program, the chief administrator shall  
29 establish a process whereby the holder of any validated permit,  
30 probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver identification  
31 card may:

32 (1) electronically sign onto the commission's web site using: (a)  
33 the holder's validated permit or probationary or basic driver's  
34 license number to submit the name and telephone number of up to  
35 two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
36 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
37 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry;" or (b)  
38 the holder's non-driver identification card number to submit the  
39 name and telephone number of up to two emergency contacts to be  
40 stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; **【or】**

41 (2) (a) for the holder of any validated permit or probationary or  
42 basic driver's license, submit the name and telephone number of up  
43 to two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
44 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
45 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" by

**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 underlined thus is new matter.

1 mail using paper applications provided by the commission in the  
2 commission's customer service facilities or through commission  
3 mailings; or (b) for the holder of any non-driver identification card,  
4 submit the name and telephone number of up to two emergency  
5 contacts to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" by mail using  
6 paper applications provided by the commission in the commission's  
7 customer service facilities or through commission mailings; or

8 (3) (a) for the holder of any validated permit or probationary or  
9 basic driver's license, use an application in-person at a commission  
10 agency location to submit the name and telephone number of up to  
11 two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
12 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
13 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; or

14 (b) for the holder of any non-driver identification card, use an  
15 application in-person at a commission agency location to submit the  
16 name and telephone number of up to two emergency contacts to be  
17 stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry."

18 A permit holder, licensee, or non-driver identification card  
19 holder who submits the name and telephone number of an  
20 emergency contact or vehicle identification number shall have the  
21 opportunity to revise or update the emergency contact and vehicle  
22 identification number information at any time. The commission  
23 shall automatically prompt a person applying for a validated permit,  
24 probationary driver's license, or initial driver's license or non-  
25 driver identification card, or renewing a driver's license or non-  
26 driver identification card, to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin  
27 Registry" in accordance with the provisions of this section.

28 c. Information in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" shall be available  
29 for the exclusive use of law enforcement officials, and employees of  
30 the commission who are designated by the chief administrator, for  
31 the purposes of discharging their duties pursuant to P.L.2011, c.47  
32 (C.39:4-134.2 et al.). Law enforcement officials shall have direct  
33 access to the information in the registry. Any emergency contact or  
34 vehicle identification number information submitted to the  
35 commission shall not be considered a government record pursuant  
36 to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5  
37 et al.), or the common law concerning access to public records and  
38 shall not be discoverable as a government record by any person,  
39 entity, or governmental agency, except upon a subpoena issued by a  
40 grand jury or a court order in a criminal matter.

41 d. The chief administrator and employees of the commission  
42 who are designated by the chief administrator, for the purposes of  
43 discharging their duties pursuant to P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2 et  
44 al.), shall not be liable to any person for civil damages, or subject to  
45 criminal prosecution resulting from or caused by: (1) any disruption  
46 or failure in Internet service caused by any accident, malfunction,  
47 act of sabotage or God, or any other condition or circumstance that  
48 the commission has not, directly or indirectly, caused and which  
49 results in, or prevents, the holder of any New Jersey State validated

1 permit, probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver  
2 identification card from accessing, or inputting information into, the  
3 "Next-of-Kin Registry" or which results in, or prevents, the chief  
4 administrator and designated commission employees and law  
5 enforcement officers from accessing, establishing, or maintaining  
6 the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; (2) any misuse of, or the failure or  
7 omission to input accurate information, or the inputting of  
8 inaccurate or outdated information into the "Next-of-Kin Registry"  
9 by any holder of any New Jersey State validated permit,  
10 probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver identification  
11 card; or (3) the inability of any law enforcement officer to make  
12 contact, in good faith, with any designated emergency contact  
13 person. This limitation of liability is inapplicable if such failure  
14 resulted from a malicious purpose or a wanton and willful disregard  
15 for the safety of persons or property.

16 e. The commission shall coordinate with all other appropriate  
17 executive branch departments and agencies for the purpose of  
18 raising public awareness about the "Next-of-King Registry" and  
19 raising awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on  
20 the proper use of the registry.

21 f. For the purposes of P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2 et al.),  
22 "emergency contact person" or "emergency contact" means a  
23 person, eighteen years of age or older, whom the holder of any New  
24 Jersey State validated permit, probationary or basic driver's license,  
25 or non-driver identification card has designated to be contacted by  
26 law enforcement personnel when the permit holder, licensee, or  
27 non-driver identification card holder is rendered unable to  
28 communicate due to a motor vehicle accident resulting in the  
29 serious bodily injury, death, or incapacitation of the permit holder,  
30 licensee, or non-driver identification card holder. An "emergency  
31 contact person" or "emergency contact" may or may not be the  
32 next-of-kin of the permit holder, licensee, or non-driver  
33 identification card holder; except that if the permit holder, licensee,  
34 or card holder is under the age of eighteen and is not emancipated,  
35 the emergency contact person shall be the parent or guardian of that  
36 permit holder, licensee, or card holder.

37 (cf: P.L.2017, c.382, s.1)

38

39 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month  
40 following enactment but the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey  
41 Motor Vehicle Commission shall take such anticipatory action in  
42 advance thereof for the timely implementation of this act.

43

44

45

STATEMENT

46

47 This bill requires the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission  
48 (commission) to allow individuals to submit information for the  
49 "Next-of-King Registry" in-person at commission agencies. The

**S2666 VITALE, CORRADO**

5

1 bill requires the commission to automatically prompt any individual  
2 who is applying for a validated permit, probationary driver's  
3 license, or new or renewal driver's license or non-driver  
4 identification card to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin  
5 Registry." The bill provides that law enforcement officials are to  
6 have direct access to the information in the registry, meaning law  
7 enforcement officials will not need to access the information  
8 through an intermediary.

9 The bill also requires the commission to coordinate with other  
10 executive branch departments and agencies to raise public  
11 awareness about the registry and the raise awareness among law  
12 enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry.

# SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 2666**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 9, 2022

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2666.

As amended and reported, this bill requires the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to allow individuals to submit information for the “Next-of-Kin Registry” in person at commission agencies. The bill requires the commission to automatically prompt any individual who is applying for a validated permit, probationary driver’s license, or new or renewal driver’s license or non-driver identification card to enter information for the “Next-of-Kin Registry.” The bill provides that law enforcement officials are to have direct access to the information in the registry, meaning law enforcement officials will not need to access the information through an intermediary.

The bill also requires the commission to coordinate with other executive branch departments and agencies to raise public awareness about the registry and the raise awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the commission is required to prompt a person renewing a driver’s license or non-driver identification card to enter information in the “Next-of-Kin Registry” if the person is renewing a license or non-driver identification card in person at a commission agency location or online through the commission’s Internet website. The committee amendments make grammatical corrections and correct a reference to the “Next-of-Kin Registry.”

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2666**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 27, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2666 (1R).

This bill requires the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to allow individuals to submit information for the “Next-of-Kin Registry” in person at commission agencies. The bill requires the commission to automatically prompt any individual who is applying for a validated permit, probationary driver’s license, or new or renewal driver’s license or non-driver identification card to enter information for the “Next-of-Kin Registry.” The bill provides that law enforcement officials are to have direct access to the information in the registry, meaning law enforcement officials will not need to access the information through an intermediary.

The bill also requires the commission to coordinate with other executive branch departments and agencies to raise public awareness about the registry and the raise awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.



# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 2666 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 5, 2022

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into "Next-of-Kin Registry."
- Type of Impact:** State expenditure increase.
- Agencies Affected:** New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill would result in a small cost increase to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC). However, the OLS is unable to quantify the anticipated cost increase.
- This bill requires the MVC to allow the submission of emergency contact information in person at commission agency locations and to prompt a person applying for certain identification documents to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin Registry" when applying in person or online. These requirements should result in a small but indeterminate cost increase for the commission, which should largely be able to be satisfied by existing MVC staff and resources.
- The bill also provides that law enforcement officials are required to have direct access to information in the registry and the commission is required to coordinate with other executive branch departments and agencies to raise awareness regarding the registry. The OLS is unable to determine the cost of providing direct access to information in the registry to law enforcement officials. The State would likely incur a small but indeterminate cost increase to coordinate an awareness campaign regarding the registry.

### BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the MVC to automatically prompt an applicant for a validated permit, probationary driver's license, initial driver's license, initial non-driver identification card, renewal

driver's license, or renewal non-driver identification card to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin Registry" maintained by the commission. The MVC is required to prompt the applicant if the application is done in person or online. The bill also requires the commission to allow an individual to submit emergency contact information in person at a commission agency.

The bill provides that law enforcement officials are required to have direct access to information in the registry. The bill requires the MVC to coordinate with all other appropriate executive branch departments and agencies to raise public awareness about the registry and to raise awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that this bill would result in a small cost increase to the MVC. However, the OLS is unable to quantify the anticipated cost increase.

Allowing for the submission of information to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" in person at MVC facilities merely represents a new method of submitting information that is already processed by the commission. Accordingly, existing MVC staff should be able to implement this portion of the legislation. Similarly, requiring the MVC to prompt in-person applicants to submit information to the registry should be able to be implemented by existing commission staff. However, requiring that online applicants be prompted to submit information to the registry may require some technological modification to the commission's existing online application process. The OLS finds that this will result in a small but indeterminate cost to the MVC.

Currently, law enforcement officials have access to the information in the registry. The bill provides that law enforcement officials are to have direct access. The OLS is unable to determine how the MVC will provide direct access to law enforcement officials and to what degree this differs from how the information in the registry is currently accessible to law enforcement officials. Accordingly, the OLS is unable to determine the cost of this requirement.

The bill also requires the commission to coordinate with other appropriate executive branch departments and agencies for the purpose of raising awareness about the "Next-of-Kin Registry" and raising awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry. An awareness campaign such as this depends on how an executive branch agency chooses to implement it; however, the cost is generally small and much of the work can be produced by existing staff with existing resources.

*Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications*

*Analyst: Philip Mersinger  
Lead Counsel*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

09/15/2022

**TRENTON** – Today, Governor Murphy signed the following bills and resolutions into law:

**A-2021/S-1138 (Conaway, Benson/Gopal)** - Requires embryo storage facilities to record and report health information of patients in manner that is consistent with certain federal laws

**A-3329/S-994 (McKnight/Ruiz)** - Requires BPU to conduct study of effect of coronavirus 2019 pandemic on local and public utility service and to quarterly collect and publish certain local and public utility service and customer information

**A-3694/S-1800 (Moen, McKnight/Gopal, Stanfield)** - Establishes “Purple Star Schools Program” in DOE to recognize schools which emphasize importance of assisting children of military families

**A-4127/S-2743 (Stanley, Spearman, Murphy/Greenstein, Singleton)** - Mandates access to periodic cancer screening examinations for professional firefighters not enrolled in SHBP; makes appropriation

**A-4254/S-2852 (Coughlin, Karabinchak, Kennedy, Lopez/Diegnan)** - Excludes electricity supplied to recycled materials manufacturing facilities from renewable energy portfolio standards

**A-4373/S-2900 (Calabrese, Speight/Sarlo)** - Permits municipal emergency management coordinators to reside within reasonable proximity to municipality in which they are employed

**AJR-57/SJR-47 (Moen, Mukherji, Dancer/Beach, Cruz-Perez)** - Expresses support for commissioning of SSN-796, U.S.S. New Jersey, in New Jersey

The Governor vetoed the following bills:

**A-793/S-1427 (Timberlake, Tucker, Reynolds-Jackson/Gill, Turner)** – **CONDITIONAL** - Creates “Community Wealth Preservation Program”; expands access for certain buyers to purchase property from sheriff’s sales

[Copy of Statement](#)

**A-3149/S-438 (McKeon, Dancer, Benson/Smith, Codey)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Changes entity responsible for management of NJ School of Conservation to nonprofit organization, and directs DOE to request funding for center annually

[Copy of Statement](#)

**A-4101/S-2666 (Lopez, Coughlin/Vitale, Corrado)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into “Next-of-Kin Registry

[Copy of Statement](#)

**A-4107/S-2768 (Schaer, Conaway, Verrelli/Vitale, Singer)** - **CONDITIONAL** - Makes various changes concerning regulation of emergency medical services; establishes mobile integrated health program and new State Emergency Medical Services Medical Director in DOH

[Copy of Statement](#)

**A-2676/S-1212 (McClellan/Testa)** – **ABSOLUTE** - Revises permitting thresholds for certain types of development requiring CAFRA permit from DEP



**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4101**  
**(First Reprint)**

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4101 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

Assembly Bill No. 4101 (First Reprint) amends P.L.2017, c.328, also known as "Sara's Law," in an effort to increase awareness and utilization of the "Next of Kin Registry" ("the Registry") maintained by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission ("MVC"). The Registry, which is designated for the exclusive use of law enforcement and designated MVC employees and accessible by State law enforcement officials, stores emergency contact information and the vehicle information numbers of permit, driver's license, and non-driver identification holders. The bill would enhance the Registry by enabling New Jersey drivers and non-driver identification holders to submit information to the Registry through an in-person application at MVC agency locations; currently, they may only submit the information through MVC's website or by mail. The bill also requires MVC to automatically prompt those applying for or renewing a permit, driver's license, or non-driver identification card in-person or online to enter information into the Registry. In addition, the bill requires law enforcement officials, including local law enforcement, to be granted "direct access to the information in the registry." Finally, the bill directs MVC to coordinate with other Executive Branch departments and agencies to raise public awareness about the Registry and awareness among law enforcement on how to properly use the registry.

I applaud the bill's sponsors for their commitment to expanding opportunities to submit information to the Registry and for expanding law enforcement's direct access to the Registry. The Registry is a valuable tool that enables first responders to quickly contact an injured or incapacitated person's loved ones following an accident.

I thus wholeheartedly support the bill's goals of facilitating in-person applications to the Registry at MVC agency locations and increasing awareness of the Registry among the public and law enforcement officials.

I have concerns, however, with some of the mechanisms mandated by the bill. First, although it is sensible for MVC to automatically prompt a person who has engaged in an online transaction to submit information to the Registry, I am concerned that requiring an automatic prompt during appointments at MVC agency locations would add another step to in-person transactions and result in undue delays. Accordingly, I am suggesting an amendment that would replace the requirement for MVC to automatically prompt individuals to submit information to the Registry during in-person transactions with a requirement that MVC automatically prompt those who have used MVC's website to schedule certain in-person appointments to submit information to the Registry.

Second, I am concerned about expanding access to the Registry without appropriate safeguards in place, given the personal information contained in the Registry. I am thus suggesting minor amendments to make clear that the Chief Administrator of MVC, in consultation with the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police ("NJSP"), may develop reasonable restrictions and conditions on access to the Registry by law enforcement. Finally, although MVC is the appropriate entity to lead any public awareness efforts with respect to the Registry, the Department of Law and Public Safety is best suited to educate law enforcement officers. My suggested amendments accordingly make the Attorney General, in consultation with the Superintendent of NJSP, responsible for raising awareness of the Registry among law enforcement agencies and officers.

I once again applaud the bill's sponsors for their commitment to the Registry and thank them for their collaboration and collegiality with respect to this bill. My suggested amendments will

ensure that the sponsors' principal goals are achieved, while also addressing my concerns related to efficiency, security, and the division of responsibilities within the Executive Branch.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 4101 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 3, Section 1, Line 24: Delete "applying" and insert "who has used the commission's internet website to schedule an appointment to apply"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 26: After "card, or" insert "who is"

Page 3, Section 1, Lines 27-28: Delete "in person at a commission agency location or"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 35: Delete "Law" and insert "The commission shall afford law"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 35: Delete "officials shall have" and insert "officers with"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 36: After "registry" insert ", provided that the chief administrator, in consultation with the Superintendent of State Police, may impose reasonable restrictions and conditions on such access"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 20: After "e." insert "(1)"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 20: After "shall" insert "engage in a public awareness campaign and"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 23: After "Registry" insert "."

Page 4, Section 1, Line 23: Delete "and raising" and insert "(2) The Attorney General, in consultation with the Superintendent of State Police, shall take appropriate steps to raise"

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4101**  
(First Reprint)

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4101 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

Assembly Bill No. 4101 (First Reprint) amends P.L.2017, c.328, also known as "Sara's Law," in an effort to increase awareness and utilization of the "Next of Kin Registry" ("the Registry") maintained by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission ("MVC"). The Registry, which is designated for the exclusive use of law enforcement and designated MVC employees and accessible by State law enforcement officials, stores emergency contact information and the vehicle information numbers of permit, driver's license, and non-driver identification holders. The bill would enhance the Registry by enabling New Jersey drivers and non-driver identification holders to submit information to the Registry through an in-person application at MVC agency locations; currently, they may only submit the information through MVC's website or by mail. The bill also requires MVC to automatically prompt those applying for or renewing a permit, driver's license, or non-driver identification card in-person or online to enter information into the Registry. In addition, the bill requires law enforcement officials, including local law enforcement, to be granted "direct access to the information in the registry." Finally, the bill directs MVC to coordinate with other Executive Branch departments and agencies to raise public awareness about the Registry and awareness among law enforcement on how to properly use the registry.

I applaud the bill's sponsors for their commitment to expanding opportunities to submit information to the Registry and for expanding law enforcement's direct access to the Registry. The Registry is a valuable tool that enables first responders to quickly contact an injured or incapacitated person's loved ones following an accident.



I thus wholeheartedly support the bill's goals of facilitating in-person applications to the Registry at MVC agency locations and increasing awareness of the Registry among the public and law enforcement officials.

I have concerns, however, with some of the mechanisms mandated by the bill. First, although it is sensible for MVC to automatically prompt a person who has engaged in an online transaction to submit information to the Registry, I am concerned that requiring an automatic prompt during appointments at MVC agency locations would add another step to in-person transactions and result in undue delays. Accordingly, I am suggesting an amendment that would replace the requirement for MVC to automatically prompt individuals to submit information to the Registry during in-person transactions with a requirement that MVC automatically prompt those who have used MVC's website to schedule certain in-person appointments to submit information to the Registry.

Second, I am concerned about expanding access to the Registry without appropriate safeguards in place, given the personal information contained in the Registry. I am thus suggesting minor amendments to make clear that the Chief Administrator of MVC, in consultation with the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police ("NJSP"), may develop reasonable restrictions and conditions on access to the Registry by law enforcement. Finally, although MVC is the appropriate entity to lead any public awareness efforts with respect to the Registry, the Department of Law and Public Safety is best suited to educate law enforcement officers. My suggested amendments accordingly make the Attorney General, in consultation with the Superintendent of NJSP, responsible for raising awareness of the Registry among law enforcement agencies and officers.

I once again applaud the bill's sponsors for their commitment to the Registry and thank them for their collaboration and collegiality with respect to this bill. My suggested amendments will ensure that the sponsors' principal goals are achieved, while also

addressing my concerns related to efficiency, security, and the division of responsibilities within the Executive Branch.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 4101 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 3, Section 1, Line 24: Delete "applying" and insert "who has used the commission's internet website to schedule an appointment to apply"

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Page 3, Section 1, Line 35: Delete "Law" and insert "The commission shall afford law"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 35: Delete "officials shall have" and insert "officers with"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 36: After "registry" insert ", provided that the chief administrator, in consultation with the Superintendent of State Police, may impose reasonable restrictions and conditions on such access"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 20: After "e." insert "(1)"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 20: After "shall" insert "engage in a public awareness campaign and"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 23: After "Registry" insert "."

Page 4, Section 1, Line 23: Delete "and raising" and insert "(2) The Attorney General, in consultation with the Superintendent of State Police, shall take appropriate steps to raise"

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor