

(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)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Murphy signs MVC bills to ease long lines." The Star-Ledger (Newark, NJ), September 11, 2020: 003.

"Gov wants to speed up traffic at MVC offices." The Jersey Journal (Jersey City, NJ), September 9, 2020: 003.

"MVC EXTENDS DEADLINES, MAKES OFFER FOR SENIORS," The Record, September 12, 2020

RWH/CL

P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 77, *approved September 10, 2020*
Assembly, No. 4486 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning ¹driver's licenses and identification cards and¹
2 temporary service measures for certain New Jersey Motor
3 Vehicle Commission customers in response to the COVID-19
4 public health emergency and state of emergency ¹, and amending
5 P.L.1979, c.261 and P.L.1980, c.47¹.
6

7 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
8 of New Jersey:
9

10 ¹**[**1. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.39:3-10 and section
11 4 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.5) to the contrary, any holder of a
12 driver's license or non-driver identification card, which shall expire
13 on or before January 1, 2022, and who is 65 years of age or older on
14 the effective date of this act shall not be required to renew the
15 driver's license or identification card until January 2, 2022.**]**¹
16

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

19 1. In addition to the requirements for the form and content of a
20 motor vehicle driver's license under R.S.39:3-10 and a probationary
21 license issued under section 4 of P.L.1950, c.127 (C.39:3-13.4), on
22 and after the operative date of P.L.2001, c.391 (C.39:3-10f4 et al.),
23 each initial New Jersey license, each renewal of a New Jersey
24 driver's license, and each probationary license shall have a digitized
25 photograph of the licensee. All licenses issued on and after January
26 1, 2000 shall be valid for a period of 48 calendar months. However,
27 the chief administrator may, at the chief administrator's discretion,
28 issue licenses and endorsements that shall expire on a date fixed by
29 the chief administrator. The fee for those licenses or endorsements
30 shall be fixed in amounts proportionately less or greater than the fee
31 otherwise established. Notwithstanding the provisions of this
32 section to the contrary, a person 70 years of age or older may elect
33 to have a license issued for a period of two or four years, which
34 election shall not be altered by the chief administrator. The fee for
35 the two-year standard license shall be \$9, in addition to the fee for a
36 digitized photograph established in section 4 of P.L.2001, c.391
37 (C.39:3-10f4). The fee for a two-year REAL ID license shall be
38 \$14.50, in addition to the fee for a digitized photograph established
39 in section 4 of P.L.2001, c.391 (C.39:3-10f4). The chief

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:

¹Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted August 24, 2020.

1 administrator may, for good cause, extend a license and any
2 endorsement thereon beyond their expiration dates for periods not
3 to exceed 12 additional months. The chief administrator may
4 extend the expiration date of a license and any endorsement thereon
5 without payment of a proportionate fee when the chief administrator
6 determines that the extension is necessary for good cause. If any
7 license and endorsements thereon are so extended, the licensee shall
8 pay upon renewal the full license fee for the period fixed by the
9 chief administrator as if no extension had been granted.

10 Each initial driver's license issued to a person under the age of
11 21 after the effective date of P.L.1999, c.28 (C.39:3-10f1 et al.)
12 shall be conspicuously distinct, through the use of color and design,
13 from the driver's licenses issued to persons 21 years of age or older.
14 The chief administrator, in consultation with the Superintendent of
15 State Police, shall determine the color and the manner in which the
16 license is designed to achieve this result. The license shall bear the
17 words "UNDER 21" in a conspicuous manner. The chief
18 administrator shall provide that, upon attaining the age of 21, a
19 licensee shall be issued a replacement driver's license or a new
20 license, as appropriate. The fee for a replacement license shall be
21 \$5 in addition to the digitized photograph fee.

22 As **【conditions】** a condition for the renewal of a driver's license,
23 the chief administrator shall provide that the photograph of a
24 licensee be updated, except that the chief administrator may elect to
25 use a stored photograph **【to renew a license for a period not**
26 **exceeding four additional years】** for two consecutive four-year
27 renewal periods for \$18 for a standard license per renewal and \$29
28 for a REAL ID license per renewal, in addition to the digitized
29 photograph fee. The chief administrator shall not use a stored
30 photograph for more than 12 years except as otherwise provided in
31 this section.

32 The holder of a standard basic driver's license who is 65 years
33 of age or older shall not be required to update the person's driver's
34 license photograph upon renewal and shall be eligible to use a
35 stored photograph for each standard driver's license renewal.

36 In addition to any other extension, the chief administrator shall
37 allow a person to use a stored photograph to renew a license for a
38 period not exceeding one year if the person presents documentation
39 by a licensed physician that the person is undergoing medical
40 treatment for an illness and the treatment results in temporary
41 changes to the person's physical characteristics. The fee for this
42 extension shall be \$18 for a standard license and \$29 for a REAL
43 ID license and the person shall not be required to pay the digitized
44 photograph fee pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2001, c.391 (C.39:3-
45 10f4).

46 Whenever a person has reconstructive or cosmetic surgery which
47 significantly alters the person's facial features, the person shall

1 notify the chief administrator who may require the photograph of
2 the licensee to be updated for \$5 in addition to the digitized
3 photograph fee.

4 Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or change any
5 expiration date on any New Jersey driver's license issued prior to
6 the operative date of P.L.2001, c.391 (C.39:3-10f4 et al.) and,
7 unless a licensee's driving privileges are otherwise suspended or
8 revoked, except as provided in R.S.39:3-10, that license shall
9 remain valid until that expiration date.

10 Specific use of the driver's license and any information stored or
11 encoded, electronically or otherwise, in relation thereto shall be in
12 accordance with P.L.1997, c.188 (C.39:2-3.3 et seq.) and the federal
13 "Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994," Pub.L.103-322.
14 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, the
15 digitized photograph or any access thereto or any use thereof shall
16 not be sold, leased, or exchanged for value.¹

17 (cf: P.L.2019, c.271, s.10)

18

19 ¹2. Section 4 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.5) is amended to read
20 as follows:

21 4. a. Except as provided in subsection b. of this section, each
22 original identification card authorized by section 2 of P.L.1980,
23 c.47 (C.39:3-29.3) shall, unless canceled earlier or otherwise
24 provided, expire during the fourth calendar year following its date
25 of issuance and on the same calendar day as the person's date of
26 birth. If the date of birth of the bearer of the identification card
27 does not correspond to a calendar day of the fourth calendar year,
28 the identification card shall expire on the last day of the birth month
29 of the bearer of the card.

30 The identification card shall be renewable upon the request of
31 the bearer of the card, pursuant to terms of license renewal
32 established by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, and
33 upon payment of a fee as required by section 6 of P.L.1980, c.47
34 (C.39:3-29.7). An identification card issued pursuant to P.L.1980,
35 c.47 (C.39:3-29.2 et seq.) to an applicant who is blind or who has a
36 disability shall be valid for the life of the holder unless canceled by
37 the holder. Cards issued prior to October 16, 1989 and valid upon
38 the effective date of P.L.1990, c.30 shall be valid for the life of the
39 holder unless canceled by the holder. Cards issued to persons with
40 blindness or disabilities between October 16, 1989 and the effective
41 date of P.L.1990, c.30, and which are valid on the effective date of
42 P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.2 et seq.), shall be made valid for the life
43 of the holder unless canceled by the holder, upon presentation of
44 proof that the person's blindness or disability existed at the time of
45 the original application. The chief administrator is authorized to
46 require periodic verification of information included on any
47 identification card issued for or valid for the life of the holder.

1 Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or change any
 2 expiration date on any New Jersey identification card issued prior to
 3 the operative date of P.L.2001, c.391 (C.39:3-10f4 et al.) and any
 4 such identification card shall remain valid until its expiration date.

5 As a condition for the renewal of an identification card, the chief
 6 administrator shall provide that the photograph of a holder of an
 7 identification card be updated, except that the chief administrator
 8 may elect to use a stored photograph for two consecutive four-year
 9 renewal periods. The chief administrator shall not use a stored
 10 photograph for more than 12 years except as otherwise provided in
 11 this section. The fee shall be \$18 for a standard identification card
 12 per renewal and \$29 for a REAL ID identification card per renewal,
 13 in addition to the digitized photograph fee.

14 The holder of a standard identification card who is 65 years of
 15 age or older shall not be required to update the person's
 16 identification card photograph upon renewal and shall be eligible to
 17 use a stored photograph for each standard identification card
 18 renewal.

19 b. If the chief administrator issues a REAL ID identification
 20 card to a person who has demonstrated authorization to be present
 21 in the United States for a period of time shorter than the standard
 22 periods of identification cards, the chief administrator shall fix the
 23 expiration date of the REAL ID identification card at a date based
 24 on the period in which the person is authorized to be present in the
 25 United States under federal immigration laws. The chief
 26 administrator may renew such REAL ID identification card only if
 27 it is demonstrated that the person's continued presence in the United
 28 States is authorized under federal law.¹

29 (cf: P.L.2019, c.271, s.17)

30

31 ¹~~2. The~~ 3. (New section) During the public health emergency
 32 and state of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor,
 33 pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and extended, where
 34 applicable, by subsequent executive orders, the¹ Chief
 35 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall
 36 reserve one day per week ¹or a certain time each day or each week¹,
 37 to be determined by the chief administrator, at ¹[all] certain¹
 38 commission agency locations¹, to be determined by the chief
 39 administrator,¹ to offer appointments ¹[for service]¹ exclusively to
 40 ¹the following individuals to register a newly purchased, newly
 41 acquired, or transferred motor vehicle:

42 (1) any person who is 65 years of age or older; and

43 (2)¹ any customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed by
 44 a licensed medical doctor or licensed osteopathic physician and
 45 evidenced by proof, in a form prescribed by the chief administrator,
 46 cannot, as a result of the medical condition, wear a mask or face

1 covering¹], during the public health emergency and state of
2 emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to
3 Executive Order No. 103 and extended, where applicable, by
4 subsequent executive orders¹.

5
6 ¹[3.]¹ 4.¹ This act shall take effect immediately and ¹section 3
7 of this act¹ shall expire ¹[on January 2, 2022] at the end of the
8 public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus disease 2019
9 (COVID-19), either: upon the expiration of Executive Order No.
10 103 of 2020 and any subsequent executive orders extending the
11 public health emergency; or, in the absence of a rescission by the
12 Governor, upon the termination in any other manner of the declared
13 public health emergency¹.

14

15

16

17

18 Authorizes MVC to use stored driver's license or identification
19 card photo for longer than eight years; limits certain appointment
20 times at MVC locations to senior citizens and persons with certain
21 medical conditions during COVID-19 pandemic.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4486

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

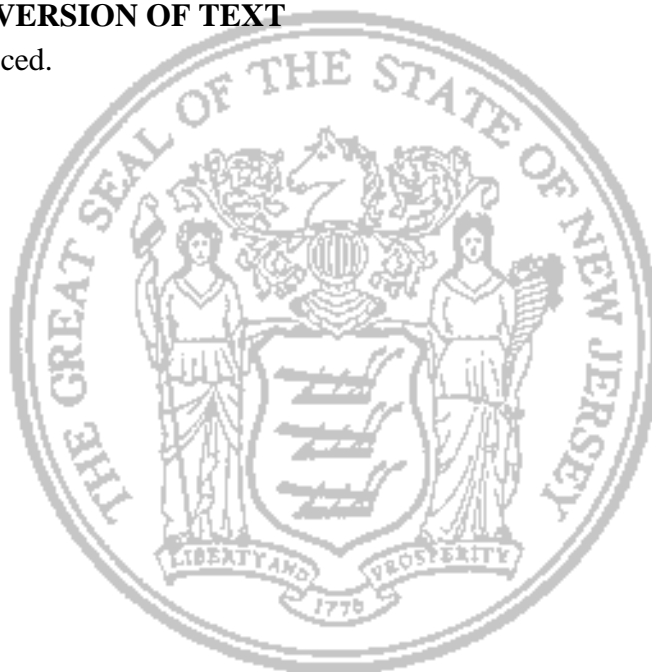
Assemblymen McGuckin, Catalano, Freiman and Johnson

SYNOPSIS

Extends expiring drivers' licenses and identification cards for senior citizens; limits certain appointment times at MVC locations to persons with certain medical conditions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/24/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning temporary service measures for certain New
2 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission customers in response to the
3 COVID-19 public health emergency and state of emergency.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.39:3-10 and section 4
9 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.5) to the contrary, any holder of a
10 driver's license or non-driver identification card, which shall expire
11 on or before January 1, 2022, and who is 65 years of age or older on
12 the effective date of this act shall not be required to renew the
13 driver's license or identification card until January 2, 2022.
14

15 2. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
16 Commission shall reserve one day per week, to be determined by
17 the chief administrator, at all commission agency locations to offer
18 appointments for service exclusively to any customers who, due to a
19 medical condition diagnosed by a licensed medical doctor or
20 licensed osteopathic physician and evidenced by proof, in a form
21 prescribed by the chief administrator, cannot, as a result of the
22 medical condition, wear a mask or face covering, during the public
23 health emergency and state of emergency declared on March 9,
24 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and
25 extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders.
26

27 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on
28 January 2, 2022.
29
30

31 STATEMENT
32

33 This bill provides temporary service measures, in response to the
34 COVID-19 public health emergency and state of emergency, for
35 certain New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission)
36 customers until January 2, 2022.

37 The bill extends the expiration date on all driver's licenses and
38 non-driver identification cards expiring on or before January 1,
39 2022 to January 2, 2022 for persons who are 65 years of age or
40 older when the provisions of the bill take effect.

41 The bill also requires the commission to reserve one day per
42 week, to be determined by the chief administrator, at all
43 commission agency locations to offer appointments for service
44 exclusively to customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed
45 by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician and
46 evidenced by proof, in form prescribed by the Chief Administrator
47 of the commission, cannot wear masks or face coverings.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4486

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: AUGUST 24, 2020

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4486 (1R).

This bill extends the validity of all driver's license and identification card photographs from eight years to 12 years. Under current law, driver's licenses and identification cards are valid for four years and the Chief Administrator (chief administrator) of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) is authorized to use a stored photograph to renew a driver's license and identification card for a period not exceeding four additional years.

Under the bill, the chief administrator may elect to use a stored photograph for two consecutive four-year renewal periods, but is prohibited from using a stored photograph for more than 12 years except as otherwise provided by law. The bill provides that a person who is issued a standard basic driver's license or standard identification card and who is 65 years of age or older, is not required to update the person's photograph upon renewal and is eligible to use a stored photograph for each standard driver's license or standard identification card renewal.

The bill requires the chief administrator, during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to reserve one day per week or a certain time each day or each week, to be determined by the chief administrator, at certain commission agency locations to offer appointments exclusively to the following individuals to register a newly purchased, newly acquired, or transferred motor vehicle: (1) senior citizens, and (2) customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician and evidenced by proof, in a form prescribed by the chief administrator, cannot wear masks or face coverings.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services finds that the bill will lower State costs by allowing the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to utilize stored digital pictures for driver's license renewals for a longer period than would otherwise be allowed. This will reduce the cost of taking additional pictures at agencies and allow more transactions to take place online, while still permitting the MVC to collect the \$6

digitized picture fee. The MVC may realize increased costs due to the requirement that certain time be set aside weekly for senior citizens and at-risk populations to conduct transactions at MVC agencies during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT
AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 4486

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: AUGUST 24, 2020

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4486.

As amended and reported, this bill extends the validity of all driver's license and identification card photographs from eight years to 12 years. Under current law, driver's licenses and identification cards are valid for four years and the Chief Administrator (chief administrator) of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) is authorized to use a stored photograph to renew a driver's license and identification card for a period not exceeding four additional years.

Under the bill, the chief administrator may elect to use a stored photograph for two consecutive four-year renewal periods, but is prohibited from using a stored photograph for more than 12 years except as otherwise provided by law. The bill provides that a person who is issued a standard basic driver's license or standard identification card and who is 65 years of age or older, is not required to update the person's photograph upon renewal and is eligible to use a stored photograph for each standard driver's license or standard identification card renewal.

The bill requires the chief administrator, during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to reserve one day per week or a certain time each day or each week, to be determined by the chief administrator, at certain commission agency locations to offer appointments exclusively to the following individuals to register a newly purchased, newly acquired, or transferred motor vehicle: (1) senior citizens, and (2) customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician and evidenced by proof, in a form prescribed by the chief administrator, cannot wear masks or face coverings.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to remove the provision extending the validity of driver's licenses and non-driver identification cards to January 2, 2022. The amendments instead provide that the chief

administrator may use stored photos to renew driver's licenses and non-driver identification cards for two consecutive four-year renewal periods, allowing the stored photos to be used for a maximum total of 12 years. The amendments provide that stored photos may be used indefinitely for individuals over the age of 65 who are holders of a standard basic driver's license or standard identification card.

The amendments also provide that the chief administrator may designate a certain time each day or each week to offer appointments for certain services exclusively to certain individuals and may decide which agency locations are to provide these appointments. The amendments provide that these appointments are only to be available in order to register a newly purchased, newly acquired, or transferred motor vehicle.

The bill was amended to provide that senior citizens are included in the group of individuals who may visit a commission agency location during a day or time reserved for certain individuals and to clarify that the appointments reserved for certain individuals are only to be provided during the COVID-19 public health emergency and state of emergency.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4486

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: AUGUST 31, 2020

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Authorizes MVC to use stored driver's license or identification card photo for longer than eight years; limits certain appointment times at MVC locations to senior citizens and persons with certain medical conditions during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Type of Impact:** Decreased annual State cost.
- Agencies Affected:** New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Cost Decrease	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that the bill will lower annual State costs by allowing the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to utilize stored digital pictures for driver's license renewals for a longer period than would otherwise be allowed. This will reduce the cost of taking additional pictures at agencies and allow more transactions to take place online, while still permitting the MVC to collect the \$6 digitized picture fee.
- The MVC may potentially realize temporary increased costs due to the requirement that certain times be set aside weekly for senior citizens and at-risk populations to conduct transactions at MVC agencies during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The MVC is currently working through a backlog of transactions, and if those special hours result in a lower level of customer traffic, it can limit progress in resolving that backlog. The cost impact of this provision is indeterminate and will depend on the hours set, traffic during those hours, and other resultant decision about how to manage agency operations.
- The overall impact of the bill will likely be to reduce MVC operating costs, with digitized pictures being used for a longer duration likely having a much greater impact on costs than the temporary provision of special hours for seniors and at-risk populations.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill extends the validity of all driver's license and identification card photographs from eight years to twelve years. Under current law, driver's licenses and identification cards are valid for four years and the Chief Administrator of the MVC is authorized to use a stored photograph to renew a driver's license and identification card for a period not exceeding four additional years.

Under the bill, the chief administrator may elect to use a stored photograph for two consecutive four-year renewal periods, but is prohibited from using a stored photograph for more than twelve years except as otherwise provided by law. The bill provides that a person who is issued a standard basic driver's license or standard identification card and who is 65 years of age or older, is not required to update the person's photograph upon renewal and is eligible to use a stored photograph for each standard driver's license or standard identification card renewal.

The bill requires the chief administrator, during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to reserve one day per week or a certain time each day or each week, to be determined by the chief administrator, at certain commission agency locations to offer appointments exclusively to the following individuals to register a newly purchased, newly acquired, or transferred motor vehicle: (1) senior citizens, and (2) customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician and evidenced by proof, in a form prescribed by the chief administrator, cannot wear masks or face coverings.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds that the bill will lower annual State costs by allowing the MVC to utilize stored digital pictures for driver's license renewals for a longer period than is currently allowed. When the MVC uses stored digital pictures for driver's license renewals that will reduce staff time needed to take additional pictures at agencies. If the volume of pictures taken is reduced by enough, it may even allow the agencies to maintain less digitized picture equipment when the current technology needs to be replaced. The reuse of digitized pictures will also allow more transactions to take place online, with online transactions having lower marginal costs than in-person MVC transactions. The revenue realized by the MVC is unlikely to be impacted, though, because the bill continues to provide for the same standard and REAL ID license renewal rates, including the \$6 digitized picture fee.

The magnitude of cost savings are unclear because OLS does not have access to the operational information necessary to determine the difference in marginal costs between an in-agency license renewal and an on-line license renewal, or the total number of license holders that will choose to renew online rather than in-person once that option becomes available. It is also not possible to determine how many times senior citizens will be able to continue utilizing stored pictures. There are currently 6.5 million licensed drivers in the State with licenses that are valid for four year periods, and on average a picture will now only need to be retaken every twelve years rather than eight years. Depending upon the per transaction savings, given the size of the licensed driver base, every \$1 in per transaction savings would be expected to generate \$270,000 in average annual

savings based on a picture lasting twelve years compared to eight years. Not retaking the pictures of senior citizens would provide even greater savings.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency the bill requires the Chief Administrator to create special times reserved for senior citizens and at-risk populations to conduct transactions at the MVC. The bill provides the MVC with discretion to determine the times, places, and scope of these opportunities. Further, there is no way to determine the utilization level of agencies when these yet to be determined times are offered. This makes a discreet determination of the impact on MVC operating costs impossible. It should be noted, though, that the MVC is currently experiencing a transaction backlog due to the time when the agencies were closed due to the pandemic. If customer volume during these reserved periods is lower than average, it can inhibit the ability of the MVC to reduce that backlog unless it is also accompanied by extending operating hours at some other time.

The overall impact of the bill will likely be to reduce MVC operating costs, with digitized pictures being used for a longer duration likely having a much greater impact than the temporary provision of special hours for seniors and at-risk populations.

Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications

*Analyst: Patrick Brennan
Principal Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
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. 2747

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 28, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators A.M.Bucco, Corrado, T.Kean and Holzapfel

SYNOPSIS

Extends expiring drivers' licenses and identification cards for senior citizens; limits certain appointment times at MVC locations to persons with certain medical conditions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/10/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning temporary service measures for certain New
2 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission customers in response to the
3 COVID-19 public health emergency and state of emergency.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.39:3-10 and section 4
9 of P.L.1980, c.47 (C.39:3-29.5) to the contrary, any holder of a
10 driver's license or non-driver identification card, which shall expire
11 on or before January 1, 2022, and who is 65 years of age or older on
12 the effective date of this act shall not be required to renew the
13 driver's license or identification card until January 2, 2022.
14

15 2. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
16 Commission shall reserve one day per week, to be determined by
17 the chief administrator, at all commission agency locations to offer
18 appointments for service exclusively to any customers who, due to a
19 medical condition diagnosed by a licensed medical doctor or
20 licensed osteopathic physician and evidenced by proof, in a form
21 prescribed by the chief administrator, cannot, as a result of the
22 medical condition, wear a mask or face covering, during the public
23 health emergency and state of emergency declared on March 9,
24 2020 by the Governor, pursuant to Executive Order No. 103 and
25 extended, where applicable, by subsequent executive orders.
26

27 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on
28 January 2, 2022.
29
30

31 STATEMENT
32

33 This bill provides temporary service measures, in response to the
34 COVID-19 public health emergency and state of emergency, for
35 certain New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission)
36 customers until January 2, 2022.

37 The bill extends the expiration date on all driver's licenses and
38 non-driver identification cards expiring on or before January 1,
39 2022 to January 2, 2022 for persons who are 65 years of age or
40 older when the provisions of the bill take effect.

41 The bill also requires the commission to reserve one day per
42 week, to be determined by the chief administrator, at all
43 commission agency locations to offer appointments for service
44 exclusively to customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed
45 by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician and
46 evidenced by proof, in form prescribed by the Chief Administrator
47 of the commission, cannot wear masks or face coverings.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2747

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: AUGUST 10, 2020

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2747.

As amended and reported, this bill provides temporary service measures, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and state of emergency, for certain New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) customers.

The bill extends the expiration date on all driver's licenses and non-driver identification cards expiring on or before January 1, 2022 to January 2, 2022 for persons who are 65 years of age or older on January 1, 2022.

The bill also requires the Chief Administrator of the commission to reserve one day per week or a certain time each day or each week, to be determined by the chief administrator, at certain commission agency locations to offer appointments exclusively to the following individuals to register a newly purchased or newly acquired motor vehicle: (1) senior citizens, and (2) customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician and evidenced by proof, in form prescribed by the chief administrator, cannot wear masks or face coverings.

The committee amended the bill to provide that a person who is 65 years of age or older on January 1, 2022 and has a driver's license or non-driver identification card that is set to expire on or before January 1, 2022, is not required to renew the person's driver's license or identification card until January 2, 2022.

The amendments also provide that the chief administrator may designate a certain time each day or each week to offer appointments for service exclusively for certain individuals and may decide which agency locations are to provide these appointments. The amendments provide that these appointments are only to be available in order to register a newly purchased or newly acquired motor vehicle.

The bill was amended to provide that senior citizens are included in the group of individuals who may visit a commission agency location during a day or time reserved for certain individuals and to clarify that the appointments reserved for certain individuals are only to be provided during the COVID-19 public health emergency and state of emergency.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2747

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: AUGUST 24, 2020

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2747 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill extends the validity of all driver's license and identification card photographs from eight years to 12 years. Under current law, driver's licenses and identification cards are valid for four years and the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) is authorized to use a stored photograph to renew a driver's license and identification card for a period not exceeding four additional years.

Under the bill, the chief administrator may elect to use a stored photograph for two consecutive four-year renewal periods, but is prohibited from using a stored photograph for more than 12 years except as otherwise provided by law. The bill provides that a person who is issued a standard basic driver's license or standard identification card and who is 65 years of age or older, is not required to update the person's photograph upon renewal and is eligible to use a stored photograph for each standard driver's license or standard identification card renewal.

The bill requires the chief administrator, during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to reserve one day per week or a certain time each day or each week, to be determined by the chief administrator, at certain commission agency locations to offer appointments exclusively to the following individuals to register a newly purchased, newly acquired, or transferred motor vehicle: (1) senior citizens, and (2) customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician and evidenced by proof, in a form prescribed by the chief administrator, cannot wear masks or face coverings.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to remove the provision extending the validity of driver's licenses and non-driver identification cards to January 2, 2022. The amendments instead provide that the chief administrator may use stored photos to renew driver's licenses and

non-driver identification cards for two consecutive four-year renewal periods, allowing the stored photos to be used for a maximum total of 12 years. The amendments provide that stored photos may be used indefinitely for individuals over the age of 65 who are holders of a standard basic driver's license or standard identification card.

The amendments also provide that the appointments for certain services that are offered exclusively to certain individuals are to include appointments to register a transferred motor vehicle.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services finds that the bill will lower State costs by allowing the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to utilize stored digital pictures for driver's license renewals for a longer period than would otherwise be allowed. This will reduce the cost of taking additional pictures at agencies and allow more transactions to take place online, while still permitting the MVC to collect the \$6 digitized picture fee. The MVC may realize increased costs due to the requirement that certain time be set aside weekly for senior citizens and at-risk populations to conduct transactions at MVC agencies during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2747

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: AUGUST 31, 2020

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Authorizes MVC to use stored driver's license or identification card photo for longer than eight years; limits certain appointment times at MVC locations to senior citizens and persons with certain medical conditions during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Type of Impact:** Decreased annual State cost.
- Agencies Affected:** New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Cost Decrease	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) finds that the bill will lower annual State costs by allowing the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to utilize stored digital pictures for driver's license renewals for a longer period than would otherwise be allowed. This will reduce the cost of taking additional pictures at agencies and allow more transactions to take place online, while still permitting the MVC to collect the \$6 digitized picture fee.
- The MVC may potentially realize temporary increased costs due to the requirement that certain times be set aside weekly for senior citizens and at-risk populations to conduct transactions at MVC agencies during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The MVC is currently working through a backlog of transactions, and if those special hours result in a lower level of customer traffic, it can limit progress in resolving that backlog. The cost impact of this provision is indeterminate and will depend on the hours set, traffic during those hours, and other resultant decision about how to manage agency operations.
- The overall impact of the bill will likely be to reduce MVC operating costs, with digitized pictures being used for a longer duration likely having a much greater impact on costs than the temporary provision of special hours for seniors and at-risk populations.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill extends the validity of all driver's license and identification card photographs from eight years to twelve years. Under current law, driver's licenses and identification cards are valid for four years and the Chief Administrator of the MVC is authorized to use a stored photograph to renew a driver's license and identification card for a period not exceeding four additional years.

Under the bill, the chief administrator may elect to use a stored photograph for two consecutive four-year renewal periods, but is prohibited from using a stored photograph for more than twelve years except as otherwise provided by law. The bill provides that a person who is issued a standard basic driver's license or standard identification card and who is 65 years of age or older, is not required to update the person's photograph upon renewal and is eligible to use a stored photograph for each standard driver's license or standard identification card renewal.

The bill requires the chief administrator, during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to reserve one day per week or a certain time each day or each week, to be determined by the chief administrator, at certain commission agency locations to offer appointments exclusively to the following individuals to register a newly purchased, newly acquired, or transferred motor vehicle: (1) senior citizens, and (2) customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician and evidenced by proof, in a form prescribed by the chief administrator, cannot wear masks or face coverings.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS finds that the bill will lower annual State costs by allowing the MVC to utilize stored digital pictures for driver's license renewals for a longer period than is currently allowed. When the MVC uses stored digital pictures for driver's license renewals that will reduce staff time needed to take additional pictures at agencies. If the volume of pictures taken is reduced by enough, it may even allow the agencies to maintain less digitized picture equipment when the current technology needs to be replaced. The reuse of digitized pictures will also allow more transactions to take place online, with online transactions having lower marginal costs than in-person MVC transactions. The revenue realized by the MVC is unlikely to be impacted, though, because the bill continues to provide for the same standard and REAL ID license renewal rates, including the \$6 digitized picture fee.

The magnitude of cost savings are unclear because OLS does not have access to the operational information necessary to determine the difference in marginal costs between an in-agency license renewal and an on-line license renewal, or the total number of license holders that will choose to renew online rather than in-person once that option becomes available. It is also not possible to determine how many times senior citizens will be able to continue utilizing stored pictures. There are currently 6.5 million licensed drivers in the State with licenses that are valid for four year periods, and on average a picture will now only need to be retaken every twelve years rather than eight years. Depending upon the per transaction savings, given the size of the licensed driver base, every \$1 in per transaction savings would be expected to generate \$270,000 in average annual

savings based on a picture lasting twelve years compared to eight years. Not retaking the pictures of senior citizens would provide even greater savings.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency the bill requires the Chief Administrator to create special times reserved for senior citizens and at-risk populations to conduct transactions at the MVC. The bill provides the MVC with discretion to determine the times, places, and scope of these opportunities. Further, there is no way to determine the utilization level of agencies when these yet to be determined times are offered. This makes a discreet determination of the impact on MVC operating costs impossible. It should be noted, though, that the MVC is currently experiencing a transaction backlog due to the time when the agencies were closed due to the pandemic. If customer volume during these reserved periods is lower than average, it can inhibit the ability of the MVC to reduce that backlog unless it is also accompanied by extending operating hours at some other time.

The overall impact of the bill will likely be to reduce MVC operating costs, with digitized pictures being used for a longer duration likely having a much greater impact than the temporary provision of special hours for seniors and at-risk populations.

Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications

*Analyst: Patrick Brennan
Principal Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
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 Signs Legislation Extending MVC Deadlines and Streamlining Processes During Pandemic

09/10/2020

TRENTON – Governor Murphy today signed legislation (A4486) which authorizes the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to use stored driver's license or identification card photos for longer than eight years and limits certain appointment times at MVC locations to senior citizens and persons with certain medical conditions during COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor also signed A4520, which temporarily extends deadlines to register vehicles and obtain driver's licenses for new State residents during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

"The temporary, but necessary closure of our MVC facilities earlier this year has resulted in an undeniable burden on many residents," **said Governor Murphy**. "Under the leadership of Chief Administrator Sue Fulton, the MVC has made great progress in providing residents with the services that they need, under unprecedented circumstances. This legislation will reduce wait times and allow our vulnerable populations to have the access they need to obtain critical services."

"Over the past year we've more than doubled our online transactions; A4486 will allow even more New Jerseyans to 'Skip the Trip' to Motor Vehicle Centers," **said MVC Chief Administrator Sue Fulton**. We continue to work collaboratively with our legislative partners and the Governor's office to overcome the obstacles posed by COVID-19, reduce wait times, and keep New Jerseyans on the road."

Primary Sponsors of A4486 include Assemblymembers Daniel R. Benson, Valerie Vainieri Huttle, and Aura K. Dunn, and Senators Patrick J. Diegnan Jr., and Nicholas P. Scutari.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, businesses across the nation have designated seniors-only hours for elderly residents. I am pleased the MVC will now do the same," **said Assemblyman Benson**. "With designated appointment times, seniors will be able to access MVC services while largely avoiding crowds. Additionally, extending the time the MVC can use stored photos to update driver's licenses will limit the number of times seniors need to visit the MVC amid this public health crisis."

"Seniors are at a higher risk of experiencing complications from COVID-19. As a result, many are exercising an abundance of caution when it comes to going out in public," **said Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle**. "Allowing seniors to use stored photos to update their licenses will reduce the amount of trips they need to make to the MVC, and designating specific 'senior hours' at agencies will limit their exposure to the public during the pandemic."

"As we work through these unprecedented times it is important that we mitigate the need to be physically present at MVC locations," **said Senator Diegnan**. "These laws will help MVC locations function more efficiently, reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19, and accommodate our seniors and immunocompromised so they are not forced to risk their health over a visit to the MVC."

"As we continue to work through this public health crisis, it is imperative we take an agency-wide look at the MVC's operations to ensure all possible steps are being taken to protect the public, especially our most vulnerable residents," **said Senator Scutari**. "It is vital that we provide relief by loosening regulations in order to achieve maximum efficiency during these tough times, extending deadlines is a simple way to aid our residents and cut down lines."

A4486 extends the validity of all driver's license and identification card photographs from a maximum of eight years to a maximum of 12 years. The bill further allows residents 65 years of age or older to be eligible to use a stored photograph for each standard driver's license or standard identification card renewal. The legislation also requires the chief administrator, during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to reserve one day per week or a certain time each day or each week, to be determined by the chief administrator, at certain commission agency locations to offer appointments exclusively to the following individuals to register a newly purchased, newly

acquired, or transferred motor vehicle: (1) senior citizens, and (2) customers who, due to a medical condition diagnosed by a licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician and evidenced by proof, in a form prescribed by the chief administrator, cannot wear masks or face coverings.

Primary sponsors of A4520 include Assemblymembers Daniel R. Benson, Anthony S. Verelli, and Ralph R. Caputo, and Senators Patrick J. Diegnan Jr., and Shirley K. Turner.

"While the pandemic put many things on hold, we still need the ability to get new driver's licenses or register vehicles during this crisis," **said Assemblyman Benson**. "We have to do whatever it takes to fix the MVC, so you don't have to camp out overnight or wait all day at an agency just to get these simple tasks done. This law will give many drivers relief, while helping the MVC eliminate its backlog."

"New residents who've just moved to New Jersey cannot update their documentation online," **said Assemblyman Verelli**. "With only two months to register vehicles and get new licenses, new residents are rushing to MVC agencies to get their new information squared away. By doubling the amount of time they'll have to visit the MVC, we'll make the process easier on the agency and residents alike during these difficult times."

"The MVC won't be able to clear its backlog overnight," **said Assemblyman Caputo**. "One way we can help alleviate this burden is by staggering when new residents need to visit the MVC. This law will grant this flexibility to new residents, which in turn will give the MVC some much-needed relief."

"It has been two months since the MVC offices reopened and they are still struggling to overcome the backlog that accumulated during their closure," **said Senator Turner**. "This extension will provide greater leeway for new residents of the state, allowing them to avoid the long lines and postpone registering their vehicle and obtaining a New Jersey license."

A4520 provides that a person who is allowed to operate a motor vehicle as a non-resident has 120 days (up from 60 days) to obtain a New Jersey driver's license and to register a motor vehicle upon becoming a resident of the State, if that person becomes a resident during the Coronavirus 2019 public health emergency, which is defined as the period of time during which Executive Order No. 103 of 2020, and any subsequent executive order extending the public health emergency, is in effect.

The legislation will take effect immediately.

This Week In New Jersey: September 11, 2020

09/11/2020



Governor Murphy And First Lady Tammy Murphy Commemorate 19Th Anniversary Of September 11Th Attacks At National 9/11 Memorial And Museum Ceremony

Governor Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy, along with national, state, and local leaders, attended the 2020 Commemoration Ceremony for the 19th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks. United States and New Jersey flags were lowered in tribute to the victims of the attacks.

“The September 11th terrorist attacks occurred nineteen years ago, but the pain and sorrow are still fresh,” **said Governor Murphy**. “We will never forget the lives cut short that day, and the first responders who selflessly saved so many more from perishing.”

[VIEW PHOTOS:](#)

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Designating Juneteenth As A State And Public Holiday

Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation (S19), which designates the third Friday in June as a State and public holiday, known as Juneteenth Day.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas to inform enslaved people of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation and their freedom.

“It gives me great pride to celebrate emancipation and New Jersey’s great diversity by designating Juneteenth as an official State holiday.” **said**

Governor

Murphy. “Commemorating this date is just one component of our collective approach to end a generational cycle of pain and injustice that has gone on for far too long. Every

Juneteenth, we will celebrate the end of the physical chains which once held Black Americans down. While more work lies ahead to undo the oppression that remains, Juneteenth is important marker that reminds us of our mission to create a society that enables our Black communities to achieve the full equality which they deserve.”

“Juneteenth is a reminder that centuries later, not all of us are treated equally and that freedom and democracy are not a given. Our fight for civil rights and freedom from discrimination and oppression continues today,” **said Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs.** “Now, Juneteenth will forever be observed and celebrated so that we can collectively reflect upon the indelible mark that slavery has left on our country as we fight for meaningful reforms. I commend and thank Governor Murphy and the legislators who have chosen to make Juneteenth a State holiday.”

“I am a direct descendant of slavery. My great grandmother, my great-great grandmother, that is my family. It is not even a past stain,” **said SZA.** “It is a current reality that we are living through the post traumatic slave syndrome, the PTSD, and the effects of that currently, right now. Thank you, Governor Murphy for this.”

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Governor Murphy Visits Sharon Elementary School In Robbinsville

Governor Murphy visited Sharon Elementary School in Robbinsville to tour COVID-19 guideline compliant classroom spaces and other facilities for safe, in-person learning.

[VIEW PHOTOS:](#)



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keep New Jerseyans on the road.”

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Governor Murphy Highlights Baby Bonds Proposal In Revised FY 2021 Budget

Governor Phil Murphy joined with legislators, faith leaders, and community advocates to highlight the importance of the Baby Bonds initiative in his Revised Fiscal Year 2021 Budget, which will provide a \$1,000 deposit into an account for every baby born into a household with income less than 500 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (\$131,000 for a family of four) in 2021.



Advanced at the federal level by U.S. Senator Cory Booker and prominent economists, the proposal is a critical investment to address longstanding economic and race-based wealth disparities that have only been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“While COVID-19 has had an enormous financial impact on many New Jersey families, it has laid bare systemic inequities that have disproportionately denied families of color an equal chance to achieve upward mobility,” **said Governor Murphy**. “To emerge from this crisis as a stronger, fairer, and more resilient state, we need to lay the foundation for the next generation of New Jerseyans to secure their spot in the middle class and break the cycle of economic inequality.”

“We are seeing wealth inequality at its highest point in decades, which is severely limiting equal opportunity for many Americans,” **said U.S. Senator Cory Booker**. “In a country as wealthy as ours, every child should have an opportunity to build assets, create wealth, and achieve upward mobility. As I continue working to address the racial wealth gap on the federal level, I applaud Governor Murphy for prioritizing economic inequality and introducing this bold proposal aimed at leveling the playing field for children in New Jersey growing up in low-income families.”

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