

39:3-54.7

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2005 **CHAPTER:** 34

NJSA: 39:3-54.7 (Permits certain emergency management volunteers-to display emergency warning lights)

BILL NO: S543 (Substituted for A327/1659)

SPONSOR(S): Vitale and others

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Law and Public Safety
SENATE: Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** March 29, 2004

SENATE: January 24, 2005

DATE OF APPROVAL: February 25, 2005

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) 2nd reprint enacted

S543

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 4 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: [ASSEMBLY:](#) [Yes](#)

[SENATE:](#) [Yes](#)

[FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:](#) [Yes](#)

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A3271/1659

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT \(A3271\):](#) (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT \(A1659\):](#) (Begins on page 4 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: [ASSEMBLY:](#) [Yes](#)

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

No

IS 3/2/07

P.L. 2005, CHAPTER 34, *approved February 25, 2005*
Senate, No. 543 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the use of emergency warning lights and sirens by
2 certain emergency management volunteers and amending the title
3 and body of P.L.1977, c.223,
4

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

8 1. The title of P.L.1977, c.223 is amended to read as follows:

9 **AN ACT** relating to emergency warning lights for members of
10 volunteer fire companies **[and]**, volunteer first aid or rescue
11 squads, and volunteer Offices of Emergency Management,
12 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and
13 repealing P.L.1971, c.352.

14 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, Title)
15

16 2. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.7) is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 1. a. An active member in good standing of any of the following
19 organizations may display, on a motor vehicle operated by that
20 member, an emergency warning light or lights as provided in this act:

21 (1) a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue
22 squad recognized by and rendering service in any municipality; or

23 (2) any county or municipal volunteer Office of Emergency
24 Management recognized by and rendering service in any county or
25 municipality. **[may display on any motor vehicle driven by him an**
26 **emergency warning light or lights as provided in this act]** provided the
27 member's official duties include responding to a fire or emergency call.

28 b. The¹**[Director of Motor Vehicles]** Chief Administrator of the
29 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission¹ shall not require the member
30 to specify on which motor vehicles the emergency warning light or
31 lights may be mounted.

32 (cf: P.L.1995, c.37, .s.1)
33

34 3. Section 5 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.11) is amended to read
35 as follows:

36 5. a. The¹**[Director of Motor Vehicles]** Chief Administrator of
37 the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission¹ shall prepare suitable

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SLP committee amendments adopted January 26, 2004.

² Senate floor amendments adopted March 22, 2004.

1 identification cards bearing the signature of the ¹[director] chief
2 administrator¹ which, upon the request of the mayor or chief executive
3 officer of any municipality recognizing and being served by a volunteer
4 fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad on a form and in
5 a manner prescribed by the ¹[director] chief administrator¹, shall be
6 forwarded to the mayor or chief executive officer, to be countersigned
7 and issued by the mayor or chief executive officer to the members in
8 good standing of the volunteer fire company or first aid or rescue
9 squad.

10 b. Identification cards issued pursuant to this section and sections
11 5 and 6 of P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____ and C. _____) (now pending before the
12 Legislature as this bill) shall be considered permits to display and
13 operate emergency warning lights as provided for in this act and shall
14 apply to any motor vehicle driven by the member of a volunteer fire
15 company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad or a volunteer
16 Office of Emergency Management. Emergency warning lights shall
17 not be mounted prior to the issuance of the identification cards. Each
18 member of a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or
19 rescue squad or a volunteer Office of Emergency Management must
20 carry the identification card while an emergency warning light or lights
21 are displayed on his vehicle.

22 (cf: P.L.1995, c.37, s.2)

23

24 4. Section 6 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.12) is amended to read
25 as follows:

26 6. Nothing contained herein is intended to grant to any member of
27 a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad or
28 a volunteer Office of Emergency Management any privileges or
29 exemptions denied to the drivers of other vehicles, and such members
30 displaying emergency warning lights shall drive with due regard for the
31 safety of all persons and shall obey all the traffic laws of this State,
32 provided, however, that the drivers of non-emergency vehicles upon
33 any highway shall yield the right of way to the vehicle of any member
34 of a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad
35 or a volunteer Office of Emergency Management displaying emergency
36 warning lights in the same manner as is provided for authorized
37 emergency vehicles pursuant to R.S.39:4-92.

38 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, s.6)

39

40 5. (New section) An active member of a county volunteer Office
41 of Emergency Management shall submit an application for a permit to
42 the County Emergency Management Coordinator prior to displaying
43 an emergency warning light or lights pursuant to the provisions of this
44 act. The coordinator shall approve the application if the volunteer's
45 official duties require him to respond to fire or emergency calls. The
46 completed application shall be forwarded to the Director of the Board
47 of Chosen Freeholders or other appropriate authority of the county

1 that recognizes and serves the applicant's Office of Emergency
2 Management. Upon approval, the mayor or chief executive officer
3 shall forward the application to the Chief Administrator of the New
4 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission ²for issuance of the permit².

5

6 6. (New section) An active member of a municipal volunteer
7 Office of Emergency Management shall submit an application to the
8 Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator to display an
9 emergency warning light or lights pursuant to the provisions of this
10 act. The coordinator shall approve the application if the volunteer's
11 official duties require him to respond to fire or emergency calls. The
12 completed application shall be forwarded to the mayor or chief
13 executive officer of the municipality that recognizes and serves the
14 applicant's Office of Emergency Management. Upon approval, the
15 mayor or chief executive officer shall forward the application to the
16 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission for
17 issuance of the permit.

18

19 7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
20 following enactment.

21

22

23

24

25 _____
26 Permits certain emergency management volunteers to display blue
emergency warning lights on vehicles.

SENATE, No. 543

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2004 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Permits certain emergency management volunteers to display blue emergency warning lights on vehicles.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



S543 VITALE

2

1 AN ACT concerning the use of emergency warning lights and sirens by
2 certain emergency management volunteers and amending the title
3 and body of P.L.1977, c.223,
4

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

7
8 1. The title of P.L.1977, c.223 is amended to read as follows:

9 AN ACT relating to emergency warning lights for members of
10 volunteer fire companies [and], volunteer first aid or rescue
11 squads, and volunteer Offices of Emergency Management,
12 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and
13 repealing P.L.1971, c.352.

14 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, Title)
15

16 2. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.7) is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 1. a. An active member in good standing of any of the following
19 organizations may display, on a motor vehicle operated by that
20 member, an emergency warning light or lights as provided in this act:

21 (1) a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue
22 squad recognized by and rendering service in any municipality; or

23 (2) any county or municipal volunteer Office of Emergency
24 Management recognized by and rendering service in any county or
25 municipality. [may display on any motor vehicle driven by him an
26 emergency warning light or lights as provided in this act] provided the
27 member's official duties include responding to a fire or emergency call.

28 b. The Director of Motor Vehicles shall not require the member to
29 specify on which motor vehicles the emergency warning light or lights
30 may be mounted.

31 (cf: P.L.1995, c.37, s.1)
32

33 3. Section 5 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.11) is amended to read
34 as follows:

35 5. a. The Director of Motor Vehicles shall prepare suitable
36 identification cards bearing the signature of the director which, upon
37 the request of the mayor or chief executive officer of any municipality
38 recognizing and being served by a volunteer fire company or a
39 volunteer first aid or rescue squad on a form and in a manner
40 prescribed by the director, shall be forwarded to the mayor or chief
41 executive officer, to be countersigned and issued by the mayor or chief
42 executive officer to the members in good standing of the volunteer fire
43 company or first aid or rescue squad.

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

S543 VITALE

1 b. Identification cards issued pursuant to this section and sections
2 5 and 6 of P.L. , c. (C. and C.) (now pending before the
3 Legislature as this bill) shall be considered permits to display and
4 operate emergency warning lights as provided for in this act and shall
5 apply to any motor vehicle driven by the member of a volunteer fire
6 company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad or a volunteer
7 Office of Emergency Management. Emergency warning lights shall
8 not be mounted prior to the issuance of the identification cards. Each
9 member of a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or
10 rescue squad or a volunteer Office of Emergency Management must
11 carry the identification card while an emergency warning light or lights
12 are displayed on his vehicle.

13 (cf: P.L.1995, c.37, s.2)

14

15 4. Section 6 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.12) is amended to read
16 as follows:

17 6. Nothing contained herein is intended to grant to any member of
18 a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad or
19 a volunteer Office of Emergency Management any privileges or
20 exemptions denied to the drivers of other vehicles, and such members
21 displaying emergency warning lights shall drive with due regard for the
22 safety of all persons and shall obey all the traffic laws of this State,
23 provided, however, that the drivers of non-emergency vehicles upon
24 any highway shall yield the right of way to the vehicle of any member
25 of a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad
26 or a volunteer Office of Emergency Management displaying emergency
27 warning lights in the same manner as is provided for authorized
28 emergency vehicles pursuant to R.S.39:4-92.

29 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, s.6)

30

31 5. (New section) An active member of a county volunteer Office
32 of Emergency Management shall submit an application for a permit to
33 the County Emergency Management Coordinator prior to displaying
34 an emergency warning light or lights pursuant to the provisions of this
35 act. The coordinator shall approve the application if the volunteer's
36 official duties require him to respond to fire or emergency calls. The
37 completed application shall be forwarded to the Director of the Board
38 of Chosen Freeholders or other appropriate authority of the county
39 that recognizes and serves the applicant's Office of Emergency
40 Management. Upon approval, the mayor or chief executive officer
41 shall forward the application to the Director of the Division of Motor
42 Vehicles for issuance of the permit.

43

44 6. (New section) An active member of a municipal volunteer
45 Office of Emergency Management shall submit an application to the
46 Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator to display an

S543 VITALE

1 emergency warning light or lights pursuant to the provisions of this
2 act. The coordinator shall approve the application if the volunteer's
3 official duties require him to respond to fire or emergency calls. The
4 completed application shall be forwarded to the mayor or chief
5 executive officer of the municipality that recognizes and serves the
6 applicant's Office of Emergency Management. Upon approval, the
7 mayor or chief executive officer shall forward the application to the
8 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles for issuance of the permit.

9

10 7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
11 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

15

16 Under this bill a member of a volunteer Office of Emergency
17 Management would be permitted to display blue emergency warning
18 lights on a motor vehicle if the member's official duties include
19 responding to a fire or emergency call.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]
SENATE, No. 543

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 2, 2004

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 543 (2R).

Senate Bill No. 543 (2R) permits an active member in good standing of a volunteer Office of Emergency Management to display blue emergency warning lights on a motor vehicle if the member's official duties include responding to a fire or emergency call and the member has an identification card prepared by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission that authorizes the display and operation of emergency warning lights.

The bill states that members of a county volunteer Office of Emergency Management must submit an application for a permit to the County Emergency Management Coordinator. Members of a municipal volunteer Office of Emergency Management must submit an application to the Municipal Emergency Management coordinator.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 543 (2R) is identical to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 3271 and 1659, also reported by the committee on this same day.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND VETERANS'
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 543

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 26, 2004

The Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 543.

This bill permits an active member in good standing of a volunteer Office of Emergency Management to display blue emergency warning lights on a motor vehicle if the member's official duties include responding to a fire or emergency call and the member has an identification card prepared by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission that authorizes the display and operation of emergency warning lights. This bill also establishes the procedures for applying for and approving such permits. Currently, only members of volunteer fire companies and volunteer first aid or rescue squads are statutorily authorized to display and use such emergency lights.

Finally, the bill requires other vehicles to yield to vehicles displaying the blue lights authorized by this bill, as they would to other authorized emergency vehicles.

The amendments make technical changes to the bill that could not be made as part of the technical review process. The amendments update references to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2004 legislative session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 543

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed By Senator VITALE)

ADOPTED: MARCH 22, 2004

This bill permits an active member in good standing of a volunteer Office of Emergency Management to display blue emergency warning lights on a motor vehicle if the member's official duties include responding to a fire or emergency call and the member has an identification card prepared by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission that authorizes the display and operation of emergency warning lights. This bill also establishes the procedures for applying for and approving such permits.

This Senate amendment clarifies that the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission issues the permit to approved county applicants.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3271

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman JOAN M. QUIGLEY

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Permits certain emergency management volunteers to display emergency warning lights on vehicles.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning emergency warning lights and supplementing
2 chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. a. An active, volunteer member in good standing of a county or
8 municipal Office of Emergency Management recognized by and
9 rendering service in any county or municipality who possesses a valid
10 permit issued pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)(now pending
11 before the Legislature as this act) may display an emergency warning
12 light or lights on any motor vehicle driven by the member.

13 b. An emergency warning light or lights displayed pursuant to this
14 act shall be operated only in accordance with section 2 of P.L.1977,
15 c.223 (C.39:3-54.8), meet the requirements of section 3 of P.L.1977,
16 c.223 (C.39:3-54.9) and be placed on a motor vehicle only in a manner
17 consistent with section 4 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.10).

18
19 2. a. The procedure for an active, volunteer member in good
20 standing of a county or municipal Office of Emergency Management
21 to obtain a permit to display emergency warnings lights shall be as
22 follows:

23 (1) The member shall apply to the county or municipal Emergency
24 Management Coordinator, as appropriate;

25 (2) The Emergency Management Coordinator shall verify that the
26 member's official duties require the member to respond to fire or
27 emergency calls and forward the application to the chief executive
28 officer of the county or municipality, as appropriate;

29 (3) The chief executive officer may approve the application and
30 forward a request for a permit to the chief administrator on a form and
31 in a manner approved by the chief administrator;

32 (4) The chief administrator shall prepare a suitable identification
33 card that shall bear the signature of the chief administrator and
34 forward the identification card to the requesting chief executive
35 officer;

36 (5) The chief executive shall countersign the card and issue the
37 card to the member.

38 b. Identification cards issued pursuant to this section shall be
39 considered permits to display and operate emergency warning lights as
40 provided for in this act and shall apply to any motor vehicle driven by
41 the member. Emergency warning lights shall not be mounted prior to
42 the issuance of the identification card, and each member must carry the
43 identification card while an emergency warning light is displayed on
44 the member's vehicle.

45
46 3. Nothing contained herein is intended to grant to any volunteer

1 member of a county or municipal Office of Emergency Management
2 any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other vehicles,
3 and such members displaying an emergency warning light shall drive
4 with due regard for the safety of all persons and shall obey all the
5 traffic laws of this State, provided, however, that the drivers of
6 non-emergency vehicles upon any highway shall yield the right of way
7 to the vehicle of any volunteer member of a county or municipal Office
8 of Emergency Management displaying an emergency warning light in
9 the same manner as is provided for authorized emergency vehicles
10 pursuant to R.S.39:4-92.

11

12 4. Any person authorized to display emergency warning lights
13 pursuant to this act who wilfully displays or uses such emergency
14 warning lights in violation of the provisions of this act shall be liable
15 to a penalty of not more than \$50 and his privilege to display such
16 emergency warning lights may be suspended or revoked by the chief
17 administrator. A person who is not authorized to display emergency
18 warning lights who wilfully displays or uses such emergency warning
19 lights shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$100.

20

21 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
22 following enactment.

23

24

25

STATEMENT

26

27 This bill would permit duly authorized volunteer members of a
28 county or municipal Office of Emergency Management to display blue
29 emergency warning lights on a motor vehicle. Under the provisions of
30 the bill, a volunteer member of an Office of Emergency Management
31 authorized to display emergency warning lights would have to abide
32 by the same rules regarding placement, design and use of emergency
33 warning lights as are currently applicable to members of volunteer fire
34 companies and volunteer first aid or rescue squads. A violation of the
35 rules would result in revocation of the privilege to display the lights
36 and a fine of not more than \$50.

37 To obtain a permit for emergency warning lights, a member would
38 submit an application to the municipal or county Emergency
39 Management Coordinator. The coordinator would verify that the
40 volunteer's official duties require the volunteer to respond to fire or
41 emergency calls and forward the completed application to the chief
42 executive officer of the county or municipality. Upon approval, the
43 chief executive officer would forward the application to the Chief
44 Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission. The chief
45 administrator would make the permit, sign it, and send it back to the
46 requesting chief executive officer. The chief executive officer would

A3271 VAS, QUIGLEY

4

- 1 countersign the permit and distribute it to the member.
- 2 Currently, only members of volunteer fire companies and volunteer
- 3 first aid or rescue squads are statutorily authorized to display and use
- 4 such emergency lights.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2004 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman KEVIN J. O'TOOLE

District 40 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Permits certain emergency management volunteers to display blue emergency warning lights on vehicles.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/24/2004)

1 AN ACT concerning the use of emergency warning lights and sirens by
2 certain emergency management volunteers and amending the title
3 and body of P.L.1977, c.223,

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

7
8 1. The title of P.L.1977, c.223 is amended to read as follows:

9 AN ACT relating to emergency warning lights for members of
10 volunteer fire companies [and], volunteer first aid or rescue
11 squads, and volunteer Offices of Emergency Management,
12 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and
13 repealing P.L.1971, c.352.

14 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, Title)

15

16 2. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.7) is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 1. a. An active member in good standing of any of the following
19 organizations may display, on a motor vehicle operated by that
20 member, an emergency warning light or lights as provided in this act:

21 (1) a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or rescue
22 squad recognized by and rendering service in any municipality ; or

23 (2) any county or municipal volunteer Office of Emergency
24 Management recognized by and rendering service in any county or
25 municipality. [may display on any motor vehicle driven by him an
26 emergency warning light or lights as provided in this act] provided the
27 member's official duties include responding to a fire or emergency call.

28 b. The Director of Motor Vehicles shall not require the member to
29 specify on which motor vehicles the emergency warning light or lights
30 may be mounted.

31 (cf: P.L.1995, c.37, s.1)

32

33 3. Section 5 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.11) is amended to read
34 as follows:

35 5. a. The Director of Motor Vehicles shall prepare suitable
36 identification cards bearing the signature of the director which, upon
37 the request of the mayor or chief executive officer of any municipality
38 recognizing and being served by a volunteer fire company [or], or a
39 volunteer first aid or rescue squad on a form and in a manner
40 prescribed by the director, shall be forwarded to the mayor or chief
41 executive officer, to be countersigned and issued by the mayor or chief
42 executive officer to the members in good standing of the volunteer fire
43 company or first aid or rescue squad.

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 b. Identification cards issued pursuant to this section and sections
2 5 and 6 of P.L. , c. (C. and C.) (now pending before the
3 Legislature as this bill) shall be considered permits to display and
4 operate emergency warning lights as provided for in this act and shall
5 apply to any motor vehicle driven by the member of a volunteer fire
6 company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad or a volunteer
7 Office of Emergency Management. Emergency warning lights shall
8 not be mounted prior to the issuance of the identification cards. Each
9 member of a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or
10 rescue squad or a volunteer Office of Emergency Management must
11 carry the identification card while an emergency warning light or lights
12 are displayed on his vehicle.

13 (cf: P.L.1995, c.37, s.2)

14

15 4. Section 6 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.12) is amended to read
16 as follows:

17 6. Nothing contained herein is intended to grant to any member of
18 a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squador
19 a volunteer Office of Emergency Management any privileges or
20 exemptions denied to the drivers of other vehicles, and such members
21 displaying emergency warning lights shall drive with due regard for the
22 safety of all persons and shall obey all the traffic laws of this State,
23 provided, however, that the drivers of non-emergency vehicles upon
24 any highway shall yield the right of way to the vehicle of any member
25 of a volunteer fire company [or], a volunteer first aid or rescue squad
26 or a volunteer Office of Emergency Management displaying emergency
27 warning lights in the same manner as is provided for authorized
28 emergency vehicles pursuant to R.S.39:4-92.

29 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, s.6)

30

31 5. (New section) An active member of a county volunteer Office
32 of Emergency Management shall submit an application for a permit to
33 the County Emergency Management Coordinator prior to displaying
34 an emergency warning light or lights pursuant to the provisions of this
35 act. The coordinator shall approve the application if the volunteer's
36 official duties require him to respond to fire or emergency calls. The
37 completed application shall be forwarded to the Director of the Board
38 of Chosen Freeholders or other appropriate authority of the county
39 that recognizes and serves the applicant's Office of Emergency
40 Management. Upon approval, the mayor or chief executive officer
41 shall forward the application to the Director of the Division of Motor
42 Vehicles for issuance of the permit.

43

44 6. (New section) An active member of a municipal volunteer
45 Office of Emergency Management shall submit an application to the
46 Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator to display an

1 emergency warning light or lights pursuant to the provisions of this
2 act. The coordinator shall approve the application if the volunteer's
3 official duties require him to respond to fire or emergency calls. The
4 completed application shall be forwarded to the mayor or chief
5 executive officer of the municipality that recognizes and serves the
6 applicant's Office of Emergency Management. Upon approval, the
7 mayor or chief executive officer shall forward the application to the
8 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles for issuance of the permit.

9

10 7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
11 following enactment.

12

13

14

STATEMENT

15

16 This bill would permit duly authorized officers and members of a
17 volunteer Office of Emergency Management to display blue emergency
18 warning lights on a motor vehicle.

19 Currently, only members of volunteer fire companies and volunteer
20 first aid or rescue squads are statutorily authorized to display and use
21 such emergency lights.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, Nos. 3271 and 1659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 2, 2004

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 3271 and 1659.

The Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill Nos. 3271 and 1659 permits an active member in good standing of a volunteer Office of Emergency Management to display blue emergency warning lights on a motor vehicle if the member's official duties include responding to a fire or emergency call and the member has an identification card prepared by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission that authorizes the display and operation of emergency warning lights.

The bill states that members of a county volunteer Office of Emergency Management must submit an application for a permit to the County Emergency Management Coordinator. Members of a municipal volunteer Office of Emergency Management must submit an application to the Municipal Emergency Management coordinator.

As reported by the committee, this Assembly Committee Substitute is identical to Senate Bill No. 543(2R), also reported by the committee on this same day.