#### 39:3-54.24

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

**LAWS OF**: 2007 **CHAPTER**: 242

NJSA: 39:3-54.24 (Authorizes use of logo and warning light for certain public utilities employees)

BILL NO: A3977 (Substituted for S2739)

SPONSOR(S) Scalera and Others

DATE INTRODUCED: February 8, 2007

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Law and Public Safety

**SENATE:** Transportation

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: June 11, 2007

**SENATE:** December 17, 2007

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** January 3, 2008

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First reprint enacted)

A3977

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT**: (Begins on page 3 of original bill)

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes

(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 NOTE: No

S2739

**SPONSOR'S STATEMENT**: (Begins on page 4 of original bill)

Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** ASSEMBLY: No

SENATE: Yes

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

#### **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: No

RWH 5/29/08

#### P.L. 2007, CHAPTER 242, approved January 3, 2008 Assembly, No. 3977 (First Reprint)

AN ACT concerning certain public utility employees and 1 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes <sup>1</sup>and 2 amending R.S.39:3-50<sup>1</sup>. 3

4 5

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

6 7 8

9 10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17 18

19

20

21 22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29 30

31 32

33

34

35

36

1. An authorized '[representative] employee' of a public utility company who, as part of the '[assigned] official' duties of a public utility employee, is required to use a motor vehicle owned or leased by him or a member of his family in the performance of his duties may <sup>1</sup>apply for and be issued a permit by the chief administrator authorizing the display on that motor vehicle of an amber warning light that is provided by the public utility company. <sup>1</sup>The permit for the amber warning light shall be in the possession of the public utility employee while the light is displayed on the motor vehicle. The chief administrator may cancel, suspend, or revoke a permit issued pursuant to this act whenever the conditions for its issuance no longer exist or for any other reasonable grounds. The chief administrator shall collect a \$25 fee for the initial issuance and for each subsequent renewal of the permit for each vehicle for which the applicant seeks authorization to use an amber warning light. The fees collected pursuant to this section shall be considered revenue of the commission and shall not be subject to the calculation of proportional revenue remitted to the commission pursuant to section 105 of P.L.2003, c.13 (C.39:2A-36).

The amber warning light may be operated <sup>1</sup>for the protection of the public and the public utility employee<sup>1</sup> only while the motor vehicle is being used 'on a public highway' by the authorized public utility employee <sup>1</sup>[on the way to an emergency situation or]<sup>1</sup> in the performance of <sup>1</sup>his <sup>1</sup>official duties <sup>1</sup>[when traffic safety so requires as a public utility employee<sup>1</sup>.

The amber warning lights authorized under the provisions of this act shall be temporarily attached, removable lights of the flashing or revolving type, not more than 7 1/2 inches in diameter, and shall be controlled by a switch installed inside the vehicle.

37 While in operation, the amber warning light shall be 38 conspicuously displayed on the roof of the motor vehicle.

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 ALP committee amendments adopted May 10, 2007.

Nothing herein shall be construed to grant any person displaying and operating an amber warning light pursuant to the provisions of this act any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other motor vehicles and all such persons shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and shall obey the traffic laws of this State.

2. <sup>1</sup>[An] Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1968, c.439 (C.39:3-8.1), an authorized <sup>1</sup>[representative] employee of a public utility company who, as part of the <sup>1</sup>[assigned] official duties of a public utility employee, is required to use a motor vehicle owned or leased by him or a member of his family in the performance of his duties may <sup>1</sup>[after registering with the commission] affix on that motor vehicle a magnetic sign, provided by the public utility company, that displays the corporate logo of the public utility company. <sup>1</sup>The sign shall be placed on the exterior of the front driver's side door of the motor vehicle. <sup>1</sup>

The '[logo shall only] sign may only' be displayed while the motor vehicle is 'being' used 'on a public highway' by the authorized '[representative] public utility employee' in the performance of 'his' official duties 'as a public employee, and shall be removed from the motor vehicle when the vehicle is not being used in the performance of these duties'.

3. Any person authorized to display 'an' amber '[emergency]' warning '[lights] light' or a '[corporate logo] magnetic sign' pursuant to this act, who '[intentionally] willfully' uses the '[lights] light' or '[logo] displays the sign' in violation of the provisions of this act, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than '[\$50.00] \$100' and his '[privilege] permit' to display the '[lights] light' may be 'cancelled,' suspended',' or revoked by the '[Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission] chief administrator'.

4. The <sup>1</sup>[Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission] chief administrator <sup>1</sup>, in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

<sup>1</sup>5. R.S.39:3-50 is amended to read as follows:

39:3-50. All lamps and reflectors, which display a light visible from directly in front of a vehicle as authorized by this subtitle, shall exhibit lights substantially white, yellow or amber in color.

(a) The color of light emitted or reflected by exterior lamps or reflectors on a vehicle shall be as follows, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), (c) and (d) of this section:

White when the lamp is a headlamp, or spot lamp, or illuminates a license plate or a destination sign; or is located on the outside limit of a side car or other attachment on a motor cycle;

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13 14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

3637

38

39

40

41

42

Substantially white or amber when the lamp is a side-cowl or fender lamp, running-board or other courtesy lamp, front parking lamp, back-up lamp, auxiliary driving lamp; or a turn signal on or facing the front;

Substantially red or amber when the lamp is a turn signal or a stop lamp on or facing the rear;

Red when any other lamp or any reflector is on the rear or on either side at or near the rear, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (f) of section 39:3-61 for a combination marker lamp;

Amber when any other lamp or reflector is on the front or on either side other than at or near the rear.

- (b) Lamps and reflectors on projecting loads shall emit or reflect light with color as provided in section 10 of this act.
- (c) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any street or highway equipped with any device or lamp thereon capable of or displaying a light of any other color than permitted by this section, except: an authorized emergency vehicle, an authorized school bus, or a vehicle authorized by a permit issued by the [director] chief administrator.
- (d) A permit authorizing a vehicle to be equipped with a lamp capable of or displaying a flashing light, except as provided in 39:3-54 or a light of a color other than permitted by this section, visible from directly in front of said vehicle, may be issued by the director when necessary, in his discretion, for the reasonable and safe movement of traffic. The permit shall specify the type and color of such lamp and the conditions under which a person may drive or move the vehicle with said lamp displaying a light. The permit shall be valid only when the specifications and conditions contained therein are complied with. The chief administrator shall collect a \$25 fee for the initial issuance and for each subsequent renewal of the permit for each vehicle for which the applicant seeks to use such a light, provided, however, that no fee shall be charged for a permit authorizing the use of a light that is red or blue. The fee set forth in this section shall not apply to a motor vehicle registered at no fee pursuant to R.S.39:3-27. The fees collected pursuant to this section shall be considered revenue of the commission and shall not be subject to the calculation of proportional revenue remitted to the commission pursuant to section 105 of P.L.2003, c.13 (C.39:2A-<u>36).</u>
- The director may cancel or revoke a permit issued under authority of this section whenever the conditions for its issuance no longer exist or on any other reasonable grounds.<sup>1</sup>
- 46 (cf: P.L.1964, c.136, s.3)

# **A3977** [1R]

1	<sup>1</sup> [5.] <u>6.</u> This act shall take effect <sup>1</sup> [immediately] on the first
2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
2	day of the thirteenth month after enactment <sup>1</sup> .
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	Authorizes use of logo and warning light for certain public
8	utilities employees.

### ASSEMBLY, No. 3977

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

### 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2007

**Sponsored by:** 

Assemblyman FREDERICK SCALERA
District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)
Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN
District 34 (Essex and Passaic)
Assemblyman PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.
District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblyman Conners

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes use of logo and warning light for certain public utilities employees.



**AN ACT** concerning certain public utility employees and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. An authorized representative of a public utility company who, as part of the assigned duties of a public utility employee, is required to use a motor vehicle owned or leased by him or a member of his family in the performance of his duties may display on that motor vehicle an amber warning light that is provided by the public utility company.

The amber warning light may be operated only while the motor vehicle is being used by the authorized public utility employee on the way to an emergency situation or in the performance of official duties when traffic safety so requires.

The amber warning lights authorized under the provisions of this act shall be temporarily attached, removable lights of the flashing or revolving type, not more than 7 1/2 inches in diameter, and shall be controlled by a switch installed inside the vehicle.

While in operation, the amber warning light shall be conspicuously displayed on the roof of the motor vehicle.

Nothing herein shall be construed to grant any person displaying and operating an amber warning light pursuant to the provisions of this act any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other motor vehicles and all such persons shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and shall obey the traffic laws of this State.

2. An authorized representative of a public utility company who, as part of the assigned duties of a public utility employee, is required to use a motor vehicle owned or leased by him or a member of his family in the performance of his duties may after registering with the commission affix on that motor vehicle a magnetic sign, provided by the public utility company, that displays the corporate logo of the public utility company.

The logo shall only be displayed while the motor vehicle is used by the authorized representative in the performance of official duties.

3. Any person authorized to display amber emergency warning lights or a corporate logo pursuant to this act, who intentionally uses the lights or logo in violation of the provisions of this act, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 and his privilege to display the lights may be suspended or revoked by the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission.

4. The Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure

#### A3977 SCALERA, GIBLIN

1	Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall promulgate rules
2	and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT**

This bill would permit an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to display an amber emergency warning light and a corporate logo.

Under the provisions of this bill, an authorized public utility employees would be permitted to display an amber emergency warning light when traveling to an emergency situation or if in the performance of official duties, traffic safety so requires. The bill specifies that this provision does not provide the employee any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other motor vehicles.

Further, the bill permits an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to display the public utility company's corporate logo on the side of the vehicle, provided the vehicle is being used by the authorized representative in the performance of official duties.

Under the provisions of this bill, a person who intentionally uses the lights or logo in violation of the provisions of this act is subject to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 and his privilege to display the lights may be suspended or revoked by the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission.

#### ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

#### ASSEMBLY, No. 3977

with committee amendments

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 10, 2007

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3977.

As amended, Assembly Bill No. 3977 permits an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to apply for and be issued a permit to display an amber warning light.

Under the provisions of this bill, an authorized public utility employee who is issued a permit is able to display an amber warning light for the protection of the public and the employee while the motor vehicle is being used on a public highway. The bill specifies that this provision does not provide the employee any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other motor vehicles.

Further, the bill permits an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to display a magnetic sign that displays the corporate logo of the public utility company. The sign is to be placed on the exterior front driver's side of the door of the motor vehicle, provided the vehicle is being used by the employee in the performance of his official duties.

A person who intentionally misuses the light or magnetic sign in violation of the law is subject to a penalty of not more than \$100 and his permit to display the lights may be suspended or revoked by the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission.

Finally, the bill would amend current law to allow the chief administrator to collect a \$25 fee for the initial issuance and renewals of a permit to use an amber warning light. This fee would extend to all vehicles permitted to have an amber warning light, such as private investigators, towing companies and construction companies. The fee would not extend to motor vehicles that are currently exempted from registration fees, such as vehicles owned by the State or a municipality.

#### **COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) require that the authorized public employee apply for a permit to use an amber warning light;

- (2) allow the chief administrator to cancel, suspend, or revoke the permit whenever the conditions for the permit's issuance no longer exists or for any good cause;
- (3) allow the authorized public employee to use the light only for the protection of himself and others on a public highway;
- (4) specify that the magnetic sign be placed on the exterior of the front driver's side door of the motor vehicle;
- (5) change the penalty for misuse of the amber warning light and sign from \$50 to \$100;
- (6) allow the chief administrator to collect a \$25 fee for the initial issuance and for every subsequent renewal of all permits to use an amber warning light; and
  - (7) revise the effective date.

#### SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

# [First Reprint] ASSEMBLY, No. 3977

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 3, 2007

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3977 (1R).

This bill permits an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to apply for and be issued a permit to display an amber warning light.

Under the provisions of this bill, an authorized public utility employee who is issued a permit is able to display an amber warning light for the protection of the public and the employee only while the motor vehicle is being used on a public highway. The bill specifies that this provision does not provide the employee any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other motor vehicles.

Further, the bill permits an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to display a magnetic sign that displays the corporate logo of the public utility company. The sign is to be placed on the exterior front driver's side of the door of the motor vehicle, provided the vehicle is being used by the employee in the performance of his official duties.

A person who willfully misuses the light or magnetic sign in violation of the law is subject to a penalty of not more than \$100 and his permit to display the light may be suspended or revoked by the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission.

Finally, the bill would amend current law to allow the chief administrator to collect a \$25 fee for the initial issuance and renewals of a permit to use an amber warning light. This fee would extend to all vehicles permitted to have an amber warning light, such as private investigators, towing companies and construction companies. The fee would not extend to motor vehicles that are currently exempted from registration fees, such as vehicles owned by the State or a municipality.

The provisions of this bill are identical to those of Senate Bill No. 2739, which the committee also reports this day.

### **SENATE, No. 2739**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

### 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 24, 2007

Sponsored by: Senator PAUL A. SARLO District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic) Senator GERALD CARDINALE District 39 (Bergen)

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes use of logo and warning light for certain public utilities employees.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2007)

**AN ACT** concerning certain public utility employees and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and amending R.S.39:3-50.

4 5

1

2

3

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

6 7 8

9

10

11

12

13

1415

16

17

18

19

20

2122

23

24

25

26

27

2829

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

1. An authorized employee of a public utility company who, as part of the official duties of a public utility employee, is required to use a motor vehicle owned or leased by him or a member of his family in the performance of his duties may apply for and be issued a permit by the chief administrator authorizing the display on that motor vehicle of an amber warning light that is provided by the public utility company. The permit for the amber warning light shall be in the possession of the public utility employee while the light is displayed on the motor vehicle. The chief administrator may cancel, suspend, or revoke a permit issued pursuant to this act whenever the conditions for its issuance no longer exist or for any other reasonable grounds. The chief administrator shall collect a \$25 fee for the initial issuance and for each subsequent renewal of the permit for each vehicle for which the applicant seeks authorization to use an amber warning light. The fees collected pursuant to this section shall be considered revenue of the commission and shall not be subject to the calculation of proportional revenue remitted to the commission pursuant to section 105 of P.L.2003, c.13 (C.39:2A-36).

The amber warning light may be operated for the protection of the public and the public utility employee only while the motor vehicle is being used on a public highway by the authorized public utility employee in the performance of his official duties as a public utility employee.

The amber warning lights authorized under the provisions of this act shall be temporarily attached, removable lights of the flashing or revolving type, not more than 7 1/2 inches in diameter, and shall be controlled by a switch installed inside the vehicle.

While in operation, the amber warning light shall be conspicuously displayed on the roof of the motor vehicle.

Nothing herein shall be construed to grant any person displaying and operating an amber warning light pursuant to the provisions of this act any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other motor vehicles and all such persons shall drive with due regard for the safety of all persons and shall obey the traffic laws of this State.

43 44

45

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1968, c.439 (C.39:3-8.1), an authorized employee of a public utility

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

1 company who, as part of the official duties of a public utility 2 employee, is required to use a motor vehicle owned or leased by 3 him or a member of his family in the performance of his duties may affix on that motor vehicle a magnetic sign, provided by the public 4 5 utility company, that displays the corporate logo of the public utility company. The sign shall be placed on the exterior of the front 6 7 driver's side door of the motor vehicle.

The sign may only be displayed while the motor vehicle is being used on a public highway by the authorized public utility employee in the performance of his official duties as a public employee, and shall be removed from the motor vehicle when the vehicle is not being used in the performance of these duties.

13 14

15

16 17

8

9

10

11

12

3. Any person authorized to display an amber warning light or a magnetic sign pursuant to this act, who willfully uses the light or displays the sign in violation of the provisions of this act, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$100 and his permit to display the light may be cancelled, suspended, or revoked by the chief administrator.

19 20 21

22

23

18

4. The chief administrator, in accordance with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

24 25 26

27

28 29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

5. R.S.39:3-50 is amended to read as follows:

39:3-50. All lamps and reflectors, which display a light visible from directly in front of a vehicle as authorized by this subtitle, shall exhibit lights substantially white, yellow or amber in color.

(a) The color of light emitted or reflected by exterior lamps or reflectors on a vehicle shall be as follows, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), (c) and (d) of this section:

White when the lamp is a headlamp, or spot lamp, or illuminates a license plate or a destination sign; or is located on the outside limit of a side car or other attachment on a motor cycle;

Substantially white or amber when the lamp is a side-cowl or fender lamp, running-board or other courtesy lamp, front parking lamp, back-up lamp, auxiliary driving lamp; or a turn signal on or facing the front;

Substantially red or amber when the lamp is a turn signal or a stop lamp on or facing the rear;

Red when any other lamp or any reflector is on the rear or on either side at or near the rear, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (f) of section 39:3-61 for a combination marker lamp;

Amber when any other lamp or reflector is on the front or on either side other than at or near the rear.

(b) Lamps and reflectors on projecting loads shall emit or reflect light with color as provided in section 10 of this act.

#### S2739 SARLO, CARDINALE

4

- (c) No person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any street or highway equipped with any device or lamp thereon capable of or displaying a light of any other color than permitted by this section, except: an authorized emergency vehicle, an authorized school bus, or a vehicle authorized by a permit issued by the chief administrator.
- 7 (d) A permit authorizing a vehicle to be equipped with a lamp 8 capable of or displaying a flashing light, except as provided in 39:3-9 54 or a light of a color other than permitted by this section, visible 10 from directly in front of said vehicle, may be issued by the director 11 when necessary, in his discretion, for the reasonable and safe 12 movement of traffic. The permit shall specify the type and color of 13 such lamp and the conditions under which a person may drive or 14 move the vehicle with said lamp displaying a light. The permit 15 shall be valid only when the specifications and conditions contained 16 therein are complied with. The chief administrator shall collect a 17 \$25 fee for the initial issuance and for each subsequent renewal of 18 the permit for each vehicle for which the applicant seeks to use such 19 a light, provided, however, that no fee shall be charged for a permit 20 authorizing the use of a light that is red or blue. The fee set forth in 21 this section shall not apply to a motor vehicle registered at no fee 22 pursuant to R.S.39:3-27. The fees collected pursuant to this section 23 shall be considered revenue of the commission and shall not be 24 subject to the calculation of proportional revenue remitted to the 25 commission pursuant to section 105 of P.L.2003, c.13 (C.39:2A-26 36).

The director may cancel or revoke a permit issued under authority of this section whenever the conditions for its issuance no longer exist or on any other reasonable grounds.

(cf: P.L.1964, c.136, s.3)

31

27

28

29

30

32

1

2

3

4

5

6

6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the thirteenth month after enactment.

333435

#### STATEMENT

3738

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

36

This bill permits an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to apply for and be issued a permit to display an amber warning light.

Under the provisions of this bill, an authorized public utility employee who is issued a permit is able to display an amber warning light for the protection of the public and the employee while the motor vehicle is being used on a public highway. The bill specifies that this provision does not provide the employee any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other motor vehicles.

### **S2739** SARLO, CARDINALE 5

1

2 3

4

5 6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17 18

Further, the bill permits an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to display a magnetic sign that displays the corporate logo of the public utility company. The sign is to be placed on the exterior front driver's side of the door of the motor vehicle, provided the vehicle is being used by the employee in the performance of his official duties.

A person who intentionally misuses the light or magnetic sign in violation of the law is subject to a penalty of not more than \$100 and his permit to display the lights may be suspended or revoked by the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission.

Finally, the bill would amend current law to allow the chief administrator to collect a \$25 fee for the initial issuance and renewals of a permit to use an amber warning light. This fee would extend to all vehicles permitted to have an amber warning light, such as private investigators, towing companies and construction companies. The fee would not extend to motor vehicles that are currently exempted from registration fees, such as vehicles owned by the State or a municipality.

#### SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

#### **SENATE, No. 2739**

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 3, 2007

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2739.

This bill permits an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to apply for and be issued a permit to display an amber warning light.

Under the provisions of this bill, an authorized public utility employee who is issued a permit is able to display an amber warning light for the protection of the public and the employee only while the motor vehicle is being used on a public highway. The bill specifies that this provision does not provide the employee any privileges or exemptions denied to the drivers of other motor vehicles.

Further, the bill permits an authorized public utility employee who uses a private car to display a magnetic sign that displays the corporate logo of the public utility company. The sign is to be placed on the exterior front driver's side of the door of the motor vehicle, provided the vehicle is being used by the employee in the performance of his official duties.

A person who willfully misuses the light or magnetic sign in violation of the law is subject to a penalty of not more than \$100 and his permit to display the light may be suspended or revoked by the Chief Administrator of the Motor Vehicle Commission.

Finally, the bill would amend current law to allow the chief administrator to collect a \$25 fee for the initial issuance and renewals of a permit to use an amber warning light. This fee would extend to all vehicles permitted to have an amber warning light, such as private investigators, towing companies and construction companies. The fee would not extend to motor vehicles that are currently exempted from registration fees, such as vehicles owned by the State or a municipality.

The provisions of this bill are identical to those of Assembly Bill No. 3977(1R), which the committee also reports this day.