

39:4-57.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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NJSA: 39:4-57.1 (Motor Vehicles--interior lights)

LAWS OF: 1997 **CHAPTER:** 374

BILL NO: S1235

SPONSOR(S): Zane

DATE INTRODUCED: June 3, 1996

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Law and Public Safety
SENATE: Law and Public Safety

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage denoted
First reprint enacted by superscript numbers

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** January 12, 1998
SENATE: June 5, 1997

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 19, 1998

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes
SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

KBP:pp

§1
C. 39:4-57.1
§2
Note

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 374, *approved January 19, 1998*
Senate, No. 1235 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicles and supplementing chapter 3 of
2 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. The driver of a motor vehicle equipped with an interior light,
8 when stopped by a law enforcement officer during the period when
9 lighted lamps are required, shall ¹upon request of the officer.¹
10 activate an interior light of the vehicle in order to illuminate the
11 driver's compartment of the vehicle. ¹[Any] A fine of \$50 shall be
12 imposed upon any¹ person who purposely refuses to comply with this
13 section ¹[shall be subject to a penalty of not more than \$50]¹.

14

15 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
16 following enactment.

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20

21 Requires interior light of motor vehicle be turned on when stopped by
22 police at night.

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 May 15, 1997.

SENATE, No. 1235

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1996

By Senator ZANE

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicles and supplementing chapter 3 of
2 Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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7 1. The driver of a motor vehicle equipped with an interior light,
8 when stopped by a law enforcement officer during the period when
9 lighted lamps are required, shall activate an interior light of the vehicle
10 in order to illuminate the driver's compartment of the vehicle. Any
11 person who purposely refuses to comply with this section shall be
12 subject to a penalty of not more than \$50.

13
14 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
15 following enactment.

16
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18 STATEMENT

19
20 This bill requires motorists who are stopped by police at night or
21 during times when visibility is hampered to turn on an interior light to
22 illuminate the driver's compartment of the motor vehicle. This will
23 help provide a measure of protection for police officers who often are
24 unable to see the occupants of a darkened vehicle as they approach it.
25 The bill requires motorists to activate the interior lights when stopped
26 by a police officer. The bill also requires that the \$50 fine be imposed
27 on any person who "purposely" refused to comply with the
28 requirements of the law.

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33 Requires interior light of motor vehicle be turned on when stopped by
34 police at night.

[Passed Both Houses]

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1235

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1996

By Senator ZANE, Assemblyman Zisa, Assemblywoman Weinberg, Assemblyman Dalton, Assemblywoman Buono and Assemblyman Barnes

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2 Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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5 of New Jersey:

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11 driver's compartment of the vehicle. **[Any]** A fine of \$50 shall be
12 imposed upon any¹ person who purposely refuses to comply with this
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ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1235

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 1997

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1235 (1R).

Senate Bill No. 1235 (1R) supplements chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes to require that motorists who are stopped by law enforcement officers at night, or during other times when visibility is hampered and headlights are required to be turned on, to turn on an interior light to illuminate the driver's compartment of the motor vehicle whenever requested to do so by the officer. The bill also requires that a \$50 fine be imposed on any driver who "purposely" refuses comply to with the law.

Senate Bill No. 1235 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 701, as amended by the committee.

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SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

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SENATE, No. 1235

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 15, 1997

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1235.

As amended and released by the committee, this bill requires motorists who are stopped by police at night or during times when visibility is hampered, to turn on an interior light at the request of the police officer to illuminate the driver's compartment of the motor vehicle. The bill also requires that the \$50 fine be imposed on any person who "purposely" refuses to comply with the requirements of the law.

The committee amended the bill to require that the the light be activated only upon the officer's request. The other committee amendment is technical in nature.