

39: 3-54

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 39:3-54 (Taxicabs--warning lights--permit)

LAWS OF: 1985

CHAPTER 536

BILL NO: A3188

Sponsor(s): Thompson and Brown

Date Introduced: January 28, 1985

Committee: Assembly: Law, Public Safety and Defense

Senate: Law, Public Safety and Defense

Amended during passage: No

Date of Passage: Assembly: June 24, 1985

Senate: January 13, 1986

Date of Approval: January 21, 1986

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~~ Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No



ASSEMBLY, No. 3188

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 28, 1985

By Assemblymen THOMPSON and BROWN

AN ACT concerning the permitted use of additional hazard lights on omnibuses and amending R. S. 39:3-54.

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

1 1. R. S. 39:3-54 is amended to read as follows:

2 39:3-54. *a.* Any lighted lamp or illuminating device upon a motor
3 vehicle other than a headlamp, spot lamp or auxiliary driving lamp
4 which projects a beam of light of an intensity greater than 300
5 candlepower shall be so directed that no part of the beam will strike
6 the level of the roadway on which the vehicle stands at a distance of
7 more than 75 feet from the vehicle. Flashing lights are prohibited
8 on motor vehicles, motorcycles and motor-drawn vehicles except
9 as a means for indicating a right or left turn; provided, however,
10 any vehicle may be equipped, and when required under this article
11 shall be equipped, with lamps for the purpose of warning the
12 operators of other vehicles of the presence of a vehicular traffic
13 hazard requiring the exercise of unusual care in approaching, over-
14 taking or passing, and when so equipped, shall display such warning
15 in addition to any other warning signals required by law. The lamps
16 used to display such warning shall be of a type approved by the
17 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles; those used to display
18 warning to the front shall be mounted at the same level and as
19 widely spaced laterally as practicable, and shall display simul-
20 taneously flashing white or amber lights, or any shade of color
21 between white and amber. The lamps used to display such warning
22 to the rear shall be mounted at the same level and as widely spaced

Matter printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

23 laterally as practicable, and shall show simultaneously flashing
24 amber or red lights, or any shade of color between amber and red.
25 These warning lights shall be visible from a distance of not less
26 than 500 feet at any time when lighted lamps are required. The two
27 front and two rear turn signals shall be flashed simultaneously to
28 display such warning on vehicles of the types mentioned in section
29 39:3-64.

30 *b. In addition to the flashing devices permitted in subsection a.*
31 *of this section, an omnibus may be equipped with two flashing*
32 *devices for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles*
33 *and law enforcement officials that an emergency situation exists*
34 *within the omnibus.*

35 *These devices shall be capable of activation by the operator of*
36 *the omnibus and shall be of a type approved by the Director of the*
37 *Division of Motor Vehicles.*

38 *They shall be mounted one at the front and one at the rear of the*
39 *omnibus and shall display flashing red lights which shine on the*
40 *roadway under the vehicle.*

1 2. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill permits taxicabs to be equipped with special warning lights, sometimes referred to as "hijack lights," for the purpose of warning others that a robbery, hijacking, or other emergency situation exists.

Presently, the law prohibits flashing lights on motor vehicles except for turn signals and the emergency flashers which are standard equipment.

Permitting motor vehicles which carry passengers for hire, and thus become targets of robbery, to be equipped with these special devices should help reduce the number of crimes committed against cab drivers.

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Presently, the law prohibits flashing lights on motor vehicles except for turn signals and the emergency flashers which are standard equipment.

Permitting motor vehicles which carry passengers for hire, and thus become targets of robbery, to be equipped with these special devices should help reduce the number of crimes committed against cab drivers.

ASSEMBLY LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3188

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 29, 1985

Assembly Bill No. 3188 permits omnibuses to be equipped with special warning lights, sometimes referred to as "hijack lights," for the purpose of warning others that a robbery, hijacking, or other emergency situation exists. "Omnibus" is defined in R. S. 39:1-1 as ". . . all motor vehicles used for the transportation of passengers for hire, except commuter vans and vehicles used in ride-sharing arrangements and school buses if the same are not otherwise used in the transportation of passengers for hire."

Presently, the law prohibits flashing lights on motor vehicles except for turn signals and the emergency flashers which are standard equipment.

Permitting motor vehicles which carry passengers for hire, and thus become targets of robbery, to be equipped with these special devices should help reduce the number of crimes committed against drivers of omnibuses.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 3188

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 21, 1985

The Senate Law, Public Safety and Defense Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 3188.

Assembly Bill No. 3188 permits omnibuses to be equipped with special warning lights, sometimes referred to as "hijack lights," for the purpose of warning the operators of other vehicles and law enforcement officials that an emergency, such as a robbery, is taking place inside the omnibus. The special warning lights permitted by the bill are flashing, red lights, capable of being activated by the operator, that shine on the roadway under the vehicle. The bill permits the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles to approve the type of lights permitted by the bill.

"Omnibus" is defined in R. S. 39:1-1 as a motor vehicle "used for the transportation of passengers for hire, except commuter vans and vehicles used in ride-sharing arrangements and school buses if the same are not otherwise used in the transportation of passengers for hire."

Current law prohibits flashing lights on motor vehicles except for turn signals and the emergency flashers which are standard equipment.

The purpose of the bill is to aid in the reduction of crimes committed against drivers of omnibuses.

S-1487, sponsored by Senator John Dorsey, R-Morris, to mandate a formula for the calculation of connection fees to be charged to a developer for tapping into a sewerage system or water system.

S-1657, sponsored by Senator John Ewing, R-Somerset, to exempt food management contracts from the bidding requirements for school districts.

S-2350, sponsored by Senator Edward O'Connor, D-Hudson, to make a number of technical changes in the Banking Act of 1948.

S-3436, sponsored by Senator Carmen Orechio, D-Essex, to permit a member of the Public Employees' Retirement System who had discontinued service to retain membership in the system if he returns to service within 10 years and if he has not withdrawn his pension system contribution.

A-2963, sponsored by Assemblywoman Barbara Kalik, D-Burlington, to exempt from the fees imposed by the Worker and Community right to Know Act any employer who certifies that no hazardous substances are located within his facility.

A-3013, sponsored by Assemblyman Harry McEnroe, D-Essex, to permit a municipality acting as a redevelopment agency or a local housing authority to sell property to a private developer without requiring a right of first refusal be given to the municipality.

A-3188, sponsored by Assemblyman Eugene Thompson, D-Essex, to permit omnibuses to be equipped with flashing lights to warn others that an emergency exists on the vehicle.

A-3539, sponsored by Assemblyman John Doyle, D-Ocean, to remove certain municipal and county utilities authorities from the provisions of the Civil Service law.