

39:4-131

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 39:4-131 (Police accident reports & copies--allow additional charge if requests are not in person)
LAWS 1981 CHAPTER 105
Bill No. S1277
Sponsor(s) Vreeland

Date Introduced May 15, 1980

Committee: Assembly Judiciary, Law, Public Safety & Defense
Senate Law, Public Safety & Defense

Amended during passage Yes ~~No~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly Dec. 8, 1980
Senate June 26, 1980

Date of approval April 2, 1981

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement	Yes	No (Below)
Committee Statement: Assembly	Yes	No
Senate	Yes	No
Fiscal Note	Yes	No
Veto Message	Yes	No
Message on signing	Yes	No
Following were printed:		
Reports	Yes	No
Hearings	Yes	No

Sponsor's statement:

This bill authorizes the imposition of an additional fee for copies of police accident reports when the same are requested other than in person.

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SENATE, No. 1277

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 15, 1980

By Senators VREELAND, DORSEY, KENNEDY, GRAVES,
BEDELL, GAGLIANO, CAFIERO and FORAN

Referred to Committee on Law, Public Safety and Defense

AN ACT concerning police reports of motor vehicle accidents and
amending R. S. 39:4-131.

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

1 1. R. S. 39:4-131 is amended to read as follows:

2 39:4-131. The division shall prepare and supply to police de-
3 partments and other suitable agencies, forms for accident reports
4 calling for sufficiently detailed information with reference to a
5 motor vehicle accident, including the cause, the conditions then
6 existing, the persons and vehicles involved and such information
7 as the director may require.

8 Every law enforcement officer who investigates a vehicle accident
9 of which report must be made as required in this Title, or who
10 otherwise prepares a written report as a result of an accident or
11 thereafter by interviewing the participants or witnesses, shall for-
12 ward a written report of such accident to the division, on forms
13 furnished by it, within 5 days after his investigation of the accident.

14 Such written reports required to be forwarded by law enforce-
15 ment officers and the information contained therein shall not be
16 privileged or held confidential. Every citizen of this State shall
17 have the right, during regular business hours and under super-
18 vision, to inspect and copy such reports and shall also have the
19 right***[, in person,]*** ***in person*** to purchase copies of the reports
20 at the *same** fee established by section ***[2** of P. L. 1963, c. 73
21 (C. 47:1A-2). *If copies of reports are requested other than in*
22 *person, an additional fee of up to \$5.00 may be added to cover*
23 *administrative costs.** ****[*1** of P. L. 1952, c. 117 (C. 53:2-3)*]**

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

23A ***2 of P. L. 1963, c. 73 (C. 47:1A-2). If copies of reports are re-*
23B *quested other than in person, an additional fee of up to \$5.00 for*
23C *the first three pages and \$1.00 per page thereafter may be added*
23D *to cover the administrative costs of the report**.*

24 **The provisions of any other law or regulation to the contrary*
25 *notwithstanding, reports obtained pursuant to this act shall not be*
26 *subject to confidentiality requirements except as provided by sec-*
27 *tion 28 of P. L. 1960, c. 52 (C. 2A:84A-28).**

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1277

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 24, 1980

This bill, as amended, authorizes the imposition of an additional fee for copies of police reports when they are requested other than in person. The bill was amended in committee to set the cost of police reports at up to \$5.00 for the first three pages and \$1.00 per page thereafter.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1277

with Senate committee amendments

—◆—
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
—◆—

DATED: JUNE 23, 1980

This bill authorizes the imposition of an additional fee for copies of police reports when they are requested other than in person. The bill was amended in committee at the recommendation of the Attorney General's Office to refer to the operative section for copies of reports from the State Police and would mean that a \$10.00 fee would be charged for such reports.

This bill removes any specific time restraints and allows NJPTV to operate under FCC guidelines. This permits coverage of debates between or among major candidates in the context of a regularly scheduled news or public affairs program or under the sponsorship of a private group, such as the League of Women Voters.

In addition, NJPTV plans to air profiles of all the primary candidates.

S-1277, sponsored by Senator James P. Vreeland, Jr. (R-Morris) which permits an additional fee for copies of police accident reports when requests for those reports are made by some means other than in person.

In 1980, Governor Byrne signed a law that made these reports available to the public as public information at the same charge per copy established by law for all other public records: 50¢ per page for the first 10 pages, 25¢ per page for the next 10 pages and 10¢ per page for more than 20 pages.

Municipalities, which imposed charges which varied widely throughout the state, lost money, since these fees were established in 1963 and the costs of mailing, paper reproduction and manpower have greatly increased since that time. In addition, strict enforcement of the Public Information Law requirement that these reports be picked up in person resulted in greatly increased costs for companies and individuals who wished to obtain the report.

This bill provides that if the reports are mailed, the fee will be \$5 for the first 3 pages and \$1 for each page thereafter. This will reduce the local police departments' costs.

A-1658, sponsored by Assemblyman Alan Karcher (D-Middlesex) which amends the Mortgage Assistance Bond Act to permit the Governor and the Treasurer to covenant with other bond holders that the bonds will not be devoted for mortgage on owner-occupied houses.

Federal legislation enacted in 1980 subjects such bonds to the federal income tax. Although New Jersey bonds are not being used for this purpose now, this amendment will elicit a formal bond counsel's opinion that they will continue to be tax exempt.