

39:3-61.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 39:3-61.1 (Brake lights—eye level—permits on outside of passenger car)

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 59

Bill No.: A412

Sponsor(s): Kavanaugh and Smith

Date Introduced: Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly: Transportation and Communications

Senate: Law, Public Safety and Defense

Amended during passage Yes // Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: Oct. 18, 1982

Senate: Dec. 20, 1982

Date of Approval: Feb. 7, 1983

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

Attached: Motor Vehicle safety standard 108 as mentioned in Assembly Committee Statement.

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 412

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1982 SESSION

By Assemblymen KAVANAUGH and SMITH

AN Act to amend "An act concerning motor vehicles, amending, supplementing and repealing parts of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and supplements thereto," approved July 4, 1964 (P. L. 1964, c. 136).

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

1 1. Section 7 of P. L. 1964, c. 136 (C. 39:3-61.1) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 7. Lamps and reflectors required by section 39:3-61 shall be
4 mounted on a vehicle as follows:

5 (a) Every lamp and every reflector shall be permanently and
6 securely mounted in a workmanlike maner on a permanent part
7 of the vehicle.

8 (b) When two lamps or two reflectors of the same type are
9 required on the front or on the rear of a vehicle, they shall be
10 mounted at the same level and spaced as widely laterally as
11 practicable.

12 (c) The mounted height of a lamp or reflector shall be measured
13 from the center thereof to the level surface upon which the vehicle
14 stands.

15 (d) Headlamps shall be so mounted that their beams are readily
16 adjustable, both vertically and horizontally, and their aim is not
17 readily disturbed by ordinary conditions of service.

18 (e) The mounted height of tail lamps shall be not more than
19 72 inches nor less than ***[20]*** *15* inches; *eye-level tail lamps may*

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 printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*—Assembly committee amendments adopted September 30, 1982.

20 *be mounted outside the passenger vehicle * [or on the rear console*
21 *inside the vehicle;] * provided their height does not exceed 72 inches.*

22 [provided, however, that such rear lamp or] Rear lamps may be
23 mounted higher than 72 inches on any vehicle designed for carrying
24 flammable liquids as a cargo.

25 (f) Clearance lamps shall be mounted to indicate the extreme
26 width and height of the vehicles so far as is practicable, except
27 that on a truck tractor, they shall be mounted to indicate the
28 extreme width of the cab. On flat bed vehicles and vehicles designed
29 for carrying flammable liquids, rear clearance lamps may be located
30 on the chassis, and front clearance lamps may be located on the
31 cab of trucks or truck tractors or the vehicle's chassis, provided
32 the lamps are clearly visible from a distance of 500 feet in the
33 direction set forth therefor.

34 (g) Side-marker lamps may be mounted at optional height on
35 the side of a vehicle.

36 (h) Turn signals required on the rear of a truck tractor not
37 equipped with double-faced turn signals on or near the front, shall
38 be mounted on the rear in a manner to be visible to passing drivers.

39 (i) Identification lamps shall be mounted on the front and rear
40 of the vehicle as close as practicable to the vertical center line of
41 the vehicle, and shall be grouped in a horizontal row, with lamp
42 centers spaced not less than 6 nor more than 12 inches apart;
43 provided, however, that where the cab is not more than 42 inches
44 wide at the front roof line, a single identification lamp at the
45 center line of the cab shall be deemed to comply with the require-
46 ments for front identification lamps. No part of front identification
47 lamps or their mountings may extend below the top of the vehicle
48 windshield. Rear identification lamps on a truck, trailer, or semi-
49 trailer need not be lighted if they are obscured by another vehicle
50 towed by the truck or in the same combination of vehicles.

51 (j) The mounted height of reflectors shall be not less than
52 20 inches nor more than 60 inches. Every reflector shall be so
53 installed in a workmanlike manner as to perform its function ade-
54 quately, and to provide maximum stability and minimum likelihood
55 of damage. Any reflector otherwise properly mounted may be
56 securely installed on flexible strapping or belting provided that
57 under conditions of normal operation it reflects light in the required
58 direction.

59 (k) The director in his discretion may prescribe additional re-
60 quirements for mounting lamps or reflectors on vehicles, provided
61 they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this article.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1982 SESSION

By Assemblymen KAVANAUGH and SMITH

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19 72 inches nor less than 20 inches; *eye-level tail lamps may be*
20 *mounted outside the passenger vehicle or on the rear console*
21 *inside the vehicle; provided their height does not exceed 72 inches.*

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STATEMENT

This legislation would permit eye-level brake lights to be placed inside passenger cars to promote motor vehicle safety. The National Highway Safety Administration has found eye-level brake lights have cut rear-end collisions by 54%. This bill would allow tail lights to be mounted inside a passenger vehicle, rather than outside, to prevent vandalism and theft.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 412

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 30, 1982

This legislation provided that eye-level tail lamps could be mounted outside a passenger vehicle or on the rear console inside the vehicle. The committee amended this bill to permit eye-level tail lamps to be mounted only outside a passenger vehicle.

Subsection (e) of section 7 of P. L. 1964, c. 136 presently provides that the mounted height of tail lamps shall be not more than 72 inches nor less than 20 inches. The committee also amended the bill to stipulate that the mounted height of tail lamps shall be not more than 72 inches nor less than 15 inches, which is in accordance with Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 108, a federal safety standard adopted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Division of Motor Vehicles supports the bill as amended by the committee.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 412

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 29, 1982

This bill would permit eye-level tail lamps to be mounted on the outside of a passenger vehicle, so long as their height does not exceed 72 inches, in order to promote motor vehicle safety by decreasing the number of rear-end collisions.

The bill also changes from 20 inches to 15 inches the minimum mounted height of tail lamps.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RELEASE IMMEDIATE

CONTACT PAUL WOLCOTT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1983

Governor Thomas H. Kean has signed the following bills:

S-909, sponsored by State Senator Matthew Feldman, (D-Bergen), which prohibits the possession or manufacture, with certain exceptions, of bullets capable of penetrating body armor (Bullet-Proof Vests). The bill was signed after legislative concurrence with recommendations contained in the Governor's conditional veto of the bill on September 16, 1982. The recommendations created exceptions to the law for bona fide sportsmen, collectors and licensed retailers.

A-1476, sponsored by Assemblyman Anthony M. Villane Jr., (R-Monmouth) which includes the State Treasurer as a member of the Lottery Commission.

S-534, sponsored by State Senator John H. Dorsey, (R-Morris) which provides immunity from civil liability to trained persons who provide assistance to police or other agencies in connection with accidents or other emergencies involving liquified natural gas or liquified petroleum gas.

A-412, sponsored by Assemblyman Walter J. Kavanaugh, (R-Somerset) which permits eye-level brake lights to be placed on passenger cars.

A-3076, sponsored by Assemblyman Robert C. Janiszewski, (D-Hudson) which permits certain hospitals to borrow from private sources to meet their expenses. The bill is aimed at the current problems of the Jersey City Medical Center, and will allow the Medical Center to borrow money to avoid closing its doors. The bill would permit Jersey City to guarantee the loan. It is believed that without that financial assistance, the Medical Center would be forced to close.

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