

39:3-54.7

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Volunteer firemen--
warning lights)

NJSA: 39:3-54.7

LAWS OF: 1995 **CHAPTER:** 37

BILL NO: A646

SPONSOR(S): Geist and Catania

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Judiciary, Law & Public Safety

SENATE: Law & Public Safety

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

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** March 10, 1994

SENATE: January 19, 1995

DATE OF APPROVAL: March 7, 1995

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

See newspaper clippings--attached:

"New laws aim to expand access to minorities." 3-8-95, Star Ledger.

KBG:pp

[FIRST REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 646
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1994 SESSION

By Assemblymen GEIST and CATANIA

1 AN ACT concerning certain emergency warning lights and
2 amending P.L.1977, c.223.

3

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

6 1. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.7) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 1. An active member in good standing of a volunteer fire
9 company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad recognized by
10 and rendering service in any municipality may display on [a] any
11 motor vehicle [owned] driven by him [or by a member of his
12 household] an emergency warning light or lights as provided in
13 this act. The Director of Motor Vehicles shall not require the
14 member to specify on which motor vehicles the emergency
15 warning light or lights may be mounted.

16 (cf: P.L.1979, c.71, s.1)

17 2. Section 5 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.11) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 5. The Director of Motor Vehicles shall prepare suitable
20 identification cards bearing the signature of the director which,
21 upon the request of the mayor or chief executive officer of any
22 municipality recognizing and being served by a volunteer fire
23 company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad on a form and in
24 a manner prescribed by the director, shall be forwarded to [said]
25 the mayor or chief executive officer, to be countersigned and
26 issued by [said] the mayor or chief executive officer to the
27 members in good standing of [such] the volunteer fire company or
28 first aid or rescue squad. Identification cards issued pursuant to
29 this section shall be considered permits to display and operate
30 emergency warning lights as provided for in this act [,and no
31 emergency] and shall apply to any motor vehicle driven by the
32 member of a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or
33 rescue squad. Emergency warning lights shall not be mounted
34 prior to the issuance of [such] the identification cards. Each
35 member of a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or
36 rescue squad must carry [such] the identification card while an
37 emergency warning light or lights are displayed on his vehicle.

38 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, s.5)

39 ¹3. Section 7 of P.L. 1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.13) is amended to
40 read as follows:

41 7. Any person authorized to display emergency warning lights
42 pursuant to this act who wilfully displays or uses such emergency
43 warning lights in violation of the provisions of this act [,] shall

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:

¹ Assembly AJL committee amendments adopted February 7, 1994.

1 be liable to a penalty of not more than \$50.00 and his privilege to
2 display such emergency warning lights may be suspended or
3 revoked by the Director of Motor Vehicles. A person who is not
4 authorized to display emergency warning lights who wilfully
5 displays or uses such emergency warning lights shall be liable to a
6 penalty of not more than \$100.00.¹

7 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, s.7)

8 ¹[3.] 4.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

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13 Requires emergency warning light identification card be valid for
14 any motor vehicle driven by members of volunteer fire company
15 or volunteer first aid or rescue squad; provides penalties for
16 unauthorized use.

ASSEMBLY, No. 646
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel
PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1994 SESSION

By Assemblymen GEIST and CATANIA

1 AN ACT concerning certain emergency warning lights and
2 amending P.L.1977, c.223.

3

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

6 1. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.7) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 1. An active member in good standing of a volunteer fire
9 company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad recognized by
10 and rendering service in any municipality may display on [a] any
11 motor vehicle [owned] driven by him [or by a member of his
12 household] an emergency warning light or lights as provided in
13 this act. The Director of Motor Vehicles shall not require the
14 member to specify on which motor vehicles the emergency
15 warning light or lights may be mounted.

16 (cf: P.L.1979, c.71, s.1)

17 2. Section 5 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.11) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 5. The Director of Motor Vehicles shall prepare suitable
20 identification cards bearing the signature of the director which,
21 upon the request of the mayor or chief executive officer of any
22 municipality recognizing and being served by a volunteer fire
23 company or a volunteer first aid or rescue squad on a form and in
24 a manner prescribed by the director, shall be forwarded to [said]
25 the mayor or chief executive officer, to be countersigned and
26 issued by [said] the mayor or chief executive officer to the
27 members in good standing of [such] the volunteer fire company or
28 first aid or rescue squad. Identification cards issued pursuant to
29 this section shall be considered permits to display and operate
30 emergency warning lights as provided for in this act [,and no
31 emergency] and shall apply to any motor vehicle driven by the
32 member of a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or
33 rescue squad. Emergency warning lights shall not be mounted
34 prior to the issuance of [such] the identification cards. Each
35 member of a volunteer fire company or a volunteer first aid or
36 rescue squad must carry [such] the identification card while an
37 emergency warning light or lights are displayed on his vehicle.

38 (cf: P.L.1977, c.223, s.5)

39 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

40

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STATEMENT

42

43 This bill requires that the identification card for emergency
44 warning lights used by a member of a volunteer fire company or

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.

1 volunteer first aid or rescue squad apply to any vehicle driven by
2 the member. Current regulations require that each vehicle to be
3 equipped with the warning lights be specified on the application
4 for the identification card. This bill will allow more flexibility
5 for the volunteer to use any vehicle for these emergency calls.

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10 Requires emergency warning light identification card be valid for
11 any motor vehicle driven by member of volunteer fire company or
12 volunteer first aid or rescue squad.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 646

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 7, 1994

The Assembly Judiciary, Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 646.

This bill requires that the identification card for emergency warning lights used by a member of a volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid or rescue squad apply to any vehicle driven by the member. Current regulations require that each vehicle to be equipped with the warning lights be specified on the application for the identification card. The bill amends section 1 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.7) to remove the requirement that the motor vehicle on which the light is displayed must be owned by the volunteer or a member of his family. It also amends section 5 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.11) concerning the identification card issued by DMV to provide for applicability to any motor vehicle driven by the volunteer. This bill will allow more flexibility for the volunteer to use any vehicle for emergency calls. Pursuant to section 7 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.13) a use of the emergency warning lights which violates the law by an authorized individual results in a penalty not to exceed \$50.00 and possible revocation or suspension of the privilege to display the lights.

The committee adopted amendments adding section 7 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.13) concerning the penalty provisions to the bill to include a penalty provision for unauthorized use of the emergency lights. A person who is not authorized to display emergency warning lights who wilfully displays or uses such emergency warning lights shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$100.00.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 1994 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 646

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 1, 1994

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 646 (1R).

This bill requires that the identification card for emergency warning lights used by a member of a volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid or rescue squad apply to any vehicle driven by the member. Current regulations require that each vehicle to be equipped with the warning lights be specified on the application for the identification card. The bill amends Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.7) to remove the requirement that the motor vehicle on which the light is displayed must be owned by the volunteer or a member of his family. It also amends Section 5 of P.L.1977, c.223 (C.39:3-54.11) concerning the identification card issued by DMV to provide for applicability to any motor vehicle driven by the volunteer. This bill will allow more flexibility for the volunteer to use any vehicle for emergency calls.

Under current law (Section 7 of P.L.1977, c.223; C.39:3-54.13) unauthorized use of the emergency warning lights by the volunteer results in a penalty of not more than \$50 and possible revocation or suspension of the privilege to display the lights. This bill provides that an unauthorized person who wilfully displays or uses such emergency warning lights is subject to a penalty of not more than \$100.