

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4101

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires MVC to prompt applicant for certain documents to enter information into “Next-of-Kin Registry.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



A4101 LOPEZ, COUGHLIN

2

1 AN ACT concerning the "Next-of-Kin Registry" and amending  
2 P.L.2011, c.47.

3

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

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 1. a. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
10 Commission shall develop an emergency contact information  
11 registry program. Under the program, the chief administrator shall  
12 establish and maintain an automated Statewide registry to be known  
13 as the "Next-of-Kin Registry," which shall be capable of storing  
14 emergency contact information to be accessible by law enforcement  
15 officials for the purposes established in section 2 of P.L.2011, c.47  
16 (C.39:4-134.3). Under the program, the holder of any New Jersey  
17 State validated permit or probationary or basic driver's license may  
18 voluntarily submit the name and telephone number of two  
19 emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of any  
20 vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit holder  
21 or licensee to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" **【either】** through an in-  
22 person application, through the commission's website, or by mail  
23 and the holder of any New Jersey non-driver identification card may  
24 voluntarily submit the name and telephone number of two  
25 emergency contacts to the "Next-of-Kin Registry" **【either】** through  
26 an in-person application, through the commission's website, or by  
27 mail.

28 b. In implementing this program, the chief administrator shall  
29 establish a process whereby the holder of any validated permit,  
30 probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver identification  
31 card may:

32 (1) electronically sign onto the commission's web site using: (a)  
33 the holder's validated permit or probationary or basic driver's  
34 license number to submit the name and telephone number of up to  
35 two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
36 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
37 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry;" or (b)  
38 the holder's non-driver identification card number to submit the  
39 name and telephone number of up to two emergency contacts to be  
40 stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; **【or】**

41 (2) (a) for the holder of any validated permit or probationary or  
42 basic driver's license, submit the name and telephone number of up  
43 to two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
44 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
45 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" by  
46 mail using paper applications provided by the commission in the  
47 commission's customer service facilities or through commission

**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 mailings; or (b) for the holder of any non-driver identification card,  
2 submit the name and telephone number of up to two emergency  
3 contacts to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" by mail using  
4 paper applications provided by the commission in the commission's  
5 customer service facilities or through commission mailings; or

6 (3) (a) for the holder of any validated permit or probationary or  
7 basic driver's license, use an application in-person at a commission  
8 agency location to submit the name and telephone number of up to  
9 two emergency contacts and the vehicle identification number of  
10 any vehicle owned, leased, or authorized to be used by the permit  
11 holder or licensee to be stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; or

12 (b) for the holder of any non-driver identification card, use an  
13 application in-person at a commission agency location to submit the  
14 name and telephone number of up to two emergency contacts to be  
15 stored in the "Next-of-Kin Registry."

16 A permit holder, licensee, or non-driver identification card  
17 holder who submits the name and telephone number of an  
18 emergency contact or vehicle identification number shall have the  
19 opportunity to revise or update the emergency contact and vehicle  
20 identification number information at any time. The commission  
21 shall automatically prompt a person applying for a validated permit,  
22 probationary driver's license, or initial driver's license or non-  
23 driver identification card, or renewing a driver's license or non-  
24 driver identification card, to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin  
25 Registry" in accordance with the provisions of this section.

26 c. Information in the "Next-of-Kin Registry" shall be available  
27 for the exclusive use of law enforcement officials, and employees of  
28 the commission who are designated by the chief administrator, for  
29 the purposes of discharging their duties pursuant to P.L.2011, c.47  
30 (C.39:4-134.2 et al.). Law enforcement officials shall have direct  
31 access to the information in the registry. Any emergency contact or  
32 vehicle identification number information submitted to the  
33 commission shall not be considered a government record pursuant  
34 to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5  
35 et al.), or the common law concerning access to public records and  
36 shall not be discoverable as a government record by any person,  
37 entity, or governmental agency, except upon a subpoena issued by a  
38 grand jury or a court order in a criminal matter.

39 d. The chief administrator and employees of the commission  
40 who are designated by the chief administrator, for the purposes of  
41 discharging their duties pursuant to P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2 et  
42 al.), shall not be liable to any person for civil damages, or subject to  
43 criminal prosecution resulting from or caused by: (1) any disruption  
44 or failure in Internet service caused by any accident, malfunction,  
45 act of sabotage or God, or any other condition or circumstance that  
46 the commission has not, directly or indirectly, caused and which  
47 results in, or prevents, the holder of any New Jersey State validated  
48 permit, probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver

1 identification card from accessing, or inputting information into, the  
2 "Next-of-Kin Registry" or which results in, or prevents, the chief  
3 administrator and designated commission employees and law  
4 enforcement officers from accessing, establishing, or maintaining  
5 the "Next-of-Kin Registry"; (2) any misuse of, or the failure or  
6 omission to input accurate information, or the inputting of  
7 inaccurate or outdated information into the "Next-of-Kin Registry"  
8 by any holder of any New Jersey State validated permit,  
9 probationary or basic driver's license, or non-driver identification  
10 card; or (3) the inability of any law enforcement officer to make  
11 contact, in good faith, with any designated emergency contact  
12 person. This limitation of liability is inapplicable if such failure  
13 resulted from a malicious purpose or a wanton and willful disregard  
14 for the safety of persons or property.

15 e. The commission shall coordinate with all other appropriate  
16 executive branch departments and agencies for the purpose of  
17 raising public awareness about the "Next-of-Kin Registry" and  
18 raising awareness among law enforcement agencies and officers on  
19 the proper use of the registry.

20 f. For the purposes of P.L.2011, c.47 (C.39:4-134.2 et al.),  
21 "emergency contact person" or "emergency contact" means a  
22 person, eighteen years of age or older, whom the holder of any New  
23 Jersey State validated permit, probationary or basic driver's license,  
24 or non-driver identification card has designated to be contacted by  
25 law enforcement personnel when the permit holder, licensee, or  
26 non-driver identification card holder is rendered unable to  
27 communicate due to a motor vehicle accident resulting in the  
28 serious bodily injury, death, or incapacitation of the permit holder,  
29 licensee, or non-driver identification card holder. An "emergency  
30 contact person" or "emergency contact" may or may not be the  
31 next-of-kin of the permit holder, licensee, or non-driver  
32 identification card holder; except that if the permit holder, licensee,  
33 or card holder is under the age of eighteen and is not emancipated,  
34 the emergency contact person shall be the parent or guardian of that  
35 permit holder, licensee, or card holder.

36 (cf: P.L.2017, c.382, s.1)

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38 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
39 month following enactment but the Chief Administrator of the New  
40 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall take such anticipatory  
41 action in advance thereof for the timely implementation of this act.

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#### STATEMENT

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46 This bill requires the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission  
47 (commission) to allow individuals to submit information for the  
48 "Next-of-Kin Registry" in-person at commission agencies. The

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1 bill requires the commission to automatically prompt any individual  
2 who is applying for a validated permit, probationary driver's  
3 license, or new or renewal driver's license or non-driver  
4 identification card to enter information for the "Next-of-Kin  
5 Registry." The bill provides that law enforcement officials are to  
6 have direct access to the information in the registry, meaning law  
7 enforcement officials will not need to access the information  
8 through an intermediary.

9 The bill also requires the commission to coordinate with other  
10 executive branch departments and agencies to raise public  
11 awareness about the registry and the raise awareness among law  
12 enforcement agencies and officers on the proper use of the registry.