

SENATE, No. 3501

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 26, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator LATHAM TIVER

District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain public awareness campaigns to include information about duty of motorist to take certain action when approaching pedestrian, bicycle, or personal conveyance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/28/2024)

S3501 TIVER, DIEGNAN

2

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicle public awareness campaigns and
2 amending P.L.2017, c.358 and P.L.2019, c.370.

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.2017, c.358 (C.27:7-44.22) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. The Commissioner of Transportation, in consultation with
10 the Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety in the
11 Department of Law and Public Safety, shall develop, and update
12 annually, public awareness programs and use, at least once per year,
13 variable message signs to inform motorists of their duty to:

14 a. change lanes when approaching a stationary authorized
15 emergency vehicle, tow truck, highway maintenance or emergency
16 service vehicle, or sanitation vehicle that is displaying flashing,
17 blinking, or alternating lights or, in the alternative, to reduce the
18 speed of their vehicles if it is impossible, prohibited by law, or
19 unsafe to move over one lane, pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2009, c.5
20 (C.39:4-92.2); and

21 b. comply with the provisions of section 1 of P.L.2021, c.194
22 (C.39:4-92.4) when approaching a pedestrian, bicycle, or personal
23 conveyance.

24 (cf: P.L.2017, c.358, s.1)

25

26 2. Section 2 of P.L.2019, c.370 (C.39:4-92.3) is amended to
27 read as follows:

28 2. The Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety in
29 the Department of Law and Public Safety shall establish, and update
30 annually, a public awareness campaign to inform the general public
31 concerning:

32 (1) (a) the importance of motor vehicle operators reducing the
33 speed of their vehicles and changing lanes when approaching an
34 authorized emergency vehicle; tow truck; or highway maintenance,
35 emergency service, or sanitation vehicle that is displaying flashing,
36 blinking, or alternating emergency lights or a disabled vehicle
37 flashing hazard warning signal lights or utilizing road flares or
38 reflective triangles as required pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2009,
39 c.5 (C.39:4-92.2); and

40 (b) the importance of motor vehicle operators to comply with the
41 provisions of section 1 of P.L.2021, c.194 (C.39:4-92.4) when
42 approaching a pedestrian, bicycle, or personal conveyance;

43 (2) the risks associated with the failure of a motor vehicle
44 operator to comply with the provisions of section 1 of P.L.2009, c.5
45 (C.39:4-92.2) and section 1 of P.L.2021, c.194 (C.39:4-92.4); and

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 (3) the penalties and fines that are imposed on a motor vehicle
2 operator who violates section 1 of P.L.2009, c.5 (C.39:4-92.2) and
3 section 1 of P.L.2021, c.194 (C.39:4-92.4).
4 (cf: P.L.2023, c.325, s.2)

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6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill requires the Commissioner of Transportation
12 (commissioner) and the Director of the Division of Highway Traffic
13 Safety (director) to update, on an annual basis, public awareness
14 programs and a public awareness campaign that inform motorists of
15 their duty to take certain actions when approaching certain vehicles
16 and the importance of taking these actions. The bill also requires
17 the commissioner to use variable message signs at least once per
18 year to inform motorists of their duty to take certain actions when
19 approaching certain vehicles and the importance of taking these
20 actions.

21 Additionally, this bill requires the commissioner to develop, and
22 update annually, public awareness programs and use, at least once
23 per year, variable message signs to inform motorists of their duty to
24 take certain actions when approaching a pedestrian, bicycle, or
25 personal conveyance.

26 The bill further requires the director to establish and update
27 annually a public awareness campaign that includes information
28 about the importance of complying with a law that requires
29 motorists to take certain actions when approaching a pedestrian,
30 bicycle, or personal conveyance, the risks associated with failing to
31 comply with the law, and the penalties and fines that will be
32 imposed for violating the law.