

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5446

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

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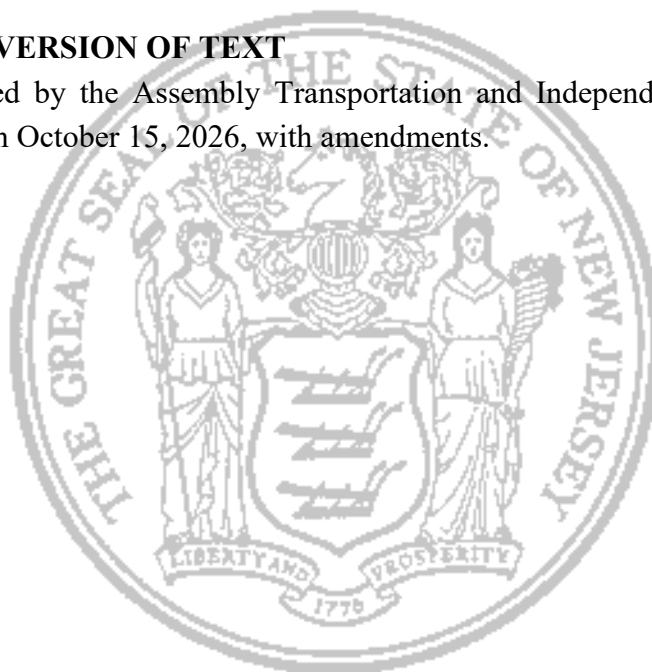
Assemblyman Sampson

SYNOPSIS

Requires motor vehicle accident reporting forms to include certain information concerning motor vehicle accidents involving fires.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee on October 15, 2026, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/15/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicle accident reporting requirements
2 and amending R.S.39:4-131.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. R.S.39:4-131 is amended to read as follows:

8 39:4-131. The Department of Transportation shall prepare and
9 supply to police departments and other suitable agencies **[,]** forms for
10 accident reports calling for sufficiently detailed information with
11 reference to a motor vehicle accident, including the cause, the
12 conditions then existing, the persons and motor vehicles involved,
13 whether the accident resulted in a fire and, if so, whether the motor
14 vehicles involved were propelled by gasoline, electricity, or a
15 combination thereof, or any other alternative fuel, the compliance with
16 P.L.1984, c.179 (C.39:3-76.2e et seq.) by the operators and passengers
17 of the motor vehicles involved in the accident, whether the operator of
18 the motor vehicle was using a cellular telephone when the accident
19 occurred, and such other information as the Commissioner of
20 Transportation may require.

21 Every law enforcement officer who investigates a motor vehicle
22 accident **[of]** for which a report must be made as required in this Title,
23 or who otherwise prepares a written or an electronic report as a result
24 of an accident or thereafter by interviewing the participants or
25 witnesses, shall electronically transmit **[a]** the accident report **[of such**
26 **accident]** to the department, on forms furnished by **[it]** the department
27 and in the electronic format prescribed by the department, within five
28 days after the law enforcement officer's investigation of the accident.
29 ¹The Commissioner of Transportation shall report all information
30 relating to accidents resulting in a fire, as required by this section, to
31 the Director of the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of
32 Community Affairs on an annual basis.¹

33 **[Such]** The written or electronic accident reports required to be
34 prepared by law enforcement officers and the information contained
35 therein shall not be privileged or held confidential. Every citizen of
36 this State shall have the right, during regular business hours and under
37 supervision, to inspect and copy **[such]** the accident reports and shall
38 also have the right **[in person]** to purchase copies of the accident
39 reports in person at the same fee established by section 6 of P.L.2001,
40 c.404 (C.47:1A-5). If copies of the accident reports are requested by
41 means other than in person, an additional fee of up to \$5 may be added
42 to cover the administrative costs of the accident report. Upon request,
43 a police department shall send an accident report to a person through
44 the mail or via fax. The police department may require the person
45 requesting the accident report to provide a completed request form 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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted October 15, 2026.

1 the appropriate fee prior to faxing or mailing the accident report. The
2 police department shall provide the person requesting the accident
3 report with the option of submitting the form and providing the
4 appropriate fee either in person, through the mail, or via fax.

5 The provisions of any other law or regulation to the contrary
6 notwithstanding, accident reports obtained pursuant to this act shall not
7 be subject to confidentiality requirements except as provided by
8 section 28 of P.L.1960, c.52 (C.2A:84A-28).

9 When a motor vehicle accident results in the death or
10 incapacitation of the driver or any passenger, the law enforcement
11 officer responsible for notifying the next of kin that their relative is
12 deceased or incapacitated **[, also]** shall also inform the relative, in
13 writing, how to obtain a copy of the accident report required by this
14 section and the name, address, and telephone number of the person
15 storing the motor vehicle pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1964, c.81
16 (C.39:10A-1).

17 The New Jersey Department of Transportation shall adopt,
18 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
19 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations to require law enforcement
20 officers to electronically transmit **[crash]** accident reports required to
21 be prepared pursuant to this section.
22 (cf: P.L.2023, c.55, s.1)
23

24 2. This act shall take effect ¹**[immediately]** on the first day of the
25 sixth month next following the date of enactment. However, the
26 Commissioner of Transportation may take any anticipatory
27 administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the
28 implementation of this act¹.