ASSEMBLY, No. 5821

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 16, 2026

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE
District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain accident data be shared with DOT and NJ Target Zero Commission.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

AN ACT concerning accident reports and amending R.S.39:4-131.

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

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

39:4-131. The Department of Transportation shall prepare and supply to police departments and other suitable agencies, forms for accident reports calling for sufficiently detailed information with reference to a motor vehicle accident, including the cause, the conditions then existing, the persons and vehicles involved, the compliance with P.L.1984, c.179 (C.39:3-76.2e et seq.) by the operators and passengers of the vehicles involved in the accident, whether the operator of the vehicle was using a cellular telephone when the accident occurred, the data required by the New Jersey Target Zero Commission to create and maintain a high-injury network as provided in section 2 of P.L.2024, c.109 (C.27:5F-45), and such other information as the Commissioner of Transportation may require.

Every law enforcement officer who investigates a motor vehicle accident of which report must be made as required in this Title, or who otherwise prepares a written or an electronic report as a result of an accident or thereafter by interviewing the participants or witnesses, shall electronically transmit a report of such accident to the department, on forms furnished by it and in the electronic format prescribed by the department, within five days after the law enforcement officer's investigation of the accident. The department shall immediately transmit the report of the accident to the New Jersey Target Zero Commission for the purpose of creating and maintaining a high-injury network as provided in section 2 of P.L.2024, c.109 (C.27:5F-45).

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

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.

the report with the option of submitting the form and providing the appropriate fee either in person, through the mail, or via fax.

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

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

The New Jersey Department of Transportation shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations to require law enforcement officers to electronically transmit crash reports required to be prepared pursuant to this section.

(cf: P.L.2023, c.55, s.1)

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill requires certain data to be shared with the Department of Transportation (department) and the New Jerey Target Zero Commission (commission).

Specifically, the bill requires the forms for accident reports, prepared by the department, to include the data required for the commission to create and maintain a high-injury network that indicates the roadways in the State with the highest injury rates. Additionally, the bill requires the department to transmit the accident report to the commission for the purpose of creating and maintaining the high-injury network.