

SENATE, No. 4741

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits suspension or revocation of driver's license or motor vehicle registration certificate in certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning toll enforcement and amending various parts of
2 the statutory law.

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

6
7 1. Section 14 of P.L.1951, c.264 (C.27:23-38) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 14. **【Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.2023, c.339**
10 **(C.27:1A-3.1 et al.) to the contrary, in】** In addition to any
11 punishment or penalty provided by other sections of P.L.1951,
12 c.264 (C.27:23-25 et seq.), every registration certificate and every
13 license certificate to drive motor vehicles may be suspended or
14 revoked and any person may be prohibited from obtaining a driver's
15 license or a registration certificate and the reciprocity privileges of
16 a nonresident may be suspended or revoked by the Chief
17 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission for a
18 violation of any of the provisions of **【this act】** P.L.1951, c.264
19 (C.27:23-25 et seq.), except for unpaid tolls and fees associated
20 with unpaid tolls, after due notice in writing of such proposed
21 suspension, revocation, or prohibition and the ground thereof and
22 after the opportunity to be heard, and otherwise in accordance with
23 the powers, practice, and procedure established by those provisions
24 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes applicable to such suspension,
25 revocation, or prohibition.

26 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the authority
27 of the Department of Transportation, pursuant to section 4 of
28 P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1), to collect the civil penalties and
29 tolls imposed by **【or direct the suspension of a motor vehicle**
30 **registration on behalf of】** the authority or an out-of-state tolling
31 entity, interstate tolling entity, or another state with which the
32 department has entered into a reciprocity agreement pursuant to
33 section 4 of P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1).
34 (cf: P.L.2023, c.339, s.1)

35
36 2. Section 21 of P.L.1991, c.252 (C.27:25A-21) is amended to
37 read as follows:

38 21. a. Except as otherwise provided in subsection a. of section
39 19 of P.L.1991, c.252 (C.27:25A-19), no vehicle shall be permitted
40 to make use of any expressway project except upon the payment of
41 the tolls as may from time to time be prescribed by the authority. It
42 shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to pay, or to evade or to
43 attempt to evade the payment of the tolls.

44 b. No vehicle shall be operated on any project carelessly or
45 recklessly, or in disregard of the rights or safety of others, 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 without due caution or prudence, or in a manner so as to endanger
2 unreasonably or to be likely to endanger unreasonably persons or
3 property, while the operator thereof is under the influence of
4 intoxicating liquors or any narcotic or habit-forming drug, nor shall
5 any vehicle be so constructed, equipped, lacking in equipment,
6 loaded, or operated in such a condition of disrepair as to endanger
7 unreasonably or to be likely to endanger unreasonably persons or
8 property.

9 c. A person operating a vehicle on any project shall operate at a
10 careful and prudent speed, having due regard to the rights and
11 safety of others and to the traffic, surface and width of the highway,
12 and any other conditions then existing; and no person shall operate
13 a vehicle on any project at a speed as to endanger life, limb, or
14 property; except that it shall be prima facie lawful for a driver of a
15 vehicle to operate it at a speed not exceeding a speed limit which is
16 designated by the authority as a reasonable and safe speed limit,
17 when appropriate signs giving notice of that speed limit are erected
18 at the roadside or otherwise posted for the information of operators
19 of vehicles.

20 d. No person shall operate a vehicle on any project at a slow
21 speed as to impede or block the normal and reasonable movement
22 of traffic except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation
23 thereof.

24 e. No person shall operate a vehicle on any project in violation
25 of any speed limit designated by regulation adopted by the
26 authority.

27 f. All persons operating vehicles upon any project shall at all
28 times comply with any lawful order, signal, or direction by voice or
29 hand of any police officer engaged in the direction of traffic upon
30 such project. When traffic on a project is controlled by traffic
31 lights, signs, or by mechanical or electrical signals, those lights,
32 signs, and signals shall be obeyed unless a police officer directs
33 otherwise.

34 g. All persons operating vehicles upon any project, or seeking
35 to do so, shall at all times comply with regulations, not inconsistent
36 with the other sections of this act, adopted by the authority
37 concerning types, weights, and sizes of vehicles permitted to use the
38 project, and with regulations adopted by the authority for or
39 prohibiting the parking of vehicles, concerning the making of turns
40 and the use of particular traffic lanes, together with any and all
41 other regulations adopted by the authority to control traffic and
42 prohibit acts hazardous in their nature or tending to impede or block
43 the normal and reasonable flow of traffic upon the project; except
44 that prior to the adoption of any regulation for the control of traffic
45 on any project, including the designation of any speed limits, the
46 authority shall investigate and consider the need for and desirability
47 of the regulation for the safety of persons and property, including
48 the authority's property, and the contribution which that regulation

1 would make toward the efficient and safe handling of traffic and use
2 of the project, and shall determine that the regulation is necessary
3 or desirable to accomplish the purposes or one or some of them, and
4 that upon or prior to the effective date of the regulation and during
5 its continuance, notice thereof shall be given to the drivers of
6 vehicles by appropriate signs erected at the roadside or otherwise
7 posted. The authority may adopt regulations referred to in this
8 section in accordance with the provisions hereof and in accordance
9 with the provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act."
10 Regulations adopted by the authority pursuant to the provisions of
11 this section shall insofar as practicable, having due regard to the
12 features of the project and the characteristics of traffic thereon and
13 except as to maximum or minimum speed limits, be consistent with
14 the provisions of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes applicable to
15 similar subjects. The authority shall have power to amend,
16 supplement, or repeal any regulation adopted by it under the
17 provisions of this section. No regulation and no amendment, or
18 supplement thereto, or repealer thereof adopted by the authority
19 shall take effect until it is filed with the Office of Administrative
20 Law, by the filing of a copy thereof certified by the secretary of the
21 authority.

22 h. The operator of any vehicle upon a project involved in an
23 incident resulting in injury or death to any person or damage to any
24 property shall immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the
25 incident, render assistance as may be needed, and give his name,
26 address, and operator's license and motor vehicle registration
27 number to the person injured and to any officer or witness of the
28 injury and shall make a report of the incident in accordance with
29 law.

30 i. No person shall transport in or upon any expressway project,
31 any dynamite, nitroglycerin, black powder, fireworks, blasting caps,
32 or other explosives, gasoline, alcohol, ether, liquid shellac,
33 kerosene, turpentine, formaldehyde, or other inflammable or
34 combustible liquids, ammonium nitrate, sodium chlorate, wet hemp,
35 powdered metallic magnesium, nitro-cellulose film, peroxides, or
36 other readily inflammable solids or oxidizing materials,
37 hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, or other corrosive liquids, prussic
38 acid, phosgene, arsenic, carbolic acid, potassium cyanide, tear gas,
39 lewisite, or any other poisonous substances, liquids, or gases, or any
40 compressed gas, or any radioactive article, substance, or material, at
41 a time or place or in a manner or condition as to endanger
42 unreasonably or as to be likely to endanger unreasonably persons or
43 property.

44 j. If the violation of any provision of this section or the
45 violation of any regulation adopted by the authority under the
46 provisions of this section would have been a violation of law or
47 ordinance if committed on any public road, street, or highway in the
48 municipality in which the violation occurred, it shall be tried and

1 punished in the same manner as if it had been committed in that
2 municipality.

3 k. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection j. of this
4 section, if the violation of the provisions of subsection i. of this
5 section shall result in injury or death to a person or persons or
6 damage to property in excess of the value of \$5,000, that violation
7 shall constitute a crime of the third degree.

8 l. Except as provided in subsection j. or k. of this section, any
9 violation of any of the provisions of this section, including but not
10 limited to those regarding the payment of tolls, and any violation of
11 any regulation adopted by the authority under the provisions of this
12 section shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100 for the first
13 violation and not exceeding \$600 for each subsequent violation. A
14 violation shall be tried in a summary way and shall be within the
15 jurisdiction of and may be brought in the Special Civil Part of the
16 Law Division of the Superior Court or any municipal court in the
17 county where the offense was committed. Proceedings under this
18 section may be instituted on any day of the week, and the institution
19 of the proceedings on a Sunday or a holiday shall be no bar to the
20 successful prosecution thereof. Any process served on a Sunday, or
21 a holiday shall be as valid as if served on any other day of the week.
22 When imposing any penalty under the provisions of this subsection
23 the court having jurisdiction shall be guided by the appropriate
24 provisions of any statute fixing uniform penalties for violation of
25 provisions of the motor vehicle and traffic laws contained in Title
26 39 of the Revised Statutes.

27 m. In any prosecution for violating a regulation of the authority
28 adopted pursuant to the provisions of this section, copies of that
29 regulation when authenticated under the seal of the authority by its
30 secretary or assistant secretary shall be evidence in like manner and
31 equal effect as the original.

32 n. No resolution or ordinance adopted by the governing body
33 of any county or municipality for the control and regulation of
34 traffic shall be applicable to vehicles while upon any expressway
35 project operated by the authority.

36 o. **【Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.2023, c.339**
37 **(C.27:1A-3.1 et al.) to the contrary, in】** In addition to any
38 punishment or penalty provided by other subsections of this section,
39 every registration certificate and every license certificate to drive
40 motor vehicles may be suspended or revoked and any person may
41 be prohibited from obtaining a driver's license or a registration
42 certificate and the reciprocity privileges of a nonresident may be
43 suspended or revoked by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
44 Motor Vehicle Commission for a violation of any of the provisions
45 of this section, except for unpaid tolls and fees associated with
46 unpaid tolls, after due notice in writing of the proposed suspension,
47 revocation, or prohibition and the ground thereof and after the
48 opportunity to be heard, all otherwise in accordance with the

1 powers, practice, and procedure established by the provisions of
2 Title 39 of the Revised Statutes applicable to the suspension,
3 revocation, or prohibition.

4 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the authority
5 of the Department of Transportation, pursuant to section 4 of
6 P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1), to collect the civil penalties and
7 tolls imposed by [or direct the suspension of a motor vehicle
8 registration on behalf of] the authority or an out-of-state tolling
9 entity, interstate tolling entity, or another state with which the
10 department has entered into a reciprocity agreement pursuant to
11 section 4 of P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1).

12 p. Except as otherwise provided by this section or by any
13 regulation of the authority adopted in accordance with the
14 provisions of this section, the requirements of Title 39 of the
15 Revised Statutes applicable to persons using, driving, or operating
16 vehicles on the public highways of this State and to vehicles so
17 used, driven, or operated shall be applicable to persons using,
18 driving, or operating vehicles on any expressway project and to
19 vehicles so used, driven, or operated.

20 (cf: P.L.2023, c.339, s.3)

21
22 3. Section 4 of P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1) is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 4. a. As used in P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1 et al.):

25 "Chief administrator" means the Chief Administrator of the New
26 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.

27 "Commission" means the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
28 Commission.

29 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation.

30 "Department" means the Department of Transportation.

31 "New Jersey tolling entity" shall include the New Jersey
32 Turnpike Authority, established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1948,
33 c.454 (C.27:23-3), the South Jersey Transportation Authority,
34 established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1991, c.252 (C.27:25A-4),
35 any county commission, established pursuant to R.S.27:19-36, or
36 any interstate tolling entity with which New Jersey is a member of
37 the enabling compact and has entered into a reciprocity agreement
38 with the department for the purposes of toll enforcement [that
39 authorizes the department to suspend or deny motor vehicle
40 registration privileges for toll violators in accordance with the
41 provisions of P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1 et al.)].

42 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, the
43 department may establish and administer a system of adjudicating
44 and enforcing the collection of motor vehicle tolls imposed by each
45 New Jersey tolling entity that shall include provisions for notice [,
46 and an opportunity to be heard and appeal [, and the suspension of
47 motor vehicle registrations]. Any system established under this

1 subsection shall not include provisions for the suspension of motor
2 vehicle registrations.

3 c. **【**Upon receipt by the department of notification from a New
4 Jersey tolling entity, the department may direct the commission to
5 suspend the motor vehicle registration of the owner of a motor
6 vehicle that has accumulated: unpaid tolls and fees collectively
7 totaling \$500 or more over the past three years; or six or more
8 unpaid toll violations, with at least one violation having occurred
9 after the effective date of P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1 et al.).

10 Upon notification from a New Jersey tolling entity that a motor
11 vehicle registration meets the threshold for suspension, the
12 department may direct the suspension even if the unpaid tolls and
13 fees are thereafter reduced below \$500 by a partial satisfaction of
14 the outstanding toll amounts. The suspension shall remain in effect
15 until the department is satisfied that the entirety of all outstanding
16 tolls and fees are paid, dismissed, reversed on appeal or stayed, or
17 that the violator has entered into a payment agreement with the
18 department, provided, however, that the motor vehicle registration
19 may be suspended subsequent to entering into a payment agreement
20 for noncompliance with the repayment agreement.] (Deleted by
21 amendment, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
22 as this bill)

23 **【**d. Prior to directing the suspension of a motor vehicle
24 registration, the department shall provide the registered owner with
25 written notice, by first class mail to the address of the owner, of the
26 department's intent to seek suspension of the motor vehicle
27 registration and shall afford the owner the opportunity to be heard
28 by the department and appeal protections in a manner sufficient to
29 address whether the suspension is based on a false, mistaken, or
30 unjustified claim. If the registered owner fails to dispute or satisfy
31 such unpaid tolls, fees, and costs or if, after being given the
32 opportunity to be heard by the department, the owner has not
33 demonstrated that the claim is false, mistaken, or unjustified, the
34 department shall issue a final agency decision and direct suspension
35 of the owner's motor vehicle registration. Upon receipt of the
36 department's direction to suspend a registration and a copy of the
37 final decision issued by the department, the commission shall issue
38 an order denying or suspending the registration as provided in this
39 section. The order denying or suspending the registration shall be
40 sent by regular mail to the registered owner's address of record with
41 the commission. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the
42 registered owner shall not have the right to a hearing before the
43 commission after the department has issued a final agency decision
44 and directed the suspension of the registered owner's registration.**】**
45 (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
46 Legislature as this bill)

47 **【**e. The department may direct the commission to suspend the
48 registration of a motor vehicle upon receiving notification from an

1 out-of-state tolling entity, interstate tolling entity, or another state
2 of unpaid toll violations, pursuant to the terms and conditions of a
3 reciprocity agreement entered into between the department and the
4 out-of-state tolling entity, interstate tolling entity, or other state.】
5 (Deleted by amendment, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
6 Legislature as this bill)

7 f. The department may enter into reciprocal agreements with
8 out-of-state tolling entities, interstate tolling entities, or other states
9 to implement a system of unpaid toll collections and enforcement,
10 providing for 【the suspension of New Jersey motor vehicle
11 registrations for the non-payment of tolls and fees assessed by an
12 out-of-state or interstate tolling entity or another state and】 the
13 allocation of administrative expenses. The reciprocal agreement
14 shall include provisions confirming the following:

15 (1) The out-of-state tolling entity, interstate tolling entity, or
16 other state has its own reciprocal procedures for collecting tolls and
17 fees due to New Jersey tolling entities by employing sanctions that
18 do not include denial of a person's ability to obtain a registration
19 certificate for a motor vehicle;

20 (2) The penalties, exclusive of tolls, claimed by the out-of-state
21 tolling entity, interstate tolling entity, or other state against the
22 owner of a motor vehicle registered in this State does not exceed
23 \$100 for the first violation or \$600 for each subsequent violation;

24 (3) The out-of-state tolling entity, interstate tolling entity, or
25 other state provides the opportunity to be heard and appeal
26 protections to address whether a claim pursued against an owner of
27 a motor vehicle registered in this State is false, mistaken, or
28 unjustified;

29 (4) An owner of a motor vehicle registered in this State may
30 present evidence to the out-of-state tolling entity, interstate tolling
31 entity, or other state by mail, telephone, or electronic means or in-
32 person when being given the opportunity to be heard by the
33 department, without having to appear personally in the jurisdiction
34 where the violation is alleged to have occurred; and

35 (5) The parties to the reciprocity agreement each may charge the
36 other party a fee sufficient for each party to recoup the costs of
37 collection services, including costs incurred by the department or
38 the agency that registers motor vehicles in the other state.

39 g. In any proceeding authorized by this section, documents
40 obtained from a New Jersey tolling entity, the commission, the out-
41 of-state tolling entity, the interstate tolling entity, or another state,
42 or their agents, shall be admissible into evidence to support the
43 unpaid toll violations and shall constitute documents of the
44 department. The department's certification that it has obtained
45 documents and information from a New Jersey tolling entity, the
46 commission, the out-of-state tolling entity, the interstate tolling
47 entity, or another state shall be prima facie proof of the facts
48 contained in the documents.

1 h. **【**Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this section to the
2 contrary, no suspension may be imposed more than three years after
3 the violation is committed.**】** (Deleted by amendment, P.L. ,
4 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)

5 i. The department, in consultation with the New Jersey tolling
6 entities, shall establish an amnesty program that permits the
7 reduction of 25 percent of unpaid tolls of \$500 or more if all
8 outstanding tolls are otherwise paid in their entirety. The amnesty
9 program shall be open to all violators with cumulative unpaid tolls
10 of \$500 or more incurred prior to the effective date of P.L.2023,
11 c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1 et al.), except that the amnesty program shall
12 end 180 days after the effective date of P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-
13 3.1 et al.).

14 j. The department may supplement the authority bestowed
15 upon it under this section with any other existing statutory or
16 administrative authority conferred on the department, the
17 commission, and the New Jersey tolling entities, and these agencies
18 shall have the power to enter into interagency agreements to
19 implement the provisions of P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1 et al.).

20 k. Any tolls and fees collected shall be paid directly to the
21 relevant New Jersey tolling entity, out-of-state tolling entity,
22 interstate tolling entity, or other state, and no tolls and fees
23 collected by the department, as an agent of the New Jersey tolling
24 entities, pursuant to this section, or as an agent of the out-of-state
25 tolling entity, interstate tolling entity, or other state, pursuant to a
26 reciprocity agreement, shall be remitted to the General Fund.

27 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to limit the ability of
28 a New Jersey tolling entity to recoup unpaid tolls, fees, and costs by
29 any means available under civil or criminal judicial process, or
30 through debt collection activities, or any other available statutory,
31 regulatory, or civil mechanisms.

32 Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this section to contrary,
33 the department may negotiate interagency agreements with each
34 New Jersey tolling entity and may include provisions in reciprocity
35 agreements with out-of-state tolling entities, interstate tolling
36 entities, or other states to fund the administrative expenses of the
37 department in enforcing collection of tolls and fees under P.L.2023,
38 c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1 et al.).

39 The department may establish minimum fees related to the
40 administration of P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1 et al.), which may
41 be increased at the discretion of the department and shall include **【**:

42 (1) **A】** a filing fee to appeal the unpaid tolls and fees **【**that form
43 the basis of the notice of pending registration suspension; and

44 (2) A filing fee to appeal any suspension decision or order of the
45 department**】**.

46 l. The department, each New Jersey tolling entity, and the
47 commission, working cooperatively under the direction and
48 coordination of the department, may, after providing 30 days' notice

1 for the purpose of receiving public comment, to adopt, via an
2 administrative order entered by the commissioner, the New Jersey
3 tolling entity, or the chief administrator, respectively,
4 administrative regulations providing standards and procedures
5 implementing this act notwithstanding any provision of the
6 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
7 seq.). The administrative orders shall be effective for up to 18
8 months from the effective date of P.L.2023, c.339 (C.27:1A-3.1 et
9 al.), unless the department, the New Jersey tolling entities, or the
10 commission, respectively, adopt regulations pursuant to the
11 provisions of the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
12 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), prior to that date.
13 (cf: P.L.2023, c.339, s.4)

14
15 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

16
17
18 STATEMENT

19
20 This bill revokes the authority of the Department of
21 Transportation, New Jersey Turnpike Authority, South Jersey
22 Transportation Authority, and New Jersey Motor Vehicle
23 Commission to suspend or revoke a driver's license or motor
24 vehicle registration certificate or prohibit an individual from
25 obtaining a motor vehicle registration certificate due to unpaid tolls.