CHAPTER 48

AN ACT concerning organ donation and revising parts of the statutory law.

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

1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “New Jersey Hero Act,” referring to individuals who donate life-saving and life-enhancing organs and tissues.

C.26:6-67 Findings, declarations relative to organ and tissue donation initiatives.
2. The Legislature finds and declares that:
   a. For over three decades, the State of New Jersey has supported organ and tissue donation as a public policy, because one individual can save up to eight lives by donating his or her vital organs and enhance more than 50 lives by donating tissue;
   b. Although 95% of the national population indicates support for donation, a far smaller percentage have actually made a legally binding decision to be organ and tissue donors, the result of which has been the deaths of over 74,186 people nationally and 2,470 New Jersey residents since 1997 because life-saving organs were not available to them for transplant;
   c. A public policy supporting organ donation is no longer adequate, given the health crisis faced by more than 98,000 people awaiting life saving organ transplants nationally, of whom more than 4,000 are New Jersey residents;
   d. A new public policy of advocacy which encourages positive donation decisions is now imperative in order to save more lives;
   e. The health and welfare of New Jersey’s residents requires a more dynamic, comprehensive framework regarding organ donation, one with mandated educational and decisional components;
   f. This comprehensive framework must incorporate the federal government’s charge to organ procurement organizations to work with states in educating the public so that more individuals make positive donation decisions and document those decisions;
   g. In order to insure that more New Jersey residents become donors, it is necessary to provide curriculum in both secondary schools and institutions of higher education, as well as establish educational requirements for physicians and nurses, to dispel myths associated with organ donation, provide accurate information about the donation and recovery process, and emphasize the fundamental responsibility of individuals to take appropriate action, when able to do so, to help save another person’s life;
   h. It is further necessary to provide residents with an accessible, secure means using the Internet, to register as organ donors in a way that ties the donation decision to a routine but necessary function, such as the receipt of a driver’s license or personal identification card, so that an interaction on the issue of organ donation occurs at or around the time New Jersey residents reach the age of majority; and
   i. The combined initiatives provided for in this act will effectively achieve the State’s public policy goal to increase the number of organ and tissue donors in the State so that more lives can be saved or enhanced.

C.18A:7F-4.3 Information relative to organ donation given to students in grades 9 through 12.
3. a. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey, shall review the Core Curriculum Content Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical
Education to ensure that information about organ donation is included therein to students in grades 9 through 12, beginning with the 2009-2010 school year.

1. The goals of the instruction shall be:
   (a) to emphasize the benefits of organ and tissue donation to the health and well-being of society generally, and to individuals whose lives are saved by organ and tissue donations, so that students will be motivated to make an affirmative decision to register as a donor when they become adults;
   (b) to fully address myths and misunderstandings regarding organ and tissue donation;
   (c) to explain the options available to adults, including the option of designating a decision-maker to make the donation decision on one’s behalf; and
   (d) to instill an understanding of the consequences when an individual does not make a decision to become an organ donor and does not register or otherwise record a designated decision-maker;

2. The instruction shall inform students that beginning five years from the date of enactment of P.L.2008, c.48 (C.26:6-66 et al.), the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission will not issue or renew a New Jersey driver’s license or personal identification card unless a prospective or renewing licensee or card holder makes an acknowledgement regarding the donor decision pursuant to section 8 of P.L.2008, c.48 (C.39:3-12.4).

b. The Commissioner of Education, through the non-public school liaison in the Department of Education, shall make any related instructional materials available to private schools educating students in grades 9 through 12, or any combination thereof. Such schools are encouraged to use the instructional materials at the school; however, nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require such schools to use the materials.

4. Section 1 of P.L.2007, c.121 (C.18A:62-45) is amended to read as follows:


1. a. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, each public institution of higher education in the State shall provide information to its students, either through student health services or as part of the curriculum, that emphasizes the benefits to the health and well-being of society and the lives that are saved through organ donations, and that instills knowledge that will enable young adults to make an informed decision about registering to become an organ donor or designating a decision-maker to make the decision on behalf of the young adult. The information shall also instill an understanding of the outcome if no decision about becoming an organ donor or designating a decision-maker is registered or otherwise recorded. The information provided shall be prepared in collaboration with the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey.

b. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, each independent institution of higher education in the State is encouraged to provide information to its students, either through student health services or as part of the curriculum, that emphasizes the benefits to the health and well-being of society and the lives that are saved through organ donations, and that instills knowledge that will enable young adults to make an informed decision about registering to become an organ donor or designating a decision-maker to make the decision on behalf of the young adult. The information shall also instill an understanding of the outcome if no decision about becoming an organ donor or designating a decision-maker is registered or otherwise recorded. The information provided shall be prepared in collaboration with the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey.
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C.45:9-7.5 Requirements for physician training relative to organ, tissue donation and recovery.

5. The State Board of Medical Examiners, in collaboration with the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey, shall prescribe by regulation the following requirements for physician training:
   a. The curriculum in each college of medicine in this State shall include instruction in organ and tissue donation and recovery designed to address clinical aspects of the donation and recovery process.
   b. Completion of organ and tissue donation and recovery instruction as provided in subsection a. of this section shall be required as a condition of receiving a diploma from a college of medicine in this State.
   c. A college of medicine which includes instruction in organ and tissue donation and recovery as provided in subsection a. of this section in its curricula shall offer such training for continuing education credit.
   d. A physician licensed to practice medicine in this State prior to the effective date of this act, who was not required to receive and did not receive instruction in organ and tissue donation and recovery as part of a medical school curriculum, is encouraged to complete such training no later than three years after the effective date of this act. The training may be completed through an on-line, credit-based course developed by or for the organ procurement organizations, in collaboration with professional medical organizations in the State.

C.45:11-26.1 Requirements for professional nurse training relative to organ, tissue donation and recovery.

6. The New Jersey Board of Nursing, in collaboration with the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey, shall prescribe by regulation the following requirements for professional nurse training:
   a. The curriculum in each educational program of professional nursing in this State shall include instruction in organ and tissue donation and recovery designed to address clinical aspects of the donation and recovery process.
   b. Completion of organ and tissue donation and recovery instruction as provided in subsection a. of this section shall be required as a condition of receiving a degree or diploma, as applicable, in professional nursing from a nursing program in this State.
   c. A nursing program which includes instruction in organ and tissue donation and recovery as provided in subsection a. of this section in its curricula shall offer such training for continuing education credit.
   d. (1) A licensed professional nurse licensed to practice nursing in this State prior to the effective date of this act, who was not required to receive and did not receive instruction in organ and tissue donation and recovery as part of his nursing program curriculum, shall be required, as a condition of relicensure, to document completion of such training to the satisfaction of the board no later than three years after the effective date of this act. The training may be completed through an on-line, one credit hour course developed by or for the organ procurement organizations and approved by the board.
   (2) The board may waive the requirement in this subsection if an applicant for relicensure demonstrates to the satisfaction of the board that the applicant has attained the substantial
equivalent of this requirement through completion of a similar course in his post-secondary education which meets criteria established by regulation of the board.

C.39:3-12.3 Promotion of organ, tissue donation by NJMVC, Donate Life NJ Registry established.

7. a. (1) Within nine months after the effective date of P.L.2008, c.48 (C.26:6-66 et al.), the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall insure access by residents to an Internet-based interface that promotes organ and tissue donation and enables residents 18 years of age or older to register as donors and have their decisions immediately integrated into the current database maintained by the commission. The database shall include only affirmative donation decisions.

(2) Within one year of the effective date of P.L.2008, c.48 (C.26:6-66 et al.), the commission shall establish a system which allows New Jersey holders of driver’s licenses or personal identification cards who do not have access to the Internet-based interface to add their donor designation to the Donate Life NJ Registry by submitting a paper form to the commission.

Registration shall be provided at no cost to the registrant.

b. The database and Internet-based interface established in this section shall be known as the Donate Life NJ Registry.

c. The form and content of the Internet-based interface shall be designed in collaboration with the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey.

d. Donor information entered into the registry shall supersede any prior conflicting information provided to the registry or on the individual’s driver’s license or identification card, and pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1969, c.161 (C.26:6-58) and section 1 of P.L.1987, c.244 (C.26:6-58.1) or any subsequent statute adopted pursuant thereto, registration by a donor shall constitute sufficient authorization to donate organ and tissues for transplantation and therapy and authorization of another person shall not be necessary to effectuate the gift.

e. Within one year of the effective date of P.L.2008, c.48 (C.26:6-66 et al.), the Donate Life NJ Registry and the official website of the commission shall provide links through which individuals may make voluntary contributions of $1.00 or more to the Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Education Fund established by P.L.1999, c.386 (C.54A:9-25.17 et seq.). Such opportunities shall include both electronic and paper contributions. The links shall be provided in connection with the issuance of licenses, personal identification cards, and the registration of motor vehicles.

C.39:3-12.4 Issuance, renewal of driver’s license, identification card, issue of organ, tissue donation addressed.

8. a. Beginning five years after the effective date of P.L.2008, c.48 (C.26:6-66 et al.), no driver’s license or personal identification card shall be issued or renewed unless the applicant first addresses the issue of donation through an on-line portal connected to the Donate Life NJ Registry or at New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission agencies and regional service centers. This section shall not apply to applicants for provisional licenses or personal identification cards who are under the age of 18.

b. The portal shall be accessible to applicants seven days per week, 24 hours per day, and shall provide for adequate security to protect an individual’s privacy. The form and content of the portal shall be designed in collaboration with the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey.
c. The portal shall require a resident who has not registered as an organ donor, and who seeks a driver’s license or identification card or seeks renewal thereof, to either: (1) register as an organ donor through the Donate Life NJ Registry; or (2) review information about the life-saving potential of organ and tissue donation, and the consequences when an individual does not make a decision to become an organ donor and does not register or otherwise record a designated decision-maker.

In addition to promoting organ and tissue donation, the portal shall provide information about the procedure for designating a decision-maker.

d. Any information technology system adopted by the commission after the effective date of P.L.2008, c.48 (C.26:6-66 et al.) shall accommodate the inclusion of donor information into the database and the on-going operation of the Donate Life NJ Registry.

C.39:3-12.5 Collaboration between NJMVC, departments, and organ procurement organizations.

9. a. For purposes of the development and implementation of the Donate Life NJ Registry, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall collaborate with the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey in applying for any federal or private grants recommended by the organ procurement organizations.

b. The Chief Administrator of the commission shall collaborate with the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey to identify, and if appropriate, apply for and accept on behalf of the State any relevant grants from the federal government or any agency thereof, or from any foundation, corporation, association or individual. Any money so received may be expended by the commission, subject to any limitations imposed in such grants to effect any of the purposes of the commission upon warrant of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting of the Department of the Treasury on vouchers certified and approved by the director. The power herein granted shall be in addition to and shall in no way limit the authority granted to the chief administrator by other existing law.

c. The commission, and the Departments of Human Services, Health and Senior Services, and Law and Public Safety may collaborate with the organ procurement organizations designated to serve in the State of New Jersey in applying for any federal or private grants recommended by the organ procurement organizations.

10. Notwithstanding section 1 of P.L.1987, c.244 (C.26:6-58.1) to the contrary, a designated decision-maker or agent of the decedent at the time of the decedent’s death who could have made an anatomical gift immediately before the decedent’s death shall be given first priority for making a gift of a decedent’s body or part.

11. Section 4 of P.L.1969, c.161 (C.26:6-60) is amended to read as follows:

C.26:6-60 Gift by will or other document.

4. (a) A gift of all or part of the body under section 2(a) may be made by will. The gift becomes effective upon the death of the testator without waiting for probate. If the will is not probated, or if it is declared invalid for testamentary purposes, the gift, to the extent that it has been acted upon in good faith, is nevertheless valid and effective.

(b) A gift of all or part of the body under section 2(a) may also be made through the Donate Life NJ Registry, established pursuant to section 7 of P.L.2008, c.48 (C.39:3-12.3) or
by document other than a will. The gift becomes effective upon the death of the donor. The document, which may be a card designed to be carried on the person, must be signed by the donor. If the donor cannot sign, the document may be signed for him at his direction and in his presence in the presence of two witnesses who must sign the document in his presence. Delivery of the document of gift during the donor’s lifetime is not necessary to make the gift valid.

(c) The gift may be made to a specified donee or without specifying a donee. If the latter, the gift may be accepted by the attending physician as donee upon or following death. If the gift is made to a specified donee who is not available at the time and place of death, the attending physician upon or following death, in the absence of any expressed indication that the donor desired otherwise, may accept the gift as donee. The physician who becomes a donee under this subsection shall not participate in the procedures for removing or transplanting a part.

(d) Notwithstanding section 7(b), the donor may designate in his will, card, or other document of gift the surgeon or physician to carry out the appropriate procedures. In the absence of a designation or if the designee is not available, the donee or other person authorized to accept the gift may employ or authorize any surgeon or physician for the purpose or, in the case of a gift of eyes, he may employ or authorize a practitioner of mortuary science licensed by the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey, an eye bank technician or a medical student who has successfully completed a course in eye enucleation approved by the State Board of Medical Examiners to enucleate eyes for the gift after certification of death by a physician. A practitioner of mortuary science, an eye bank technician or a medical student acting in accordance with the provisions of this subsection shall not have any liability, civil or criminal, for the eye enucleation.

(e) Any gift by a person designated in section 2(b) shall be made by a document signed by him or made by his telegraphic, recorded telephonic, or other recorded message.

(f) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the intent of a decedent to give all or any part of his body as a gift pursuant to section 2(a) of P.L.1969, c.161 (C.26:6-58), as evidenced by the possession of a donor card, donor designation on a driver’s license, advance directive pursuant to P.L.1991, c.201 (C.26:2H-53 et al.), other document of gift, or by registration with a Statewide organ and tissue donor registry, shall not be revoked by any person designated in section 2(b) of P.L.1969, c.161 (C.26:6-58), nor shall the consent of any such person at the time of the donor’s death or immediately thereafter be necessary to render the gift valid and effective.
corporate identification number; the requestor's reason for requesting the record; the driver's license number or the name, address and birth date of the person whose driver record is requested; the license plate number or VIN number of the vehicle for which a record is requested; any additional information determined by the chief administrator to be appropriate and the requestor's certification as to the truth of the foregoing statements. Prior to the approval of the written request form, the commission may also require the requestor to submit documentary evidence supporting the reason for the request.

In lieu of completing a written request form for each record requested, the commission may permit a person to complete and submit for approval of the chief administrator or the chief administrator's designee, on a case by case basis, a written application form for participation in a public information program on an ongoing basis. The written application form shall bear notice that the making of false statements therein is punishable and shall include, but not be limited to, the applicant's name, address and telephone number; the nature of the applicant's business activity; a description of each of the applicant's intended uses of the information contained in the motor vehicle records to be requested; the number of employees with access to the information; the name, title and signature of the authorized company representative; and any additional information determined by the chief administrator to be appropriate. The chief administrator may also require the applicant to submit a copy of its business credentials, such as license to do business or certificate of incorporation. Prior to approval by the chief administrator or the chief administrator's designee, the applicant shall certify in writing as to the truth of all statements contained in the completed application form.

c. Personal information shall be disclosed for use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles and dealers by motor vehicle manufacturers; and removal of non-owner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers to carry out the purposes of the Automobile Information Disclosure Act, Pub.L.85-506, the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Saving Act, Pub.L.92-513, the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, Pub.L.89-563, the Anti-Car Theft Act of 1992, Pub.L.102-519, and the Clean Air Act, Pub.L.88-206, and may be disclosed as follows:

(1) For use by any government agency, including any court or law enforcement agency in carrying out its functions, or any private person or entity acting on behalf of a federal, State or local agency in carrying out its functions.

(2) For use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls, or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts and dealers; motor vehicle market research activities, including survey research; and the removal of non-owner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

(3) For use in the normal course of business by a legitimate business or its agents, employees or contractors, but only:

(a) to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the business or its agents, employees, or contractors; and

(b) if such information as so submitted is not correct or is no longer correct, to obtain the correct information, but only for the purposes of preventing fraud by, pursuing legal remedies against, or recovering on a debt or security interest against the individual.

(4) For use in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative or arbitral proceeding in any federal, State or local court or agency or before any self-regulatory body, including
service of process, investigation in anticipation of litigation, and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or pursuant to an order of a federal, State or local court.

(5) For use in educational initiatives, research activities, and for use in producing statistical reports, so long as the personal information is not published, redisclosed, or used to contact individuals and, in the case of educational initiatives, only to organ procurement organizations as aggregated, non-identifying information.

(6) For use by any insurer or insurance support organization, or by a self-insured entity, or its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with claims investigation activities, antifraud activities, rating or underwriting.

(7) For use in providing notice to the owners of towed or impounded vehicles.

(8) For use by an employer or its agent or insurer to obtain or verify information relating to a holder of a commercial driver's license that is required under the “Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act,” 49 U.S.C.App.s.2710 et seq.

(9) For use in connection with the operation of private toll transportation facilities.

(10) For use by any requestor, if the requestor demonstrates it has obtained the notarized written consent of the individual to whom the information pertains.

(11) For product and service mail communications from automotive-related manufacturers, dealers and businesses, if the commission has implemented methods and procedures to ensure that:

(a) individuals are provided an opportunity, in a clear and conspicuous manner, to prohibit such uses; and

(b) product and service mail communications from automotive-related manufacturers, dealers and businesses will not be directed at individuals who exercise their option under subparagraph (a) of this paragraph.

(12) For use by an organ procurement organization designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey, or any donor registry established by any such organization, exclusively for the purposes of determining, verifying, and recording organ and tissue donor designation and identity. For these purposes, an organ procurement organization shall have electronic access at all times, without exception, to real-time organ donor designation and identification information. An organ procurement organization may also have information for research activities, pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection c. of this section.

d. As provided by the federal “Drivers' Privacy Protection Act of 1994,” Pub.L.103-322, a person authorized to receive personal information under paragraphs (1) through (10) of subsection c. of this section may resell or redisclose the personal information only for a use permitted by paragraphs (1) through (10) of subsection c. of this section subject to regulation by the commission. A person authorized to receive personal information under paragraph (11) of subsection c. of this section may resell or redisclose the personal information pursuant to paragraph (11) of subsection c. of this section subject to regulation by the commission. An organization authorized to receive personal information under paragraph (12) of subsection c. of this section may redisclose the personal information only for the purposes set forth in that paragraph.

e. As provided by the federal “Drivers' Privacy Protection Act of 1994,” Pub.L.103-322, a person authorized to receive personal information under this section who resells or rediscloses personal information covered by the provisions of this act shall keep for a period of five years records identifying each person or entity that receives information and the permitted purpose for which the information will be used and shall make such records
available to the commission upon request. Any person who receives, from any source, personal information from a motor vehicle record shall release or disclose that information only in accordance with this act.

f. The release of personal information under this section shall not include an individual's social security number except in accordance with applicable State or federal law.

13. Section 1 of P.L.1978, c.181 (C.39:3-12.2) is amended to read as follows:

C.39:3-12.2 License, identification card to include designation as organ, tissue donor; educational program for employees, personnel of organ procurement organization; access to information.

1. a. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall provide with every new license, renewal license, identification card or renewal identification card the opportunity for each person pursuant to the provisions of the “Uniform Anatomical Gift Act,” P.L.1969, c.161 (C.26:6-57 et seq.) or any superseding or corresponding statute, to designate that the person shall donate his organs and tissues for purposes of transplantation and therapy upon his death.

b. The designation indicating that a person is a donor pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be done in accordance with procedures prescribed by the chief administrator. The designation shall be displayed in print in a conspicuous form and manner on the license or identification card, and electronically, by substantially the following statement: “ORGAN DONOR” and shall constitute sufficient legal authority for the removal of a body organ or part upon the death of the licensee or identification cardholder. The designation shall be removed in accordance with procedures prescribed by the chief administrator.

c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.28).

d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.80).

e. The chief administrator, in consultation with those organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey, shall establish and provide an annual education program for agency employees and personnel. The program shall focus on the benefits associated with organ and tissue donations, the scope and operation of New Jersey's donor program, and how the agency's employees and personnel can effectively inform the public about the donor program and can best assist those wishing to participate in the donor program, including use of the Donate Life NJ Registry, established pursuant to P.L.2008, c.48 (C.26:6-66 et al.).

f. The chief administrator shall electronically record and store all organ donor designations and identification information, and shall provide the organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey with real-time electronic access to the organ donor designation information collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section. An organ procurement organization designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey, or any donor registry established by any such organization, shall have real-time electronic access to those organ donor designations and identification at all times, without exception, for the purposes of verifying organ and tissue donation status and identity. For these purposes, the federally designated organ procurement organization shall have electronic access to each recorded donor’s name, address, date of birth, gender, color of eyes, height, and driver’s license number. Upon request, the chief administrator shall provide a copy of the donor’s original driver’s license application.
g. Those organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey may contract with a third party, in consultation with the chief administrator, to assess, develop, and implement any system set-up necessary to support the initial and ongoing electronic access by those organizations to the donor designation and identification information required to be made available in accordance with the provisions of this section; however, the organ procurement organizations shall not be required to incur an aggregate cost in excess of $50,000 for the purposes of this subsection.

C.45:9-7.6 Ongoing Statewide organ and tissue donation awareness campaign.

14. The organ procurement organizations designated pursuant to 42 U.S.C.s.1320b-8 to serve in the State of New Jersey shall collaborate with the Medical Society of New Jersey and the Institute of Medicine and Public Health of New Jersey to establish and conduct an ongoing Statewide organ and tissue donation awareness campaign targeted at physicians in this State.

15. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of this act.

16. This act shall take effect immediately, and section 10 shall expire upon the enactment of P.L.2008, c.50.

Approved July 22, 2008.