

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC WORKS AND  
INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 1582**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 14, 2012

The Assembly Transportation, Public Works and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1582.

As reported, this bill requires the owner of an autocab (commonly known as a “taxicab”) to demonstrate and provide proof of financial responsibility to the clerk of the municipality in which the owner is seeking consent to operate an autocab. An owner of an autocab shall demonstrate proof of financial responsibility by filing with the clerk of the municipality satisfactory evidence of holding an insurance policy required pursuant to R.S.48:16-3 or section 1 of P.L.1972, c.197 (C.39:6B-1) and proof of the following:

(1) Posting a satisfactory bond of a surety company authorized to do business in this State in an amount equal to the number of vehicles owned times \$35,000, to a maximum of \$750,000; or

(2) Depositing cash or securities in an amount equal to the number of vehicles owned times \$35,000, to a maximum of \$750,000.

The bill also requires the owner to maintain at its principal place of business and annually file with the clerk a financial statement. The bill provides that the financial statement shall not be considered a public record pursuant to the P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), commonly known as the open public records act.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2012-2013 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to clarify that an owner of an autocab must demonstrate proof of financial responsibility by either posting a satisfactory bond of a surety company authorized to do business in this State in an amount equal to the number of vehicles owned times \$35,000, to a maximum of \$750,000; or depositing cash or securities in an amount equal to the number of vehicles owned times \$35,000, to a maximum of \$750,000. The committee also amended

the bill to require an owner of an autocab to annually file a financial statement with the municipality, instead of an audited financial statement, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and certified by a certified public accountant. The amendments further provide that the financial statement filed with the municipality shall not be considered a public record.