

SENATE, No. 2415

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 27, 2016

Sponsored by:
Senator RONALD L. RICE
District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes For-Hire Vehicle License Plate Task Force; requires issuance of uniquely colored license plates for certain for-hire vehicles and registration of certain for-hire vehicles.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain for-hire vehicle license plates and
2 registration, supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, and
3 amending P.L.1979, c.224.

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

7
8 1. (New section) a. For the purposes of this section:

9 “For-hire vehicle” means a motor vehicle operated over the
10 public highways in this State for the transportation of passengers for
11 hire in intrastate or interstate business, including an autocab as
12 defined in R.S.48:16-1, commonly referred to as a taxi, a limousine
13 as defined in R.S.48:16-13 or section 2 of P.L.1997, c.356
14 (C.48:16-13.1), and a personal motor vehicle used to provide a
15 transportation service to a passenger, for which a fee is paid and is
16 prearranged through a digital network which connects the passenger
17 to the driver of the personal motor vehicle through an online-
18 enabled technology, application, service, website, or system; except
19 that “for-hire vehicle” shall not include:

20 (1) a vehicle engaged in motorbus regular route service as
21 defined in section 3 of P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-3);

22 (2) a hotel bus used exclusively for the transportation of hotel
23 patrons to or from local railroad or other common carrier stations,
24 including local airports;

25 (3) a bus operated for the transportation of enrolled children,
26 and adults only when serving as chaperones, to or from a school,
27 school connected activity, day camp, summer day camp, summer
28 residence camp, nursery school, child care center, pre-school center,
29 or other similar place of education, including “School Vehicle Type
30 I” and “School Vehicle Type II” as defined in R.S.39:1-1;

31 (4) an autobus with a carrying capacity of not more than 13
32 passengers, operated under municipal consent upon a route
33 established wholly within the limits of a single municipality or with
34 a carrying capacity of not more than 20 passengers operated under
35 municipal consent upon a route established wholly within the limits
36 of not more than four contiguous municipalities within any county
37 of the fifth or sixth class, which route in either case does not, in
38 whole or part, parallel upon the same street the line of any street
39 railway or traction railway or any other autobus route;

40 (5) a vehicle used in a “ridesharing” arrangement, as defined by
41 the “New Jersey Ridesharing Act of 1981,” P.L.1981, c.413
42 (C.27:26-1 et al.);

43 (6) a motor bus owned by, or operated under a contract with, the
44 New Jersey Transit Corporation;

45 (7) charter bus operations, as defined in R.S.48:4-1;

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 (8) a vehicle designed to transport eight or more, but fewer than
2 16, persons, including the driver, which is used exclusively for the
3 transportation of persons between an off-airport parking facility and
4 an airport;

5 (9) a special paratransit vehicle, as defined in R.S.48:4-1; or

6 (10) a vehicle that is owned or leased by a “boarding or nursing
7 home,” as defined in section 2 of P.L.1977, c.238 (C.26:2H-37), by
8 an “assisted living facility,” as defined in section 1 of P.L.2009,
9 c.61 (C.26:2H-12.56), by an adult day health care facility or
10 pediatric day health care facility licensed pursuant to P.L.1971,
11 c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et al.), or by any facility or other entity licensed
12 or approved by the Department of Human Services or the
13 Department of Health to render services to New Jersey residents,
14 and which is used to transport eight or more, but fewer than 16
15 persons, including the driver, to and from recreational and social
16 activities, shopping, and other health care providers.

17 b. There is hereby established the For-Hire Vehicle License
18 Plate Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to design and
19 select a unique color for license plates to be issued by the New
20 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission for display on for-hire vehicles
21 as defined pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

22 c. The task force shall consist of the following five members:

23 (1) the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
24 Commission, who shall serve ex-officio, or the chief administrator’s
25 designee;

26 (2) one member of the Senate Law and Public Safety
27 Committee, or its successor committee, to be appointed by the
28 Senate President;

29 (3) one member of the Senate Law and Public Safety
30 Committee, or its successor committee, to be appointed by the
31 Senate Minority Leader;

32 (4) one member of the Assembly Law and Public Safety
33 Committee, or its successor committee, to be appointed by the
34 Speaker of the General Assembly; and

35 (5) one member of the Assembly Law and Public Safety
36 Committee, or its successor committee, to be appointed by the
37 Assembly Minority Leader.

38 d. Appointments to the task force shall be made within 30 days
39 of the effective date of this section. Vacancies in the membership
40 of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
41 appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve
42 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary
43 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of
44 the task force and within the limits of funds appropriated or
45 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

46 e. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable
47 following the appointment of its members, but no later than 60 days
48 after the effective date of this section. The task force shall select a

1 chairperson from among its members and shall meet at the call of
2 the chairperson. The task force may appoint a secretary who need
3 not be a member of the task force.

4 f. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall provide
5 staff and related support services to the task force. The task force
6 shall be entitled to call upon the services of any State, county, or
7 municipal department, board, commission, or agency as may be
8 available to it for its purposes.

9
10 2. (New section) The task force shall submit a report to the
11 Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
12 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than six months following its
13 organizational meeting. The report shall contain the task force's
14 findings and recommendations for the design and color of license
15 plates to be issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
16 for display on for-hire vehicles.

17
18 3. (New section) a. For the purposes of this section:

19 "For-hire vehicle" means a motor vehicle operated over the
20 public highways in this State for the transportation of passengers for
21 hire in intrastate or interstate business, including an autocab as
22 defined in R.S.48:16-1, commonly referred to as a taxi, a limousine
23 as defined in R.S.48:16-13 or section 2 of P.L.1997, c.356
24 (C.48:16-13.1), and a personal motor vehicle used to provide a
25 transportation service to a passenger, for which a fee is paid and is
26 prearranged through a digital network which connects the passenger
27 to the driver of the personal motor vehicle through an online-
28 enabled technology, application, service, website, or system; except
29 that "for-hire vehicle" shall not include:

30 (1) a vehicle engaged in motorbus regular route service as
31 defined in section 3 of P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-3);

32 (2) a hotel bus used exclusively for the transportation of hotel
33 patrons to or from local railroad or other common carrier stations
34 including local airports;

35 (3) a bus operated for the transportation of enrolled children,
36 and adults only when serving as chaperones, to or from a school,
37 school connected activity, day camp, summer day camp, summer
38 residence camp, nursery school, child care center, pre-school center,
39 or other similar place of education, including "School Vehicle Type
40 I" and "School Vehicle Type II" as defined in R.S.39:1-1;

41 (4) an autobus with a carrying capacity of not more than 13
42 passengers operated under municipal consent upon a route
43 established wholly within the limits of a single municipality or with
44 a carrying capacity of not more than 20 passengers operated under
45 municipal consent upon a route established wholly within the limits
46 of not more than four contiguous municipalities within any county
47 of the fifth or sixth class, which route in either case does not, in

1 whole or part, parallel upon the same street the line of any street
2 railway or traction railway or any other autobus route;

3 (5) a vehicle used in a “ridesharing” arrangement, as defined by
4 the “New Jersey Ridesharing Act of 1981,” P.L.1981, c.413
5 (C.27:26-1 et al.);

6 (6) a motor bus owned by, or operated under a contract with, the
7 New Jersey Transit Corporation;

8 (7) charter bus operations, as defined in R.S.48:4-1;

9 (8) a vehicle designed to transport eight or more, but fewer than
10 16, persons, including the driver, which is used exclusively for the
11 transportation of persons between an off-airport parking facility and
12 an airport;

13 (9) a special paratransit vehicle, as defined in R.S.48:4-1; or

14 (10) a vehicle that is owned or leased by a “boarding or nursing
15 home,” as defined in section 2 of P.L.1977, c.238 (C.26:2H-37), by
16 an “assisted living facility,” as defined in section 1 of P.L.2009,
17 c.61 (C.26:2H-12.56), by an adult day health care facility or
18 pediatric day health care facility licensed pursuant to P.L.1971,
19 c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et al.), or by any facility or other entity licensed
20 or approved by the Department of Human Services or the
21 Department of Health to render services to New Jersey residents,
22 and which is used to transport eight or more, but fewer than 16
23 persons, including the driver, to and from recreational and social
24 activities, shopping, and other health care providers.

25 b. The chief administrator shall issue special license plates of a
26 unique color to the owner of a for-hire vehicle that picks up a
27 passenger in the State and transports the passenger to a location
28 within the State or outside the State. The commission may charge
29 the owner of a for-hire vehicle a reasonable fee for issuance of these
30 plates.

31 c. The chief administrator shall establish a public awareness
32 campaign to inform the public about the license plates of a unique
33 color issued for display on for-hire vehicles in this State pursuant to
34 subsection b. of this section. The commission shall post signs
35 informing the public about the license plates of a unique color at
36 each airport, motorbus, rail, light rail, and ferry terminal and station
37 in the State.

38

39 4. Section 12 of P.L.1979, c.224 (C.39:3-19.5) is amended to
40 read as follows:

41 12. a. Upon the application of any person who owns a
42 limousine service, the **【Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles】**
43 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
44 shall issue special registration plates of a unique color pursuant to
45 section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
46 as this bill) bearing the word "limousine" in addition to the
47 registration number and other markings or identification otherwise
48 prescribed by law.

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b. The special registration plates authorized by **[this act]** subsection a. of this section shall be issued upon proof, satisfactory to the **[director]** chief administrator, that the applicant has complied with the provisions of article 2 of chapter 16 of Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

c. The fee for **such** special limousine registration plates shall be **[\$10.00]** \$10 in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of such motor vehicles.

(cf: P.L.1999, c.356, s.19)

5. a. For the purposes of this section:

“Digital network” means an online-enabled technology, application, service, website, or system that is used to connect a passenger to a driver of a for-hire personal motor vehicle.

“For-hire personal motor vehicle” means a personal motor vehicle used to provide a transportation service, for which a fee is paid, to a passenger which is prearranged through a digital network and has a pickup location within the State.

b. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall create and maintain a registry of for-hire personal motor vehicles.

c. Within 30 days of the effective date of this section, the owner of a for-hire personal motor vehicle shall register the for-hire personal motor vehicle with the commission's for-hire personal motor vehicle registry. The commission shall add the for-hire personal motor vehicle to the registry created pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

6. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations to implement the provisions of sections 3 and 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and the amendatory provisions of P.L.1979, c.224 (C.39:3-19.5) pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

7. a. Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon submission of the task force's report required to be prepared and submitted pursuant to section 2 of this act.

b. Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month following submission of the task force's report pursuant to section 2 of this act.

STATEMENT

This bill creates the For-Hire Vehicle License Plate Task Force to design and select a unique color for licenses plates to be issued

1 by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) for display
2 on certain for-hire vehicles and requires the Chief Administrator of
3 the MVC (chief administrator) to issue license plates of a unique
4 color for display on certain for-hire vehicles. The bill also requires
5 the MVC to establish a public awareness campaign and create and
6 maintain a for-hire personal motor vehicle registry.

7 Under the bill, “for-hire vehicle” includes a taxi, limousine, and
8 personal motor vehicle used to provide passenger transportation for
9 which a fee is paid and is prearranged through a digital network.

10 The task force is to consist of five members: the Chief
11 Administrator of the MVC, or the chief administrator’s designee;
12 one member of the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee
13 appointed by the Senate President; one member of the Senate Law
14 and Public Safety Committee appointed by the Senate Minority
15 Leader; one member of the Assembly Law and Public Safety
16 Committee appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and
17 one member of the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee
18 appointed by the Assembly Minority Leader. The task force is
19 required to submit a report, within six months after its
20 organizational meeting, to the Governor and the Legislature
21 concerning the task force’s findings and recommendations for the
22 design and unique color of license plates to be issued for display on
23 for-hire vehicles.

24 The chief administrator is to issue special license plates of a
25 unique color to the owner of a for-hire vehicle that picks up a
26 passenger in the State and transports the passenger to a location
27 within the State or outside the State. The chief administrator is to
28 establish a public awareness campaign to inform the public about
29 the uniquely colored license plates and to post signs with this
30 information at each airport, motorbus, rail, light rail, and ferry
31 terminal and station.

32 Under current law, the chief administrator is required to issue
33 limousine registration plates to the owner of a limousine service.
34 The bill requires these limousine registration plates to be uniquely
35 colored.