

ASSEMBLY, No. 337

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblymen PASCHELL and IMPREVEDUTO

1 AN ACT concerning the use of automobile safety belts and amending  
2 P.L.1984, c.179.

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

6  
7 1. Section 3 of P.L.1984, c.179 (C.39:3-76.2g) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 3. This act shall not apply to a driver or front seat passenger of:

10 a. A passenger automobile manufactured before July 1, 1966;

11 b. A passenger automobile in which the driver or passenger  
12 possesses a written verification from a licensed physician that the  
13 driver or passenger is unable to wear a safety seat belt system for  
14 physical or medical reasons, except that a person whose vehicle  
15 displays a sticker or placard issued pursuant to subsection e. of this  
16 section need not have the written verification in his possession;

17 c. A passenger automobile which is not required to be equipped  
18 with safety seat belt system under federal law; or,

19 d. A passenger automobile operated by a rural letter carrier of the  
20 United States Postal Service while performing the duties of a rural  
21 letter carrier.

22 e. A person who is unable to wear a safety seat belt system  
23 pursuant to subsection b. of this section may apply to the director for  
24 a sticker or placard to be affixed or placed on or in a passenger  
25 automobile in which that person is the driver or passenger. The  
26 director shall issue such a sticker or placard upon written verification  
27 from a licensed physician that the driver or passenger is unable to wear  
28 a safety seat belt system for physical or medical reasons. The sticker  
29 or placard shall state that the person is exempt from the provisions of  
30 the seat belt law and shall be affixed or placed in a location designated  
31 by the director.

32 (cf: P.L.1984, c.179, s.3)

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1       2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month  
2 following enactment.

3

4

5

#### STATEMENT

6

7       Drivers and front seat passengers in passenger motor vehicles are  
8 required by New Jersey law to wear an approved safety seat belt  
9 system. The law makes an exception, however, for persons who are  
10 certified by a physician as physically or medically unable to wear  
11 automobile seat belts. These persons are required to possess the  
12 physician's certification at all times while driving or riding in the front  
13 seat of a passenger vehicle.

14       Notwithstanding this provision, persons not able for physical or  
15 medical reasons to wear seat belts have been cited for not using these  
16 belts. This happens either because they do not possess the required  
17 physician's certification or a police officer fails to recognize its  
18 validity.

19       This bill is intended to relieve these problems. It establishes a  
20 system of identification for persons unable to wear seat belts similar  
21 to that used to designate the vehicles of handicapped drivers. Upon  
22 receipt of a certification from the person's physician, the Division of  
23 Motor Vehicles would issue a sticker or placard to be affixed on or  
24 placed in the person's vehicle. The sticker or placard would state that  
25 the person is exempt from the law requiring that seat belts be worn.

26

27

28

29

30       \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorizes vehicle sticker for persons exempt from seat belt law.