

ASSEMBLY, No. 801

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman FARRAGHER

1 AN ACT requiring the display of lighted lamps on motor vehicles
2 operated on the public highways of this State, and amending
3 R.S.39:3-46.

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

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8 1. R.S.39:3-46 is amended to read as follows:

9 39:3-46. As used in this article, unless the context requires
10 another or different construction:

11 "Approved" means approved by the commissioner of motor vehicles
12 and when applied to lamps and other illuminating devices means that
13 such lamps and devices must be in good working order and capable of
14 operating at least 50% of their designed efficiency.

15 "Vehicle" means every device in, upon or by which a person or
16 property is or may be transported upon a highway, excepting devices
17 moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or
18 tracks.

19 "When lighted lamps are required" means: a. whenever a motor
20 vehicle is being operated upon the public highways of this State or b.
21 in the case of a motor vehicle being operated on a private road, at any
22 time from a half-hour after sunset to a half-hour before sunrise and
23 during any time when, due to rain, smoke, fog, unfavorable
24 atmospheric conditions or for any other cause there is not sufficient
25 light to render clearly discernible persons and vehicles [on the
26 highway] at a distance of 500 feet ahead.

27 "Headlamp" means a major lighting device capable of providing
28 general illumination ahead of a vehicle.

29 "Auxiliary driving lamp" means an additional lighting device on a
30 motor vehicle used primarily to supplement the headlamps in providing
31 general illumination ahead of a vehicle.

32 "Single beam headlamps" mean headlamps or similar devices

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 arranged so as to permit the driver of the vehicle to use but one
2 distribution of light on the road.

3 "Multiple-beam headlamps" mean headlamps or similar devices
4 arranged so as to permit the driver of the vehicle to use one of two or
5 more distributions of light on the road.

6 "Asymmetric headlamps" mean headlamps or similar devices
7 arranged so as to permit the driver of the vehicle to use one of several
8 distributions of light on the road, at least one of which is asymmetric
9 about the median vertical axis.

10 "Clear road beam" means the beam from multiple-beam headlamps
11 designed to be used when not approaching other vehicles and designed
12 to provide sufficient candlepower ahead to reveal obstacles at a safe
13 distance ahead under ordinary conditions of road contour and of
14 vehicle loading.

15 "Meeting beam" means the beam from multiple beam or asymmetric
16 headlamps designed to be used when other vehicles are approaching
17 within 500 feet or when signalled and designed so that the illumination
18 on the left side of the road is reduced sufficiently to avoid dangerous
19 glare for the approaching driver.

20 "Lower beam" means the beam from multiple beam or asymmetric
21 headlamps designed to be directed low enough to avoid dangerous
22 glare on both sides of the roadway.

23 "Reflector" means an approved device designed and used to give an
24 indication by reflected light.

25 (cf: P.L. 1983, c.285, s.1)

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27 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
28 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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33 This bill, by revising the definition of "when lighted lamps are
34 required" in R.S. 39:3-46, would require motor vehicle operators to
35 turn on their headlights whenever they are driving on the public
36 highways of this State.

37 Under current law, motorists are required to turn on their
38 headlights (1) during the period beginning at one half-hour after sunset
39 to one half-hour before sunrise and (2) whenever, due to rain, smoke,
40 fog, unfavorable atmospheric conditions or for any other cause, there
41 is not sufficient light to clearly discern persons or vehicles at a
42 distance of 500 feet. This current requirement would remain in effect
43 for vehicles being operated on private roads.

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3 Requires motor vehicle operators to have headlights on when driving

4 on public roads.

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