

ASSEMBLY, No. 2565

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 9, 1996

By Assemblymen BLEE and LeFEVRE

1 AN ACT waiving the driver's license and motor vehicle registration
2 fees for certain volunteers and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39
3 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. Upon the approval of the application of any person who is a
9 volunteer member of any fire company or of any first aid or rescue
10 squad in this State, the director shall waive the payment of the
11 required fee for that person's basic driver's license issued pursuant to
12 R.S.39:3-10. The waiver authorized under this subsection shall not be
13 construed to include any other fee imposed for any endorsement to a
14 basic driver's license. Any volunteer whose driver's license is revoked
15 or suspended by the director pursuant to law or regulation shall no
16 longer be eligible for the waiver authorized under this subsection.

17 b. (1) The application required under subsection a. of this section
18 shall be in a manner and form prescribed by the director and shall be
19 supported by such proof as the director shall deem satisfactory to
20 establish that the applicant is a bona fide volunteer member of a fire
21 company or of a first aid or rescue squad.

22 (2) Any person whose driver's license fee has been waived pursuant
23 to the provisions of this section and who, subsequent to that waiver,
24 resigns, is removed or otherwise terminates or is terminated from his
25 association as a volunteer member of the fire company or of the first
26 aid or rescue squad, shall within 15 days so notify the director. Upon
27 such notice, the director shall charge that person a fee for his a basic
28 driver's license. The amount of the fee shall be proportionate based
29 upon the calendar month and year that person's driver's license is
30 scheduled to expire.

31 c. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be
32 subject to a fine of not more than \$500, imprisonment in the county
33 jail for a term of not more than 60 days, or both.

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35 2. a. Upon the approval of the application of any person who is a
36 volunteer member of any fire company or of any first aid or rescue
37 squad in this State, the director shall waive the payment of the annual

1 motor vehicle registration fee for either the passenger automobile
2 owned or leased by the applicant and registered under the provisions
3 of R.S.39:3-8 or the noncommercial truck owned or leased by the
4 applicant and registered under the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1968,
5 c.439 (C.39:3-8.1), and which is used by the applicant as his primary
6 means of transportation in travelling to and from his volunteer services
7 with the fire company or the first aid or rescue squad. The waiver
8 authorized under the provisions of this subsection shall apply to and
9 include all additional registration fees and surcharges imposed and
10 collected by the director pursuant to chapter 3 of Title 39 of the
11 Revised Statutes and those imposed and collected pursuant to section
12 68 of P.L.1990, c.8 (C.17:33B-63); provided, however it shall not
13 apply to or include any additional fee, fine or surcharge imposed or
14 assessed as a penalty for any violation, offense, conviction, or
15 accident. Any volunteer whose motor vehicle registration certificate
16 is suspended or revoked by the director pursuant to law or regulation
17 shall no longer be eligible for the waiver authorized under this
18 subsection.

19 b. (1) The application required under subsection a. of this section
20 shall be in a manner and form prescribed by the director and shall be
21 supported by such proof as the director shall deem satisfactory to
22 establish that the applicant is a bona fide volunteer member of a fire
23 company or a volunteer member of a first aid squad.

24 (2) Any person whose motor vehicle registration fee has been
25 waived pursuant to the provisions of this section and who, subsequent
26 to that waiver, resigns, is removed or otherwise terminates or is
27 terminated from his association as a volunteer member of the volunteer
28 fire company or of the first aid or rescue squad, shall within 15 days
29 so notify the director. Upon such notice, the director shall charge that
30 person a motor vehicle registration fee. The amount of the fee shall
31 be proportionate based upon the calendar month the motor vehicle
32 registration is scheduled to expire.

33 c. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be
34 subject to a fine of not more than \$500, imprisonment in the county
35 jail for a term of not more than 60 days, or both.

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37 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
38 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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43 The volunteer firefighters and volunteer members of first aid and
44 rescue squads selflessly serve the citizens of this State. Their
45 contribution to the safety and well-being of the public all too often is
46 unrecognized and taken for granted. The purpose of this bill is to

1 show, in some small way, New Jersey's deep appreciation of the
2 service and sacrifice of these true public servants.

3 The bill waives the driver's license fees and motor vehicle
4 registration fees of volunteer members of fire companies and of first
5 aid or rescue squads. The waiver authorized under the bill applies to
6 all registration fees and surcharges, including the insurance surcharges
7 collected under section 68 of P.L.1990, c.8 (C.17:33B-63) for the
8 New Jersey Automobile Full Insurance Underwriting Association
9 (JUA) and the New Jersey Automobile Insurance Guaranty Fund, but
10 does not apply to any additional registration fee or surcharge imposed
11 or assessed as a penalty because of an offense, violation, conviction,
12 or accident.

13 Under the provisions of the bill, volunteer members of fire
14 companies and of first aid or rescue squads may apply to the Director
15 of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a waiver of their driver's
16 license fees and motor vehicle registration fees. The application is to
17 contain such information as the director requires, including appropriate
18 proof of the applicant's volunteer service.

19 The motor vehicle registration fee waiver applies to only one
20 vehicle owned or leased by the volunteer, specifically the one the
21 volunteer uses as his primary means of transportation to and from the
22 fire company or first aid or rescue squad.

23 A volunteer who resigns or otherwise discontinues his membership
24 in the fire company or in the first aid or rescue squad is required to
25 pay a fee, proportionate to the unexpired term of his license or
26 registration, to the director.

27 The bill specifies that if any volunteer's driver's license or motor
28 vehicle registration is revoked or suspended by the director, that
29 volunteer is no longer eligible to participate in the waiver program.

30 Finally, any person who violates the provisions of the bill is subject
31 to a fine of not more than \$500, imprisonment in the county jail for a
32 term of not more than 60 days, or both. This penalty is similar to the
33 penalty set forth in R.S.39:3-10 for individuals who violate the State's
34 driver's licenses law.

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39 Waives driver's license and motor vehicle registration fees for
40 volunteer firefighters and volunteer members of first aid and rescue
41 squads.