

SENATE, No. 583

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 1996

By Senator HAINES

1 AN ACT concerning splash guards on certain trucks and amending
2 P.L.1952, c.343.

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

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1952, c.343 (C.39:3-79.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. No person shall operate or cause to be operated any bus, truck,
10 truck tractor, full trailer or semitrailer of registered gross weight
11 exceeding three tons on any public highway unless the same is
12 equipped with suitable metal protectors or substantial flexible flaps on
13 the rearmost wheels, and, in case the rear wheels are not covered at
14 the top by fender, body or other parts of the vehicle, the rear wheels
15 shall be covered at the top by protective means, of such standard type
16 or design and installed in such manner as shall be approved by the
17 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Law
18 and Public Safety and as shall conform substantially to any
19 requirements of the [Interstate Commerce Commission] federal
20 government governing similar subject matter, in order to prevent, as
21 far as practical, such wheels from throwing dirt, water or other
22 materials on the windshields of [the] following vehicles, except in
23 cases in which the motor vehicle is so designed and constructed that
24 the above requirements are accomplished by reason of fender or body
25 construction or other means of enclosure; provided, however, this act
26 shall not apply to pole trailers, dump trucks, tanks, or other vehicles
27 where the construction thereof is such that complete freedom around
28 the wheel area is necessary to secure the designed use of the vehicle.
29 (cf: P.L.1952, c.343, s.1)

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31 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month after
32 enactment.

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.

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STATEMENT

This bill adds "truck tractors," to the vehicles now required to use splash guards behind their rear wheels to prevent dirt, water or other material from being splattered onto the windshields of following vehicles. "Truck tractors", as defined in the State motor vehicle code, are motor vehicles designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles.

Without splash guards, truck tractors, when being driven apart from a connecting vehicle, may hurl water or dirt onto the windshields of other motorists. Requiring such guards on these vehicles may prevent accidents on the highways.

Requires splash guards on truck tractors.