

SENATE, No. 758

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1996

By Senator RICE

1 AN ACT concerning certain rentals of motor vehicles.

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

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6 1. No person engaged in the business of renting motor vehicles  
7 shall refuse to rent a motor vehicle for a period of less than 30 days to  
8 any person otherwise qualified because of his place of residence or that  
9 person's failure to provide proof of residence. Nothing in this section  
10 shall be construed to prohibit a person engaged in the business of  
11 renting motor vehicles from requesting a person to display a credit  
12 card or driver's license.

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14 2. A person who violates this act shall be liable to a civil penalty of  
15 not more than \$500 for a first offense and not more than \$1,000 for a  
16 second and each subsequent offense. Any penalty imposed pursuant  
17 to this section shall be collected and enforced by the Director of the  
18 Division of Consumer Affairs in a summary proceeding pursuant to  
19 "the penalty enforcement law," N.J.S.2A:58-1 et seq.

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21 3. The Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs shall adopt  
22 rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
23 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate  
24 the purposes of this act.

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26 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month after  
27 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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32 This bill prohibits persons engaged in the business of renting motor  
33 vehicles from refusing to rent a motor vehicle for a period of less than  
34 30 days to any person otherwise qualified because of his place of  
35 residence or that person's failure to provide proof of residence. A  
36 violator would be liable to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for a  
37 first offense and not more than \$1,000 for any subsequent offense.

1       Currently, it is a common practice for a car rental firm located in an  
2 urban area to require an individual residing in that urban area to  
3 provide proof of residence before the rental firm will rent a vehicle to  
4 that person. Car rental firms located in urban sites do not, similarly,  
5 require such proof of residence from individuals residing in areas other  
6 than where these rental firms are situated. Moreover, these firms may  
7 also refuse to rent a car to persons solely because they live in that  
8 urban area. The bill is intended to eliminate such inequities by  
9 prohibiting a car rental firm from requesting proof of residence and  
10 from refusing to rent on the basis of residence alone.

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15       Prohibits car rental firms from requesting proof of residence and  
16 refusing to rent based on residence.