

SENATE, No. 1166

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 30, 1996

By Senator CARDINALE

1 AN ACT concerning driver licensing and amending and supplementing
2 P.L.1977, c.28.

3

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. 1977, c.28 (C.39:3-10c) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 1. The division shall require every licensed driver to take and
10 successfully pass a screening of his vision at least once every [10]
11 eight years as a condition for the renewal of his driver's license and of
12 any endorsement thereon.

13 The vision screening may be certified by the division or by any
14 licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist, licensed ophthalmic dispenser
15 or by any person licensed to practice medicine and surgery. If the
16 screening shows a need for corrective eyeglasses or any other
17 corrective action, the renewal of the applicant's license shall be
18 conditioned upon his compliance with such need. The division may
19 require a road test of any applicant to determine the adequacy of, or
20 the applicant's adaptation to the required corrective action.

21 The division shall, by regulation, prescribe minimum standards with
22 respect to the equipment to be used for screenings.
23 (cf: P.L.1989, c.15, s.1)

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25 2. Section 2 of P.L.1977, c.28 (C.39:3-10d) is amended to read as
26 follows:

27 2. To implement the reexamination program provided for by this
28 act and to establish it on a current basis, the division shall reexamine
29 [approximately 10% of all of the State's licensed drivers in each year
30 during the first 10 years following the date this act becomes operative]
31 . upon renewal of their driver's licenses, those persons who have been
32 licensed for eight years or longer . Once reexamined [during said
33 10-year period], no licensed driver shall be again reexamined pursuant

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 to the provisions of this act sooner than [10] eight years thereafter.
2 (cf: P. L.1977, c. 28, s. 2)

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4 3. (New section) No later than 60 days after the effective date of
5 this act, the director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall appear
6 before the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee and the Assembly
7 Law and Public Safety Committee, or their successors, meeting jointly,
8 to report on the division's plans and progress in implementing this act.
9 No later than one year after the effective date of this act, and annually
10 thereafter, the director shall report to a joint meeting of these
11 committees on the progress of the division in implementing this act.

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13 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 13th month after
14 enactment, provided that the director may immediately take any
15 preparatory actions necessary for its implementation.

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18 STATEMENT

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20 This bill would require drivers to pass a vision test every eight years
21 as a condition for retaining their drivers' licenses. This retesting
22 program is intended to reduce traffic accidents by identifying vision
23 problems and removing potentially dangerous drivers from the roads
24 until these problems are corrected. Persons who have been licensed
25 eight years or longer would be required to pass the vision screening
26 upon renewal of their drivers' licenses and every eight years
27 thereafter. Forty-two other states presently require some form of
28 vision retesting for licensed drivers.

29 The bill permits the vision screening to be certified by the Division
30 of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or by any licensed optometrist or
31 ophthalmologist, licensed ophthalmic dispenser or by any person
32 licensed to practice medicine and surgery. It also requires the Director
33 of DMV to appear within 60 days before a joint session of the Senate
34 Law and Public Safety Committee and the Assembly Law and Public
35 Safety Committee, or their successors, to report on the division's plans
36 and progress in implementing this act. The director is also required to
37 make an annual progress report to these committees regarding DMV's
38 implementation of the vision retesting program.

39 New Jersey has had a law on the books since 1977 (P.L.1977, c.28)
40 requiring DMV to test the vision of all licensed drivers every 10 years.
41 Except for a brief period, DMV has chosen not to carry out this
42 requirement, pleading a lack of funding.

43 This bill would take effect one year after enactment in order to give
44 DMV time to obtain the necessary funding and take other necessary
45 preparatory actions.

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3 Mandates eye test every eight years for drivers.