

SENATE, No. 1447

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

By Senator BASSANO

1 AN ACT concerning truck safety equipment and supplementing chapter
2 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. Every new truck sold in this State with a gross vehicle weight
8 rating, as defined in section 3 of P.L.1990, c.103 (C.39:3-10.11), of
9 16,001 or more pounds shall be equipped with an automatic audible
10 backup alarm which sounds when the truck is shifted into reverse and
11 which is capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions
12 from a distance of not less than 100 feet. The backup alarm also shall
13 be capable of operating automatically when the truck is in neutral or
14 a forward gear but rolls backward. This subsection shall not apply to
15 tractor-trailer combination vehicles.

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17 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to trucks
18 delivered for sale in this State after December 31, 1996.

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STATEMENT

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23 This bill is intended to reduce pedestrian deaths and injuries by
24 requiring new medium and large trucks sold in New Jersey after
25 December 31, 1996 to be equipped with an audible backup alarm.
26 These alarms are designed to emit an audible beeping sound when the
27 vehicle is shifted into reverse to alert persons behind the truck that it
28 is backing up. The bill would require the alarm to be loud enough to
29 be heard under normal conditions from a distance of 100 feet. Such
30 alarms are presently used on construction vehicles and some refuse
31 trucks.

32 The bill requires new trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of
33 16,001 or more pounds to be equipped with the alarms. Gross vehicle
34 weight is the combined weight of the truck and its load. Trucks of the
35 weight class affected by this bill are normally considered medium and
36 heavy duty trucks. Tractor-trailer combination vehicles would be
37 exempted from the requirements of this bill.

1 In 1994, 168 persons were killed and 12,000 injured nationwide in
2 accidents involving vehicles backing up, according to the National
3 Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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8 Requires backup alarms on certain trucks.