

SENATE, No. 1740

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 19, 1996

By Senator CIESLA

1 AN ACT concerning drivers' licenses and amending P.L.1987, c.20.

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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. Section 2 of P.L.1987, c.20 (C.39:3-9a) is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 2. Each driver's license issued pursuant to R.S.39:3-10 shall have
9 the legal name of the licensee endorsed thereon in his own
10 handwriting. For purposes of this section, legal name shall mean the
11 name recorded on a birth certificate unless otherwise changed by
12 marriage, divorce [or], order of court or other lawful means pursuant
13 to which the name is used consistently and is not used for a criminal
14 or fraudulent purpose. The director may require that only the legal
15 name be recorded on the driver's license. A person who has been
16 issued a driver's license pursuant to R.S.39:3-10 whose name is
17 changed due to marriage, divorce or by order of court shall notify the
18 director of the change in name within two weeks after the change is
19 made.

20 A person who fails to notify the Director of the Division of Motor
21 Vehicles of a change in name as required in this section shall be subject
22 to a fine of \$10.00. A person who fails to endorse a driver's license in
23 his own handwriting as required in this section shall be subject to a
24 fine of \$20.00. A person who is fined under this section for a violation
25 of this section shall not be subject to a surcharge under the New Jersey
26 Merit Rating Plan as provided in section 6 of P.L.1983, c.65
27 (C.17:29A-35).

28 (cf: P.L.1988, c.8, s.1)

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30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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.

STATEMENT

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Under current law, a driver's license issued pursuant to R.S.39:3-10 must have the legal name of the licensee endorsed thereon in his own handwriting. The law defines "legal name" as the name recorded on a birth certificate, unless otherwise changed by marriage, divorce or order of court. Under this bill, "legal name" also would include a name change by other lawful means pursuant to which the name is used consistently and is not used for a criminal or fraudulent purpose.

Expands definition of legal name for purposes of issuing drivers' licenses.