

ASSEMBLY, No. 5398

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Eliminates registration fee for wheelchair trailers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT eliminating the registration fee for certain trailers and
2 amending R.S.39:3-8.

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

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7 1. R.S.39:3-8 is amended to read as follows:

8 39:3-8. The applicant for registration for any passenger
9 automobile manufactured in any model year prior to the 1971 model
10 year shall pay to the chief administrator for each registration a fee
11 of \$14 for each such vehicle having a manufacturer's shipping
12 weight of less than 2,700 pounds, a fee of \$23 for each such vehicle
13 having a manufacturer's shipping weight of 2,700 pounds or more,
14 but not greater than 3,800 pounds, and a fee of \$44 for each vehicle
15 having a manufacturer's shipping weight in excess of 3,800 pounds;
16 provided, however, an applicant who has been issued an
17 identification card for a person with a disability pursuant to section
18 2 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-205) and is registering a private
19 passenger van manufactured in any model year prior to the 1971
20 model year which has been equipped with a wheelchair lift, or any
21 other specially designed mechanical device for persons with
22 disabilities as designated by the chief administrator that specifically
23 requires installation only in a private passenger van because of the
24 device's dimensions, operating characteristics, or manufacturer's
25 installation requirements, shall pay a fee of \$14 for that vehicle.
26 The applicant for registration for any passenger automobile
27 manufactured in model year 1971 and thereafter, except as
28 determined hereinafter, shall pay to the chief administrator for each
29 registration a fee of \$17 for each such vehicle having a
30 manufacturer's shipping weight of less than 2,700 pounds, a fee of
31 \$28 for each such vehicle having a manufacturer's shipping weight
32 of 2,700 pounds or more, but not greater than 3,800 pounds, and a
33 fee of \$51 for each such vehicle having a manufacturer's shipping
34 weight in excess of 3,800 pounds; provided, however, an applicant
35 who has been issued an identification card for a person with a
36 disability pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-205) and
37 is registering a private passenger van manufactured in model year
38 1971 or thereafter, except as determined hereinafter, which has been
39 equipped with a wheelchair lift, or any other specially designed
40 mechanical device for persons with disabilities as designated by the
41 chief administrator that specifically requires installation only in a
42 private passenger van because of the device's dimensions, operating
43 characteristics, or manufacturer's installation requirements, shall
44 pay a fee of \$17 for that vehicle. The applicant for registration for
45 any 1980 or thereafter model year passenger automobile registered

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.

1 on or after March 1, 1979 shall pay to the chief administrator for
2 each registration a fee of \$25 for each such vehicle having a
3 manufacturer's shipping weight not greater than 3,500 pounds and a
4 fee of \$50 for each vehicle having a manufacturer's shipping weight
5 in excess of 3,500 pounds; provided, however, an applicant who has
6 been issued an identification card for a person with a disability
7 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-205) and is
8 registering any 1980 or thereafter model year private passenger van
9 which has been equipped with a wheelchair lift, or any other
10 specially designed mechanical device for persons with disabilities
11 as designated by the chief administrator that specifically requires
12 installation only in a private passenger van because of the device's
13 dimensions, operating characteristics, or manufacturer's installation
14 requirements, shall pay a fee of \$25 for that vehicle.
15 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
16 applicant for registration for any new passenger automobile, for
17 which the registration will expire on the last day of the 48th
18 calendar month following the calendar month in which it was first
19 issued, or for the term of the lease if the new passenger automobile
20 is a leased motor vehicle subject to an extended registration period
21 pursuant to R.S.39:3-4, shall prepay to the chief administrator the
22 full amount due for the 48-month term, or the full amount due based
23 upon the term of the lease if the new passenger automobile is a
24 leased motor vehicle, upon the initial registration. The portion of
25 that prepayment that is dedicated to specific purposes in accordance
26 with section 110 of P.L.2003, c.13 (C.39:2A-38) and subsections a.
27 and b. of section 1 of P.L.1992, c.87 (C.39:3-8.2) shall be deposited
28 in their respective dedicated accounts. The chief administrator shall
29 determine the manufacturer's shipping weight and model year for
30 each passenger automobile on the basis of the information
31 contained in the certificate of origin, the application for registration
32 or for renewal of registration, or the records of the **[division]**
33 commission, or any or all of these; and any case in which the
34 manufacturer's shipping weight of any particular passenger
35 automobile is unavailable, or in doubt or dispute, the chief
36 administrator may require that such automobile be weighed on a
37 scale designated by the chief administrator, and such actual weight
38 shall be considered the manufacturer's shipping weight for the
39 purposes of this section; but in all cases the chief administrator's
40 determination of the manufacturer's shipping weight of any such
41 automobile shall be final. The applicant for registration for
42 passenger automobile shall also pay to the chief administrator the
43 inspection fee fixed in R.S.39:8-2 in addition to the fees described
44 hereinabove.

45 The chief administrator may also license private utility and house
46 type semitrailers and trailers with a gross load not in excess of
47 2,000 pounds at a fee of \$4 per annum and all other such utility and
48 house-type semitrailers and trailers at \$9 per annum. Application

1 for such registration shall be made on a blank to be furnished by the
2 commission, and the application shall contain a statement to the
3 effect that the vehicle so registered will not be used for the
4 commercial transportation of goods, wares, and merchandise, or for
5 hire. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section or any other
6 law to the contrary, the chief administrator shall not charge a fee for
7 the registration of a wheelchair trailer. A wheelchair trailer shall
8 comply with maximum dimensions for trailers provided pursuant to
9 this section. For purposes of this section, "wheelchair trailer"
10 means a vehicle without motive power that has a gross load not in
11 excess of 2,000 pounds, is designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle,
12 is designed and used to carry only a wheelchair, and is not used for
13 commercial purposes or for hire.

14 Except as provided in R.S.39:3-84 for recreation vehicles, no
15 private utility or house type semitrailer or trailer with an outside
16 width of more than 96 inches, a maximum height of 13 feet 6
17 inches, a maximum length for a single vehicle of more than 35 feet,
18 a maximum length for a semitrailer and its towing vehicle of more
19 than 45 feet, and a maximum length for a trailer and its towing
20 vehicle of more than 50 feet, shall be operated on any highway in
21 this State, except that a vehicle exceeding the above limitations may
22 be operated when a special permit so to operate is secured in
23 advance from the chief administrator. A house type semitrailer or
24 trailer with an outside width of no more than 16 feet shall be
25 entitled to operate with such a special permit if the vehicle is a
26 manufactured home on a transportation system that is designed in
27 accordance with the "Manufactured Home Construction and Safety
28 Standards," 24 CFR section 3280.901 et seq., promulgated by the
29 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, as
30 amended and supplemented, provided that the operator complies
31 with the provisions of this Title and the rules and regulations issued
32 thereunder. If such a vehicle has an outside width of more than 16
33 feet, it shall be entitled to operate with such a special permit if it is
34 transported on a commercial type low-bed trailer, semitrailer, or
35 properly registered dolly wheels pursuant to rules and regulations
36 established by the chief administrator. The application for such
37 permit shall be accompanied by a fee fixed by the chief
38 administrator. A special permit issued by the chief administrator
39 shall be in the possession of the operator of the vehicle for which
40 such permit was issued. In computing any dimensions of a vehicle,
41 for the purposes of this section, there shall not be included in the
42 dimensional limitations safety equipment such as mirrors or lights,
43 provided such appliances do not exceed the overall limitations
44 established by the chief administrator by rule or regulation.

45 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.149)

46
47 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

1 STATEMENT

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3 This bill prohibits the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
4 Motor Vehicle Commission from charging a fee for the registration
5 of a wheelchair trailer and provides that a wheelchair trailer is to
6 comply with the maximum dimensions applicable to trailers as
7 provided in current law. The bill defines “wheelchair trailer” as a
8 vehicle without motive power that has a gross load not in excess of
9 2,000 pounds, is designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle, is
10 designed and used to carry only a wheelchair, and is not used for
11 commercial purposes or for hire.