

ASSEMBLY, No. 5965

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Permits persons diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder to have MVC note that designation on certain MVC-issued documents.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning persons with autism spectrum disorder and
2 certain motor vehicle records and supplementing Title 39 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
9 Vehicle Commission shall permit a person diagnosed with an
10 autism spectrum disorder to voluntarily report the diagnosis to the
11 commission and to identify any motor vehicle which the person
12 intends to regularly operate. The designation indicating that a
13 person is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder shall be done
14 in accordance with procedures prescribed by the chief
15 administrator. Information concerning the designation shall be
16 included as part of the person's motor vehicle record.

17 b. Information submitted pursuant to subsection a. of this
18 section shall only be available to:

19 (1) employees of the commission who are designated by the
20 chief administrator to collect and maintain the information; and

21 (2) law enforcement officers when accessing the person's motor
22 vehicle record and shall be exclusively used during a motor vehicle
23 stop or other law enforcement action to assist law enforcement
24 officers in recognizing and effectively communicating with a person
25 who has been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

26 c. Any information submitted to the commission pursuant to
27 this section shall not be considered a public record pursuant to
28 P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-
29 5 et al.), or the common law concerning access to public records
30 and shall not be discoverable as a public record by any person,
31 entity, or governmental agency.

32 d. The chief administrator may adopt, pursuant to the
33 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
34 1 et seq.), any rules or regulations necessary for the implementation
35 of this act.

36 e. As used in this section:

37 "chief administrator" means the Chief Administrator of the New
38 Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission;

39 "commission" means the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
40 Commission; and

41 "motor vehicle record" means any record that pertains to a motor
42 vehicle operator's driver's license or motor vehicle registration card
43 issued by the commission.

44
45 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
46 following enactment, but the chief administrator may take any
47 anticipatory action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the
48 implementation of this act.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Chief Administrator (chief administrator) of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to permit a person diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder to voluntarily report the diagnosis to the commission and to identify any motor vehicle which the person intends to regularly operate. The designation indicating that a person is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder is to be done in accordance with procedures prescribed by the chief administrator. Information concerning the designation is to be included as part of the person's motor vehicle record. The bill defines "motor vehicle record" as any record that pertains to a motor vehicle operator's driver's license or motor vehicle registration card issued by the commission.

The bill requires that the information provided is to be available only to: (1) employees of the commission who are designated by the chief administrator to collect and maintain the information; and (2) law enforcement officers when accessing the person's motor vehicle record. Information submitted to the commission is not to be subject to public disclosure under the "Open Public Records Act" or the common law concerning access to public records or be discoverable as a public record by any person, entity, or governmental agency.