

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 258, *approved November 8, 2021*  
Senate, No. 324 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning <sup>2</sup>**[certain proof of]**<sup>2</sup> motor vehicle registration  
2 and amending <sup>2</sup>R.S.39:3-4,<sup>2</sup> R.S.39:3-29<sup>2</sup>,<sup>2</sup> and P.L.1972, c.200.  
3

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

7 <sup>2</sup>1. R.S.39:3-4 is amended to read as follows:

8 39:3-4. Except as hereinafter provided, every resident of this  
9 State and every nonresident whose automobile or motorcycle shall  
10 be driven in this State shall, before using the vehicle on the public  
11 highways, register the same, and an automobile or motorcycle shall  
12 not be driven unless so registered.

13 Registration shall be made in the following manner: An  
14 application in writing, signed by the applicant or by an agent or  
15 officer, in case the applicant is a corporation, shall be made to the  
16 chief administrator or the chief administrator's agent, on forms  
17 prepared and supplied by the chief administrator, containing the  
18 name, street address of the residence or the business of the owner,  
19 mailing address, if different from the street address of the owner's  
20 residence or business, and age of the owner, together with a  
21 description of the character of the automobile or motorcycle,  
22 including the name of the maker and the vehicle identification  
23 number, or the manufacturer's number or the number assigned by  
24 the chief administrator if the vehicle does not have a vehicle  
25 identification number, and any other statement that may be required  
26 by the chief administrator. A post office box shall appear on the  
27 application only as part of a mailing address that is submitted by the  
28 owner, agent or officer, as the case may be, in addition to the street  
29 address of the applicant's residence or business; provided, however,  
30 the chief administrator, upon application, shall permit a person who  
31 was a victim of a violation of section 1 of P.L.1992, c.209  
32 (C.2C:12-10), N.J.S.2C:14-2, or P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et  
33 seq.), or who the chief administrator otherwise determines to have  
34 good cause, to use as a mailing address a post office box, an address  
35 other than the applicant's address or other contact point. An owner  
36 whose last address appears on the records of the commission as a  
37 post office box shall change the owner's address on the owner's  
38 application for renewal to the street address of the owner's

**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

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted February 10, 2020.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted March 25, 2021.

<sup>3</sup>Senate floor amendments adopted June 3, 2021.

1 residence or business and, if different from the owner's street  
2 address, the owner's mailing address unless the chief administrator  
3 has determined, pursuant to this section, that the owner may use a  
4 post office box, an address other than the owner's address or other  
5 contact point as a mailing address. The application shall contain the  
6 name of the insurer of the vehicle and the policy number. If the  
7 vehicle is a leased motor vehicle, the application shall make note of  
8 that fact and shall include along with the name and street address of  
9 the lessor the name, street address, and driver license number of the  
10 lessee.

11 Thereupon the chief administrator shall have the power to grant a  
12 registration certificate to the owner of any motor vehicle, if over 17  
13 years of age, application for the registration having been properly  
14 made and the fee therefor paid, and the vehicle being of a type that  
15 complies with the requirements of this Title. The form and contents  
16 of the registration certificate to be issued shall be determined by the  
17 chief administrator.

18 If the vehicle is a leased motor vehicle, the registration  
19 certificate shall, in addition to containing the name and street  
20 address of the lessor, identify the vehicle as a leased motor vehicle.

21 <sup>3</sup>The chief administrator may send the registration certificate  
22 directly to the lessee.<sup>3</sup>

23 The chief administrator shall maintain a record of all registration  
24 certificates issued, and of the contents thereof.

25 Every registration shall expire and the registration certificate  
26 thereof become void on the registrant's numerical calendar day of  
27 birth in the 12th calendar month following the calendar month in  
28 which the certificate was issued; except that the registration shall  
29 expire on the last day of the 12th calendar month following the  
30 calendar month in which the certificate was issued if the numerical  
31 calendar day of the registrant's birth does not correspond to a  
32 numerical calendar day in that month or if the vehicle is a leased  
33 motor vehicle.

34 The chief administrator may, at the chief administrator's  
35 discretion, require registrations which shall expire, and issue  
36 certificates thereof which shall become void, on a date fixed by  
37 him, which date shall not be sooner than three months nor later than  
38 26 months after the date of issuance of the certificates, and the fees  
39 for the registrations, including any other fees or charges collected in  
40 connection with the registration fee, shall be fixed by the chief  
41 administrator in amounts proportionately less or greater than the  
42 fees established by law. The chief administrator may fix the  
43 expiration date for registration certificates at a date other than 12  
44 months if the chief administrator determines that the change is  
45 necessary, appropriate or convenient in order to aid in  
46 implementing the vehicle inspection requirements of chapter 8 of  
47 Title 39 or for other good cause. The chief administrator may, for  
48 good cause extend a registration beyond the expiration date that

1 appears upon the registration certificate for periods not to exceed 12  
2 additional months. The chief administrator may extend the  
3 expiration date of a registration without payment of a proportionate  
4 fee when the chief administrator determines that the extension is  
5 necessary for good cause. If any registration is so extended, the  
6 owner shall pay upon renewal the full registration fee for the period  
7 fixed by the chief administrator as if no extension had been granted.

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,  
9 every registration for new passenger automobiles shall expire and  
10 the registration certificate shall become void on the registrant's  
11 numerical calendar day of birth in the 48th calendar month  
12 following the calendar month in which the certificate was initially  
13 issued; except that the registration shall expire on the last day of the  
14 48th calendar month following the calendar month in which the  
15 certificate was initially issued if the numerical calendar day of the  
16 registrant's birth does not correspond to a numerical calendar day in  
17 that month.

18 On and after February 1, 2005, the provisions of this paragraph  
19 shall not apply to new passenger automobiles purchased by a rental  
20 company for use as rental passenger automobiles. As used in this  
21 paragraph, "rental company" means a person engaged in the  
22 business of renting motor vehicles; and "rental passenger  
23 automobile" means a passenger automobile that is rented without a  
24 driver and used in the transportation of persons or property other  
25 than commercial freight.

26 If the new passenger automobile being registered is a leased  
27 passenger automobile, the registration shall expire in accordance  
28 with the term of the lease. If the term of the lease extends beyond  
29 one or more 12-month periods by one or more months, the  
30 registration period shall be based upon the full year into which one  
31 or more of the months extend; provided, however, the registration  
32 period for a leased automobile shall not exceed 48 months.

33 Following the 48-month period of the initial registration of a new  
34 passenger automobile, the subsequent registration shall expire, and  
35 the registration certificate shall become void, on the registrant's  
36 numerical calendar day of birth in the 12th calendar month  
37 following the calendar month in which the certificate was next  
38 issued; except that the registration shall expire on the last day of the  
39 12th calendar month following the calendar month in which the  
40 certificate was next issued if the numerical calendar day of the  
41 registrant's birth does not correspond to a numerical calendar day in  
42 that month.

43 All motorcycles for which registrations have been issued prior to  
44 the effective date of P.L.1989, c.167 and which are scheduled to  
45 expire between November 1 and March 31 shall, upon renewal, be  
46 issued registrations by the chief administrator which shall expire on  
47 a date fixed by him, but in no case shall that expiration date be  
48 earlier than April 30 nor later than October 31. The fees for the

1 renewal of the motorcycle registrations authorized under this  
2 paragraph shall be fixed by the chief administrator in an amount  
3 proportionately less or greater than the fee established by R.S.39:3-  
4 21.

5 Application forms for all renewals of registrations for passenger  
6 automobiles shall be sent to the last addresses of owners of motor  
7 vehicles and motorcycles, as they appear on the records of the  
8 commission <sup>3</sup>**[1.]**<sup>3</sup> except that the application form for a renewal of  
9 registration for a leased passenger automobile shall be sent to the  
10 last address of the lessee of the motor vehicle as it appears on the  
11 records of the commission.

12 A person owning or having control over any unregistered vehicle  
13 shall not permit the same to be parked or to stand on a public  
14 highway.

15 Any police officer is authorized to remove any unregistered  
16 vehicle from the public highway to a storage space or garage, and  
17 the expense involved in the removal and storing of the vehicle shall  
18 be borne by the owner of the vehicle, except that the expense shall  
19 be borne by the lessee of a leased vehicle.

20 Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be  
21 subject to a fine not exceeding \$100, except that for the  
22 misstatement of any fact in the application required to be made to  
23 the chief administrator, the person making the statement or omitting  
24 the statement that the motor vehicle is to be used as a leased motor  
25 vehicle when that is the case shall be subject to the penalties  
26 provided in R.S.39:3-37.

27 The chief administrator may extend the expiration date of a  
28 registration certificate without payment of a proportionate fee when  
29 the chief administrator determines that the extension is necessary,  
30 appropriate or convenient to the implementation of vehicle  
31 inspection requirements. If any registration certificate is so  
32 extended, the owner shall pay upon renewal the full registration fee  
33 for the period fixed by the chief administrator as if no extension had  
34 been granted.

35 The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall make a  
36 reasonable effort to notify any lessor whose name and address is on  
37 file with the commission, or any other lessor the commission may  
38 determine it is necessary to notify, of the requirements of this  
39 amendatory act.

40 A lessor doing business in this State shall notify in writing the  
41 lessee of a motor vehicle registered pursuant to this Title of any  
42 change in its policies or procedures affecting the registration of the  
43 motor vehicle.<sup>2</sup>

44 (cf: P.L.2017, c.271, s.1)

45  
46 <sup>2</sup>**[1.]** <sup>2</sup>2.<sup>2</sup> R.S.39:3-29 is amended to read as follows:

47 39:3-29. The driver's license, the registration certificate of a  
48 motor vehicle, and an insurance identification card shall be in the

1 possession of the driver or operator at all times when **[he]** the  
2 driver or operator is in charge of a motor vehicle on the highways  
3 of this State.

4 The driver or operator shall exhibit **[his]** the driver or operator's  
5 driver's license and an insurance identification card, and the holder  
6 of a registration certificate or the operator or driver of a motor  
7 vehicle for which a registration certificate has been issued, whether  
8 or not the holder, driver or operator is a resident of this State, shall  
9 also exhibit the registration certificate, when requested so to do by a  
10 police officer or judge, while in the performance of the duties of  
11 **[his]** their office, and shall write **[his]** the driver or operator's  
12 name in the presence of the officer, so that the officer may thereby  
13 determine the identity of the licensee and at the same time  
14 determine the correctness of the registration certificate, as it relates  
15 to the registration number and number plates of the motor vehicle  
16 for which it was issued; and the correctness of the evidence of a  
17 policy of insurance, as it relates to the coverage of the motor  
18 vehicle for which it was issued.

19 The registration certificate or insurance identification card may  
20 be displayed or provided in either paper or electronic form. For the  
21 purposes of this section, "electronic form" means the display of  
22 images on an electronic device, such as a cellular telephone, tablet,  
23 or computer.

24 The use of a cellular telephone, tablet, computer, or any other  
25 electronic device to display proof of registration or insurance does  
26 not constitute consent for a police officer or judge to access any  
27 other contents on the device. Any police officer or judge presented  
28 with an electronic device pursuant to this section shall be immune  
29 from any liability resulting from damage to the device.

30 Any person violating this section shall be subject to a fine of  
31 \$150, except that if the person is a driver or operator of an omnibus,  
32 as defined pursuant to R.S.39:1-1, the amount of the fine shall be  
33 \$250. Of the amount of any such fine collected pursuant to this  
34 paragraph, \$25 shall be deposited in the Uninsured Motorist  
35 Prevention Fund established by section 2 of P.L.1983, c.141  
36 (C.39:6B-3).

37 If a person charged with a violation of this section can exhibit  
38 **[his]** the person's driver's license, insurance identification card,  
39 and registration certificate, which were valid on the day **[he]** the  
40 person was charged, to the judge of the municipal court before  
41 whom **[he]** the person is summoned to answer to the charge, such  
42 judge may dismiss the charge. However, the judge may impose  
43 court costs.

44 In addition to and independent of any fine or other penalty  
45 provided for under law, the court shall impose a fine of \$150 on any  
46 driver or operator of an omnibus, convicted of a violation of this  
47 section, who does not have a certificate of public convenience and

1 necessity as required pursuant to R.S.48:4-3. The State Treasurer  
2 shall annually deposit the monies collected from the fines imposed  
3 pursuant to this paragraph to the "Omnibus Safety Enforcement  
4 Fund" established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2007, c.40 (C.39:3-  
5 79.23). The fine described herein shall not be deemed a fine,  
6 penalty, or forfeiture pursuant to R.S.39:5-41.  
7 (cf: P.L.2015, c.54, s.1)

8  
9 <sup>2</sup>[2.] <sup>3</sup> Section 2 of P.L.1972, c.200 (C.39:3-29.1) is  
10 amended to read as follows:

11 2. a. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor  
12 Vehicle Commission <sup>1</sup>[shall] <sup>1</sup>may<sup>1</sup> promulgate rules and  
13 regulations concerning the issuance, design, and content of the  
14 registration certificates required by this act.

15 The <sup>1</sup>[rules and regulations shall:

16 (1) contain provisions designed] commission may take any  
17 actions necessary<sup>1</sup> to deter and detect counterfeit or fraudulent  
18 registration certificates <sup>1</sup>[;]<sup>1</sup> and <sup>1</sup>[

19 (2) ] to<sup>1</sup> provide for an electronic form for the display of  
20 registration certificates as provided in R.S.39:3-29.

21 b. The Commissioner of Banking and Insurance shall, after  
22 consultation with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission,  
23 promulgate rules and regulations concerning the issuance, design,  
24 and content of the insurance identification cards required by this  
25 act.

26 The rules and regulations shall:

27 (1) contain provisions designed to deter and detect counterfeit or  
28 fraudulent insurance identification cards; and

29 (2) provide for an electronic form for the display of insurance  
30 identification cards as provided in R.S.39:3-29.

31 (cf: P.L.2015, c.54, s.2)

32  
33 <sup>2</sup>4. (New section) The driver or operator of a motor vehicle may  
34 provide proof of registration in electronic form to any law  
35 enforcement officer, judicial officer, or other person, including an  
36 electronic image or photograph depicting the registration certificate  
37 for the motor vehicle.<sup>2</sup>

38  
39 <sup>2</sup>[3] <sup>5</sup>.<sup>2</sup> <sup>2</sup>[This] Sections 1 through 3 of this<sup>2</sup> act shall take  
40 effect <sup>1</sup>[immediately] on the first day of the 18th month following  
41 enactment, but the chief administrator may take any anticipatory  
42 acts in advance of that date as may be necessary for the timely  
43 implementation of this act<sup>1</sup>. <sup>2</sup>Section 4 of this act shall take effect  
44 immediately and shall expire on the first day of the 18th month  
45 following enactment.<sup>2</sup>

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2  
3 Authorizes operators of motor vehicles to display electronic  
4 proof of registration; requires MVC to send application for  
5 registration renewal to lessee of leased vehicle.