

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 445

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

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SYNOPSIS

Requires vehicle registration to contain issue date.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the General Assembly on November 22, 2010.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/23/2010)

1 AN ACT concerning motor vehicle registrations and amending
2 R.S.39:3-4.

3

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

6

7 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 such vehicle on the public
11 highways, register the same, and no automobile or motorcycle shall
12 be driven unless so registered.

13 Such 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 N.J.S.2C:12-10, N.J.S.2C:14-2, or
32 N.J.S.2C:25-17 et seq., or who the chief administrator otherwise
33 determines to have good cause, to use as a mailing address a post
34 office box, an address other than the applicant's address or other
35 contact point. An owner whose last address appears on the records
36 of the '**[division] commission**'¹ as a post office box shall change his
37 address on his application for renewal to the street address of his
38 residence or business and, if different from his street address, his
39 mailing address unless the chief administrator has determined,
40 pursuant to this section, that the owner may use a post office box,
41 an address other than the owner's address or other contact point as a
42 mailing address. The application shall contain the name of the
43 insurer of the vehicle and the policy number. If the vehicle is a

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:

¹Senate STR committee amendments adopted May 10, 2010.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted November 22, 2010.

1 leased motor vehicle, the application shall make note of that fact
2 and shall include along with the name and street address of the
3 lessor the name, street address and driver license number of the
4 lessee.

5 Thereupon the chief administrator shall have the power to grant a
6 registration certificate to the owner of any motor vehicle, if over 17
7 years of age, application for the registration having been properly
8 made and the fee therefor paid, and the vehicle being of a type that
9 complies with the requirements of this title. The form and contents
10 of the registration certificate to be issued shall be determined by the
11 chief administrator.

12 The registration certificate shall display, in Arabic numerals in
13 decimal notation, the day, month ' , ' and year of the Gregorian date
14 on which the registration certificate was issued.

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

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

20 Every registration shall expire and the registration certificate
21 thereof become void on the last day of the twelfth calendar month
22 following the calendar month in which the certificate was issued;
23 provided, however, that the chief administrator may, at his
24 discretion, require registrations which shall expire, and issue
25 certificates thereof which shall become void, on a date fixed by
26 him, which date shall not be sooner than three months nor later than
27 26 months after the date of issuance of such certificates, and the
28 fees for such registrations, including any other fees or charges
29 collected in connection with the registration fee, shall be fixed by
30 the chief administrator in amounts proportionately less or greater
31 than the fees established by law. The chief administrator may fix
32 the expiration date for registration certificates at a date other than
33 12 months if the chief administrator determines that the change is
34 necessary, appropriate or convenient in order to aid in
35 implementing the vehicle inspection requirements of chapter 8 of
36 Title 39 or for other good cause. The chief administrator may, for
37 good cause extend a registration beyond the expiration date that
38 appears upon the registration certificate for periods not to exceed 12
39 additional months. The chief administrator may extend the
40 expiration date of a registration without payment of a proportionate
41 fee when the chief administrator determines that such extension is
42 necessary for good cause. If any registration is so extended, the
43 owner shall pay upon renewal the full registration fee for the period
44 fixed by the chief administrator as if no extension had been granted.

45 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
46 every registration for new passenger automobiles shall expire and
47 the registration certificate shall become void on the last day of the

1 48th calendar month following the calendar month in which the
2 certificate was initially issued. On and after February 1, 2005, the
3 provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to new passenger
4 automobiles purchased by a rental company for use as rental
5 passenger automobiles. As used in this paragraph, "rental
6 company" means a person engaged in the business of renting motor
7 vehicles; and "rental passenger automobile" means a passenger
8 automobile that is rented without a driver and used in the
9 transportation of persons or property other than commercial freight.

10 If the new passenger automobile being registered is a leased
11 passenger automobile, the registration shall expire in accordance
12 with the term of the lease. If the term of the lease extends beyond
13 one or more 12-month periods by one or more months, the
14 registration period shall be based upon the full year into which one
15 or more of the months extend; provided, however, the registration
16 period for a leased automobile shall not exceed 48-months.

17 Following the 48-month period of the initial registration of a new
18 passenger automobile, the subsequent registration shall expire, and
19 the registration certificate shall become void, on the last day of the
20 12th calendar month following the calendar month in which the
21 certificate was next issued.

22 All motorcycles for which registrations have been issued prior to
23 the effective date of P.L.1989, c.167 and which are scheduled to
24 expire between November 1 and March 31 shall, upon renewal, be
25 issued registrations by the chief administrator which shall expire on
26 a date fixed by him, but in no case shall that expiration date be
27 earlier than April 30 nor later than October 31. The fees for the
28 renewal of the motorcycle registrations authorized under this
29 paragraph shall be fixed by the chief administrator in an amount
30 proportionately less or greater than the fee established by R.S.39:3-
31 21.

32 Application forms for all renewals of registrations for passenger
33 automobiles shall be sent to the last addresses of owners of motor
34 vehicles and motorcycles, as they appear on the records of the
35 '[division] commission'.

36 No person owning or having control over any unregistered
37 vehicle shall permit the same to be parked or to stand on a public
38 highway.

39 Any police officer is authorized to remove any unregistered
40 vehicle from the public highway to a storage space or garage, and
41 the expense involved in such removal and storing of the vehicle
42 shall be borne by the owner of the vehicle, except that the expense
43 shall be borne by the lessee of a leased vehicle.

44 Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be
45 subject to a fine not exceeding \$100, except that for the
46 misstatement of any fact in the application required to be made to
47 the chief administrator, the person making such statement or

1 omitting the statement that the motor vehicle is to be used as a
2 leased motor vehicle when that is the case shall be subject to the
3 penalties provided in R.S.39:3-37.

4 The chief administrator may extend the expiration date of a
5 registration certificate without payment of a proportionate fee when
6 the chief administrator determines that such extension is necessary,
7 appropriate or convenient to the implementation of vehicle
8 inspection requirements. If any registration certificate is so
9 extended, the owner shall pay upon renewal the full registration fee
10 for the period fixed by the chief administrator as if no extension had
11 been granted.

12 The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall make a
13 reasonable effort to notify any lessor whose name and address is on
14 file with the commission, or any other lessor the commission may
15 determine it is necessary to notify, of the requirements of this
16 amendatory act.

17 A lessor doing business in this State shall notify in writing the
18 lessee of a motor vehicle registered pursuant to this Title of any
19 change in its policies or procedures affecting the registration of the
20 motor vehicle.

21 (cf: P.L.2004, c.64, s.1)

22

23 2. This act shall take effect on ²[the '¹180th'] first¹ day 'of the
24 seventh month¹ following enactment'] December 31, 2011,² but the
25 Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
26 may take such anticipatory action as may be necessary to implement
27 the provisions of this act.