SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 71

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 27, 2012

Sponsored by:
Senator RICHARD J. CODEY
District 27 (Essex and Morris)
Senator ROBERT W. SINGER
District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)
Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senator Greenstein and Assemblyman Chivukula

SYNOPSIS
Establishes “New Jersey Yellow Dot Program” in MVC.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
Substitute as adopted by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/29/2013)
AN ACT establishing a “New Jersey Yellow Dot Program” and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. For the purposes of this act:
   “Chief Administrator” means the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission.
   “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services.
   “Emergency responder” means a municipal, county, or State law enforcement officer or firefighter or other person who has been trained to provide emergency medical first response services in a program recognized by the commissioner and licensed or otherwise authorized by the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide those services.
   “Program participant” means an individual who has completed a health information card that includes health and emergency contact information, and affixed the decal provided by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commissioner pursuant to this act to the individual’s vehicle.

2. There is established a “New Jersey Yellow Dot Program” in the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission. The purpose of the program is to provide emergency responders with critical health and emergency contact information about program participants so that emergency responders may aid program participants when those individuals are involved in motor vehicle emergencies or accidents and are unable to communicate.

3. a. The chief administrator, in consultation with the commissioner, shall design “New Jersey Yellow Dot Program” materials, giving consideration to the program materials used by similar programs in other states. Program materials shall include, but need not be limited to:
   (1) a yellow decal of a size and design to be determined by the chief administrator which will be affixed to the rear driver’s side window of the program participant’s vehicle;
   (2) a health information card which provides space for an individual to attach a recent photograph and indicate the individual’s name, emergency contact information, physicians’ names and contact information, medical conditions, recent surgeries, allergies, medications, and any other information the
chief administrator shall deem to be relevant to emergency responders in the case of emergency;

(3) a yellow envelope of a size and design to be determined by the chief administrator into which the health information card established pursuant to this subsection is to be inserted and placed in the program participant’s glove compartment; and

(4) a program instruction sheet including an electronic mail address required pursuant to subsection b. of this section.

b. The commission shall establish an electronic mail mechanism through which persons may ask questions about the program and receive assistance in completing the health information card.

c. The commission shall provide sufficient program materials to other State departments or agencies seeking to distribute or make program materials available to interested persons.

d. The chief administrator shall notify the Superintendent of State Police regarding the implementation of the “New Jersey Yellow Dot Program” so that all emergency responders are informed about the program, pursuant to section 7 of this act.

e. The commission may charge an individual seeking to participate in the program a nominal fee to cover the administrative cost of the program.

4. The chief administrator shall make “New Jersey Yellow Dot Program” materials available for pick up by any interested person at any New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission agency or regional service center and shall provide for an on-line means through which individuals can request the materials required to participate in the program. Any other State department or agency may make the program materials available for distribution to, or pick up by, any interested person. Questions shall be referred to the electronic mail address established pursuant to subsection b. of section 3 of this act.

5. The commission shall develop and undertake a public education campaign to inform the public about the “New Jersey Yellow Dot Program” established pursuant to this act.

6. An emergency responder is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions undertaken in response to incomplete, incorrect, or outdated information provided on any health information card if the responder acted in good faith in rendering care at the scene of a motor vehicle accident or emergency to a program participant.

7. The Superintendent of State Police shall notify all emergency responders about the “New Jersey Yellow Dot Program” established pursuant to this act.
8. This act shall take effect on the first day of the thirteenth month following enactment, but the chief administrator may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.