

A 1543 -- Redline

Introduced to Amended -- Requires redaction of certain personal identifying information on vehicle accident reports.

Deletions ~~struck~~ · Insertions underlined

A1543 1R [First Reprint] ASSEMBLY, No.

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE District 36 (Bergen and Passaic) ~~Assemblyman~~ Co-Sponsored ~~ROBERT~~ by: J. KARABINCHAK District 18 (Middlesex) Co-Sponsored by:

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT IntroducedAs Pendingreported Technicalby Reviewthe byAssembly
~~LegislativeTransportation Counsel, and Independent Authorities Committee on September 14, 2026, with~~
amendments.

An Act requiring redaction of certain personal identifying information on vehicle accident reports, amending ~~P.L.1995, 1~~[P.L.1995, c.23 and P.L.2001, c.404, c.404] various parts of the statutory law1, and supplementing ~~chapter 1~~[chapter 1A of of 1] Title 47 of the Revised Statutes.

~~1. — 1. —~~ Section ~~1~~ of P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1) is amended to read as ~~follows:~~follows: 1.
As used in P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) as amended and supplemented: "Biotechnology" means
any technique that uses living organisms, or parts of living organisms, to make or modify products, to
improve plants or animals, or to develop micro-organisms for specific uses;

~~1. — As used in P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) as amended and supplemented:~~

~~"Biotechnology" means any technique that uses living organisms, or parts of living organisms, to make or~~
~~modify products, to improve plants or animals, or to develop micro-organisms for specific uses;~~

~~"Child protective investigator in the Division of Child Protection and Permanency" means an employee of~~
~~the Division of Child Protection and Permanency in the Department of Children and Families whose primary~~
~~duty is to investigate reports of child abuse and neglect, or any other employee of the Department of~~
~~Children and Families whose duties include investigation, response to, or review of allegations of child~~
~~abuse and neglect.~~

~~"Commercial purpose" means the direct or indirect use of any part of a government record for sale,~~
~~resale, solicitation, rent, or lease of a service or any use by which the user expects a profit either~~
~~through commission, salary, or fee. "Commercial purpose" shall not include the use of a government~~
~~record for any purpose by:~~
(1) the news media, or any parent company, subsidiary, or
affiliate of any news media, as defined by section 2 of P.L.1977, c.253 (C.2A:84A-21a) ;

~~(1)(2) the any newsnews, media, journalistic, or educational, any scientific, parentscholarly, company,~~
~~subsidiary, or affiliate governmental of organization; any news media, as defined by section 2 of~~
~~P.L.1977, c.253 (C.2A:84A-21a) ;~~

~~(2)(3) any news, person journalistic, authorized educational, to scientific, act scholarly, on behalf of a~~
~~candidate committee, joint candidate committee, political committee, continuing political committee,~~
~~political party committee, or governmental legislative organization; leadership committee, as defined by~~
~~section 3 of P.L.1973, c.83 (C.19:44A-3), registered with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement~~
~~Commission;~~

~~(3)(4) any person labor authorized organization; to act on behalf of a candidate committee, joint~~
~~candidate committee, political committee, continuing political committee, political party committee, or~~
~~legislative leadership committee, as defined by section 3 of P.L.1973, c.83 (C.19:44A-3), registered~~
~~with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission;~~

~~(4)(5) any labor contractor organization; signatory to a collective bargaining agreement seeking~~
~~information material to the enforcement of State or federal statutes or regulations regarding, but not~~
~~limited to, wage and hour protections, workplace safety, or public procurement and public bidding,~~
~~including, but not limited to, requests for certified payrolls or information about all bids submitted~~
~~in response to a public procurement process subsequent to the deadline for the submission of all bids for~~
~~that solicitation;~~

~~(5)(6) any contractor employee, signatory agent, to contractor, a or collective affiliates bargaining~~
~~agreement seeking information material to the enforcement of State any or entity federal identified~~
~~statutes or regulations regarding, but not limited to, wage and hour protections, workplace safety, or~~
~~public procurement and public bidding, including, but not limited to, requests for certified payrolls or~~
~~information about all bids submitted in response paragraphs to (1) a through public (5) procurement process~~
~~subsequent to the deadline for the submission of all this bids definition for in that this~~
~~solicitation; section;~~

1 [or 1] (6) (7) any employee, non-profit agent, entity, contractor, including organizations or
affiliates individuals of qualified any for entity exemption identified from in federal paragraphs taxation
(1) pursuant through to (5) section 501(c)(3) of this the definition federal in Internal this Revenue
section; Code, 26 U.S.C.

~~ors.501(c)(3) — and (7) any non-profit entity, including organizations or individuals qualified for~~
~~exemption from federal taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) 501(c)(4) of the federal Internal Revenue~~

Code, 26 U.S.C.

~~s. 501(c)(3) s. 501(c)(4), and when section the 501(c)(4) entity of does not sell, resell, solicit, rent, or lease a government record to an unaffiliated third party in a way in which the federal entity Internal expects Revenue a Code, fee U.S.C. 1;~~

~~s. 501(c)(4), or when the (8) entity any does individual not or sell, entity resell, authorized solicit, to rent, access or lease a government vehicle record accident to report an under unaffiliated the third federal party "Driver's in Privacy a Protection way Act in of which 1994," the 18 entity U.S.C. expects a fee.~~

~~s. 2721 "Constituent" et means seq 1. any State resident or other person communicating with a member of the Legislature.~~

~~"Criminal" "Constituent" investigatory record" means any record State which resident is not required by law to be made, maintained or kept other on person file communicating that with is held by a law member enforcement of agency the which Legislature. pertains to any criminal investigation or related civil enforcement proceeding.~~

~~"Custodian" "Criminal of investigatory a government record" or "custodian" means in the case of a municipality, record the which municipal is clerk not and required in by the law case to of be any made, other maintained public or agency, kept the on officer file officially that designated is held by formal a action law of enforcement that agency agency's which director pertains or to governing any body, criminal as investigation the or case related may civil be enforcement proceeding.~~

~~"Government" "Custodian record" of or "record" means any paper, written or printed book, document, drawing, map, plan, photograph, microfilm, data processed or image processed document, information stored or maintained electronically or by sound recording or in a similar government device, record" or any "custodian" copy means thereof, that has been made, maintained or kept on file in the course case of his a or municipality, its official business by any officer, commission, agency or authority of the State municipal or clerk of and any political subdivision thereof, including subordinate boards thereof, or that has been received in the course case of his or its official business by any such other officer, public commission, agency, or authority of the State officer or officially of designated any by political formal subdivision action thereof, of including that subordinate agency's boards director thereof. The terms shall not include inter-agency or intra-agency governing advisory, body, consultative, as or deliberative material. "Labor organization" means any organization which exists and is constituted for the purpose, case in may whole be, or in part, of collective bargaining, of dealing with employers concerning grievances, terms or conditions of employment, or of other mutual aid or protection in connection with employment.~~

~~A "Government government record" record or "record" means any paper, written or printed book, document, drawing, map, plan, photograph, microfilm, data processed or image processed document, information stored or maintained electronically or by sound recording or in a similar device, or any copy thereof, that has been made, maintained or kept on file in the course of his or its official business by any officer, commission, agency or authority of the State or of any political subdivision thereof, including subordinate boards thereof, or that has been received in the course of his or its official business by any such officer, commission, agency, or authority of the State or of any political subdivision thereof, including subordinate boards thereof. The terms shall not include the inter-agency following or information intra-agency which advisory, is consultative, deemed or to deliberative be material confidential 1. "Labor organization" means any organization which exists and is constituted for the purposes purpose, in whole or in part, of P.L. 1963, collective c. 73 bargaining, (C. 47:1A-1 of et dealing seq.) with a employers amended concerning and grievances, supplemented terms or conditions of employment, or of other mutual aid or protection in connection with employment 1.~~

~~A government record shall not include the following information which is deemed to be confidential for the purposes of P.L. 1963, c. 73 (C. 47:1A-1 et seq.) as amended and supplemented: information received by a member of the Legislature from a constituent or information held by a member of the Legislature concerning a constituent, including, but not limited to, information in written form or contained in any e-mail or computer data base, or in any telephone record whatsoever, unless it is information the constituent is required by law to transmit;~~

~~any memorandum, correspondence, notes, report or other communication prepared by, or for, the specific use of a member of the Legislature in the course of the member's official duties, except that this provision shall not apply to an otherwise publicly-accessible report which is required by law to be submitted to the Legislature or its members;~~

~~any copy, reproduction or facsimile of any photograph, negative or print, including instant photographs and videotapes of the body, or any portion of the body, of a deceased person, taken by or for the medical examiner at the scene of death or in the course of a post mortem examination or autopsy made by or caused to be made by the medical examiner except for use by a legal next of kin, a legal representative, or an attending physician of the deceased person, for use as a court of this State permits, or for use by any law enforcement agency in this State or any other state or federal law enforcement agency;~~

~~criminal investigatory records;~~

the portion of any criminal record concerning a person's detection, apprehension, arrest, detention, trial or disposition for unlawful manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing, or possessing or having under control with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense, marijuana or hashish in violation of paragraph (11) of subsection b.

victims' records, except that a victim of a crime shall have access to the victim's own records;

any written request by a crime victim for a record to which the victim is entitled to access as provided in this section, including, but not limited to, any law enforcement agency report, domestic violence offense report, and temporary or permanent restraining order;

personal firearms records, except for use by any person authorized by law to have access to these records or for use by any government agency, including any court or law enforcement agency, for purposes of the administration of justice;

personal identifying information received by the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection in connection with the issuance of any license authorizing hunting with a firearm;

trade secrets and proprietary commercial or financial information obtained from any source. For the purposes of this paragraph, trade secrets shall include software, applications, and code obtained by a public body under a licensing agreement which prohibits its disclosure;

any record within the attorney-client privilege. This paragraph shall not be construed as exempting from access attorney or consultant bills or invoices except that such bills or invoices may be redacted to remove any information protected by the attorney-client privilege;

administrative or technical information regarding computer hardware, tablets, telephones, electronic computing devices, software applications, and networks or devices which operate on or as a part of a computer network or related technologies within the same, which shall include system logs, event logs, transaction logs, tracing logs, or any logs which are reasonably construed to be similar to the same and generated by the devices or servers covered within this paragraph, which, if disclosed, could jeopardize computer security, or related technologies;

emergency or security information or procedures for any buildings or facility which, if disclosed, would jeopardize security of the building or facility or persons therein;

security measures and surveillance techniques which, if disclosed, would create a risk to the safety of persons, property, electronic data or software;

security alarm system activity and access reports, including video footage, for any public building, facility, or grounds unless the request identifies a specific incident that occurred, or a specific date and limited time period at a particular public building, facility, or grounds, and is deemed not to compromise the integrity of the security system by revealing capabilities and vulnerabilities of the system;

information which, if disclosed, would give an advantage to competitors or bidders, including detailed or itemized cost estimates prior to bid opening;

information generated by or on behalf of public employers or public employees in connection with any sexual harassment complaint filed with a public employer or with any grievance filed by or against an individual or in connection with collective negotiations, including documents and statements of strategy or negotiating position;

information which is a communication between a public agency and its insurance carrier, administrative service organization or risk management office;

information which is to be kept confidential pursuant to court order;

any copy of form DD-214, NGB-22, or that form, issued by the United States Government, or any other certificate of honorable discharge, or copy thereof, from active service or the reserves of a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, or from service in the organized militia of the State, that has been filed by an individual with a public agency, except that a veteran or the veteran's spouse or surviving spouse shall have access to the veteran's own records;

any copy of an oath of allegiance, oath of office or any affirmation taken upon assuming the duties of any public office, or that oath or affirmation, taken by a current or former officer or employee in any public office or position in this State or in any county or municipality of this State, including members of the Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, and all law enforcement entities, except that the full name, title, and oath date of that person contained therein shall not be deemed confidential;

that portion of any document which discloses the social security number, credit card number, debit card number, bank account information, month and day of birth, any personal email address required by a public agency for government applications, services, or programs, any telephone number or driver license number of any person, or, in accordance with section 2 of P.L.2021, c.371 (C.47:1B-2), that portion of any document which discloses the home address, whether a primary or secondary residence, of any active, formerly active, or retired judicial officer, law enforcement officer, child protective investigator in the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, or prosecutor, or, as defined in section 1 of P.L.2021,

c.371 (C.47:1B-1), any immediate family member thereof;

1vehicle accident report information. However, unredacted vehicle accident reports shall be available to authorized requestors specified in section 4 of P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);1 that portion of any document that discloses the personal identifying information of any person provided to a public agency for the sole purpose of receiving official notifications;

a list of persons identifying themselves as being in need of special assistance in the event of an emergency maintained by a municipality for public safety purposes pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2017, c.266 (C.40:48-2.67) and their personal identifying information;

a list of persons identifying themselves as being in need of special assistance in the event of an emergency maintained by a county for public safety purposes pursuant to section 6 of P.L.2011, c.178 (C.App.A:9-43.13) and their personal identifying information;

that portion of any document that requires and would disclose personal identifying information of persons under the age of 18 years, except with respect to the disclosure of driver information by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission as permitted by section 2 of P.L.1997, c.188 (C.39:2-3.4) or the disclosure of driver information to any insurer or insurance support organization, or a self-insured entity, or its agents, employees, or contractors, for use in connection with claims investigation activities, antifraud activities, rating, or underwriting, and except with respect to the disclosure of voter information on voter and election records pursuant to section 8 of P.L.2024, c.16 (C.47:1A-5.3); personal identifying information disclosed on domestic animal permits, licenses, and registration; structured reference data that helps to sort and identify attributes of the information it describes, referred to as metadata, or any extrapolation or compilation thereof, which shall include the SMTP header properties of emails, except that portion that identifies authorship, identity of editor, and time of change;

New Jersey State Firemen's Association financial relief applications;

owner and maintenance manuals;

data classified under the "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996," Pub.L.104-191; and _____ any indecent or graphic images of a person's intimate parts, as defined in section ~~10~~ of P.L.2024, c.16 (C.47:1A-5.2), that are captured in a photograph or video recording without the prior written consent of the subject of the photograph or video footage, as defined in section 10 of P.L.2024, c.16 (C.47:1A-5.2).

A government record shall not include, with regard to any public institution of higher education, the following information which is deemed to be privileged and ~~confidential; confidential:~~
pedagogical, scholarly and/or academic research records and/or the specific details of any research project conducted under the auspices of a public higher education institution in New Jersey, including, but not limited to, research, development information, testing procedures, or information regarding test participants, related to the development or testing of any pharmaceutical or pharmaceutical delivery system, except that a custodian may not deny inspection of a government record or part thereof that gives the name, title, expenditures, source and amounts of funding and date when the final project summary of any research will be available;

~~pedagogical, test scholarly questions, and/or scoring academic keys research and records other and/or examination the data specific pertaining details of any research project conducted under the auspices of a public higher education institution in New Jersey, including, but not limited to, research, development information, testing procedures, or information regarding test participants, related to the development administration or testing of any an pharmaceutical examination or for pharmaceutical employment delivery system, except that a custodian may not deny inspection of a government record or part academic thereof examination; that gives the name, title, expenditures, source and amounts of funding and date when the final project summary of any research will be available; test records questions, of scoring pursuit keys of and charitable other contributions examination or data records pertaining containing to the identity of a donor of a gift if the administration donor requires non-disclosure of an the examination donor's for identity employment as a condition of making the gift provided that the donor has not received any benefits of or academic from examination; the institution of higher education in connection with such gift other than a request for memorialization or dedication; records valuable of pursuit of charitable contributions or records rare containing collections the identity of a books donor or of documents obtained gift by if gift, the grant, donor bequest requires non-disclosure of the donor's identity as a condition of making the gift provided that the donor has not received any benefits of or from devise the conditioned institution upon of limited higher public education access; in connection with such gift other than a request for memorialization or dedication; valuable information or contained rare on collections individual of admission books applications; or documents obtained by gift, grant, bequest or devise conditioned upon limited public access;~~

1[personal identifying information contained and auto insurance policy numbers included on individual vehicle admission accident applications; reports, except that unredacted vehicle accident

reports shall be available to those parties specified in section 3 of P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____) (pending before the Legislature as this bill); and information concerning student records or grievance or disciplinary proceedings against a student to the extent disclosure would reveal the identity of the student.

~~Nothing identifying information this and section 2 shall insurance be policy construed numbers to included limit on the vehicle requirements accident to reports, provide except and that make unredacted publicly vehicle available accident the reports information shall pursuant be available to those parties specified in section 35 of P.L. 1963, c. 150 (C.34:11-56.29) (C. _____ and)section (pending before of the P.L. 1999, c. 238 as (C.34:11-56.52). this bill);~~

and _____ "Judicial information officer" concerning means student any records active, formerly active, or grievance retired federal, state, county, or disciplinary municipal proceedings judge, against including a student judge to of the extent Tax disclosure Court would and reveal any other court of limited jurisdiction established, altered, or abolished by law, a judge of the identity Office of Administrative Law, a judge of the student Division of Workers' Compensation, and any other judge established by law who serves in the executive branch.

~~Nothing "Labor organization" this means section any shall organization be that construed exists to and limit is constituted for the requirements purpose, to in provide whole and or make in publicly part, available of the collective information bargaining, pursuant to dealing section with 5 employers of concerning P.L. 1963, c. 150 terms (C.34:11-56.29) or and conditions section of 5 employment, or of P.L. 1999, other c. 238 mutual (C.34:11-56.52). aid or protection in connection with employment. 1~~
"Law enforcement agency" means a public agency, or part thereof, determined by the Attorney General to have law enforcement responsibilities.

"Judicial Law enforcement officer" means any active, person formerly whose active, public or duties retired include federal, the state, power county, to or act municipal as judge, an including officer a for judge of the Tax detection, Court apprehension, arrest, and any conviction other court of limited offenders jurisdiction against established, altered, or abolished by law, a judge of the Office laws of Administrative this Law, State. a judge of the Division of Workers' Compensation, and any other judge established by law who serves in the executive branch.

"Law Member enforcement of agency" the Legislature means any public person agency, elected or part selected thereof, to determined serve by in the Attorney New General Jersey to Senate have or law General enforcement Assembly. responsibilities.

"Law Personal enforcement firearms officer" record means any person information whose contained public in duties a include background investigation conducted by the power chief to of act police, as the an county officer prosecutor, for or the detection, Superintendent apprehension, of arrest, State and Police, conviction of offenders any against applicant the for laws a of permit this to State. purchase a handgun, firearms identification card license, or firearms registration;

~~"Member of the Legislature" means any person elected or selected to serve in the New Jersey Senate or General Assembly.~~

~~"Personal firearms record" means any information contained in a background investigation conducted by the chief of police, the county prosecutor, or the Superintendent of State Police, of any applicant for a permit to purchase a handgun, firearms identification card license, or firearms registration;~~

"Public agency" or "agency" means any of the principal departments in the Executive Branch of State Government, and any division, board, bureau, office, commission or other instrumentality within or created by such department;

1 "Vehicle accident report information" means and includes the following data elements found on a vehicle accident report: the name of any person under 18 years of age, social security number, driver's license number, month and day of birth, personal email address, personal telephone number, the street address portion of any person's primary or secondary home address, vehicle identification number, and automobile insurance policy number. "Vehicle accident report information" shall not include the name of any person 18 years of age or older. 1

"Victim of a crime" means a person who has suffered personal or psychological injury or death or incurs loss of or injury to personal or real property as a result of a crime, or if such a person is deceased or incapacitated, a member of that person's immediate family.

"Victim's record" means an individually identifiable file or document held by a victims' rights agency which pertains directly to a victim of a crime except that a victim of a crime shall have access to the victim's own records.

"Victims' rights agency" means a public agency, or part thereof, the primary responsibility of which is providing services, including, but not limited to, food, shelter, or clothing, medical, psychiatric, psychological or legal services or referrals, information and referral services, counseling and support services, or financial services to victims of crimes, including victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, violent crime, child endangerment, child abuse or child neglect, and the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, established pursuant to P.L. 1971, c. 317 (C.52:4B-1 et seq.) and continued as the Victims of Crime Compensation Office pursuant to P.L. 2007, c. 95 (C.52:4B-3.2 et al.) and Reorganization Plan No.

As used in this section, "personal identifying information" means information that may be used, alone or in conjunction with any other information, to identify a specific individual. 1"1 Personal identifying information 1"1 shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following data elements: name, social security number, credit card number, debit card number, bank account information, month and day of birth, any personal email address required by a public agency for government applications, services, or programs, personal telephone number, the street address portion of any person's primary or secondary home address, or driver license number of any person. "Personal identifying information" shall not include any street address, mailing address, email address, or telephone number of a public agency. "Personal identifying information" shall not include the email address of a governmental affairs agent.

name, (cf: social P.L.2024, security c.16, number, s.1) credit card number, 2. debit card number, P.L.2001, bank c.404 account (C.47:1A-11) information, is month amended to read as follows:
12. a. If a public official, officer, employee, or custodian is found to have knowingly and day willfully violated birth, P.L.1963, any c.73 personal (C.47:1A-1 email et address seq.), required as by amended and supplemented, and to have unreasonably denied access under the totality of the circumstances, the public agency for that government employs applications, the services, custodian, officer, employee, or programs, official personal shall telephone be number, subject to the street address civil portion penalty of any \$1,000 person's for primary an or initial secondary violation, home \$2,500 address, for or a driver second license violation number that of occurs any within person, 10 "Personal years identifying of information" an shall initial not violation, include and any \$5,000 street for address, a mailing third address, violation email that address, occurs or within telephone 10 number years of a an public initial agency. violation. "Personal The identifying penalties information" authorized shall pursuant not to include this subsection may be imposed by the email courts address or of by a the governmental Government affairs Records agent. Council.

(cf: b. (1) A requestor who is found to have intentionally failed to certify that a records request is for a commercial purpose shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000 for the first offense, \$2,500 for the second offense, and \$5,000 for each subsequent offense. The penalties may be imposed by the courts.

P.L.2024, c.16, (2) s.1) An authorized requestor 2. who Section was 12 provided an unredacted vehicle accident report pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2001, P.L.1995, c.404 c.23 (C.47:1A-11) (C.47:1A-1.1) and is amended found to read have knowingly follows, and willfully publicly disclosed the 1[personal identifying information or auto insurance policy numbers disclosed on the vehicle accident report] vehicle accident report information of a party to the accident 1 without 1 the party's 1 written consent 1 [of all parties involved in the accident] 1, and in the case of a deceased or incapacitated party, the written consent of 1 [that person's] the party's 1 legal next of kin, 1 guardian, or personal representative, 1 shall be subject to a civil penalty of 1 [\$1,000] \$2501 for the first offense, 1 [\$2,500] \$5001 for the second offense, and 1 [\$5,000] \$1,0001 for each subsequent offense. The penalties may be imposed by the courts.

12. c. a. These If penalties a shall public be official, collected officer, and employee, enforced or in custodian proceedings is in found accordance to with have the knowingly "Penalty and Enforcement willfully Law violated of P.L.1963, 1999," c.73 P.L.1999, (C.47:1A-1 c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.), as amended and supplemented, the and rules to of have court unreasonably governing denied actions access for under the totality collection of the civil circumstances, penalties. the The public Superior agency Court that employs the custodian, officer, employee, or official shall behave subject jurisdiction to a civil penalty of \$1,000 proceedings for an the initial collection violation, \$2,500 for a second violation that occurs within 10 years of an initial violation, and \$5,000 enforcement for a third violation that occurs within 10 years of an the initial penalty violation. The penalties authorized pursuant to this subsection may be imposed by the this courts section. or by the Government Records Council.

b. d. (1) Appropriate A disciplinary requestor proceedings who may is be found initiated to against have intentionally failed to certify that a records public request official, is officer, foremployee a or commercial custodian purpose against shall whom be subject to a civil penalty of has \$1,000 been for imposed. the first offense, \$2,500 for the second offense, and \$5,000 for each subsequent offense. The penalties may be imposed by the courts.

(2) 1e. An As authorized used requestor in who this was section, provided "vehicle an accident unredacted report vehicle information" accident means report the pursuant same to as that term is defined in section 1 of P.L.1995, c.23 (C.47:1A-1.1) (C.47:1A-1.1) 1 and (cf: P.L.2024, c.16, s.5) 13. R.S.39:4-131 is found amended to have read knowingly as and follows: willfully publicly 39:4-131. disclosed The the Department personal of identifying Transportation information shall or prepare auto and insurance supply policy to numbers police disclosed departments on and the other vehicles suitable accident agencies, report forms without for written accident consent reports of calling all for parties sufficiently involved detailed in information the with accident, reference and to in a the motor case vehicle of accident, a including deceased the or cause, incapacitated the party, conditions then existing, the written persons consent and of vehicles that involved, person's the legal compliance next with of P.L.1984, kin, c.179 shall (C.39:3-76.2e be et subject seq.) to by a the civil operators penalty and passengers of \$1,000 the for vehicles involved in the first accident, offense, whether \$2,500 the for operator of the second vehicle offense, was and using \$5,000 a

~~for cellular each telephone subsequent when offense, the The accident penalties occurred, may and be such imposed other by information as the courts.~~ Commissioner of Transportation may require.

c. ~~Every These law penalties enforcement shall officer who investigates a vehicle accident of which report must be collected made and as enforced required in proceedings this in Title, accordance or with who the otherwise "Penalty prepares Enforcement a Law written for 1999," an P.L. 1999, electronic 6-274 report (C.2A:59-10 as et seq.), result and of an accident or thereafter by interviewing the rules participants for court witnesses, governing shall actions electronically for transmit the a collection report of civil such penalties. accident The to Superior the Court department, shall on have forms jurisdiction furnished of by proceedings it for and in the collection electronic and format enforcement prescribed of by the penalty department, imposed within by five this days section, after the law enforcement officer's investigation of the accident.~~

d. ~~[Such] Appropriate Except disciplinary as proceedings otherwise provided in section 1 of P.L. 1995, c. 23 (C.47:1A-1.1) and sections 4 and 5 of P.L. , c. (C. and C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), such written or electronic reports required to be prepared by law enforcement officers and the information contained therein shall not be privileged or held confidential [. Every] , and every citizen of this State shall have the right, during regular business hours and under supervision, to inspect and copy such reports and shall also have the right in person to purchase copies of the reports at the same fee established by section 6 of P.L. 2001, c. 404 (C.47:1A-5). If copies of reports are requested other than in person, an additional fee of up to \$5 may be initiated added against to cover the administrative costs of the report. Upon request, a public police official, department officer, shall employee send an accident report to a person through the mail or custodian via against fax. whom The police department may require the person requesting the report to provide a penalty completed has request been form imposed, and the appropriate fee prior to faxing or mailing the report. The police department shall provide the person requesting the report with the option of submitting the form and providing the appropriate fee either in person, through the mail, or via fax.~~

~~(cf: The provisions of any other law or regulation to the contrary notwithstanding, reports obtained pursuant to this act shall not be subject to confidentiality requirements, except as provided by section 28 of P.L. 1960, c. 52 (C.2A:84A-28), section 1 of P.L. 1995, c. 23 (C.47:1A-1.1), and sections 4 and of P.L. , c. (C. and C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).~~

~~P.L. 2024, c. 16, When s. 5) a —motor —vehicle 3.—accident (New results section) in a. the Unredacted death vehicle or accident incapacitation reports of the driver or any passenger, the law enforcement officer responsible for notifying the next of kin that their relative is deceased or incapacitated, also shall be inform available the relative, in writing, how to obtain a copy of the following accident authorized report parties, required by this section and the name, address, and telephone number of the person storing the motor vehicle pursuant to section 1 of P.L. 1964, c. 81 (C.39:10A-1).~~

~~(1) individuals The involved New Jersey Department of Transportation shall adopt, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L. 1968, c. 410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations to require law enforcement officers to electronically transmit crash reports required to be prepared pursuant to this section. 1 (cf: P.L. 2023, c. 55, s. 1) 1[3.] 4.1 (New section) a. 1 As used in this section, "vehicle accident report information" means the accident, same as that term is defined in section 1 of P.L. 1995, c. 23 (C.47:1A-1.1).~~

~~b.1 Unredacted vehicle accident reports shall be available to the following authorized 1[parties] requestors 1: (1) individuals involved in the accident;~~

~~(3) auto 1[auto] 1 insurance companies 1, or a third party working on the company's behalf, 1 representing a party to the accident;~~

~~and 1[and] 1 (4) local, State, and federal law enforcement agencies and their employees or agents acting within the scope of their official duties, duties Authorized 1: requestors who receive an unredacted report may use such confidential information solely for legal, investigatory, or insurance-related purposes.~~

~~Disclosure and of (5) any a personal requestor identifying authorized information pursuant or auto insurance policy numbers to the public federal is "Driver's prohibited Privacy without Protection the Act written consent of all 1994," parties 18 involved U.S.C. or, in the case of an individual who is deceased, incapacitated as defined in N.J.S. 3B:1-2, or otherwise lacks legal capacity, the written consent of that person's legal next of kin. Internal use or sharing of information by employees, agents, or contractors of an authorized attorney, auto insurance company, or local, State, and federal law enforcement agency, shall not considered public disclosure, provided that the information is used exclusively for legal representation, claims processing, or accident-related investigation.~~

~~s. 2721 b.—et An seq 1. authorized Authorized requestor requestors who is receive found an to unredacted have 1 vehicle knowingly accident 1 and report will fully may publicly use disclosed 1[such] the the 1 personal confidential identifying information or obtained 1 auto solely insurance for policy legal, numbers investigatory, disclosed or on insurance-related the purposes vehicle 1 or accident as report otherwise without authorized written under consent of all parties involved in the accident, federal and "Driver's~~

~~in Privacy the Protection case Act of 1994," deceased 18 or U.S.C. -incapacitated party, the written consent of that person's legal next of kin, shall be subject to a civil penalty pursuant to section 12 of P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-11).~~

~~s.2721 For purposes of seq. 1. Disclosure of this any act, 1[personal P.L. identifying ,information c. or (pending auto before insurance the policy Legislature numbers] as vehicle this accident bill), report "disclosure information 1 to the public" public 1[is] shall include, be 1 but prohibited not without be the limited written to, consent distribution of through 1[all media, parties online involved] platforms, the commercial party sale, to correspondence, the including accident email whose or vehicle written accident communication, report or information any is other to method be by disclosed 1 which or, such in information the is case made of accessible 1[an to individual] individuals a party 1 who are is not deceased, authorized incapacitated under as law defined to in access N.J.S.3B:1-2, such or data, otherwise — lacks c. legal The capacity, custodian the of written a consent government of record 1[that shall person's] maintain the a party's 1 log legal next of all kin unredacted 1, vehicle guardian, accident or reports personal provided representative 1. pursuant Internal to use this or act, sharing P.L. of ,information c. by (pending employees, before agents, the or Legislature contractors as of this an bill), authorized including attorney, the 1[auto] 1 name insurance of company, the or requestor, local, their State, legal and basis federal for law access, enforcement and agency the 1[, 1] date shall of not 1 be 1 considered public disclosure, provided that the disclosure, information such is records used shall exclusively be for made legal available representation, to claims the processing, Government 1[or] Records an 1 Council accident-related investigation 1, or Attorney as General otherwise upon authorized request under in the connection federal with "Driver's an Privacy investigation, Protection Act of 1994," 18 U.S.C.~~

~~s.2721 — et 4. — seq. 1. This act shall take effect immediately.~~

~~1[b.] STATEMENT c. 1 — An — authorized This requestor bill who strengthens is personal found privacy to and have security knowingly for and New will fully Jersey publicly residents disclosed by requiring the redaction 1[personal of personal-identifying information and or auto insurance policy numbers from disclosed on the vehicle accident reports report] before vehicle those accident reports report are information released of a party to the public accident 1 under without the 1 the law party's 1 commonly written known consent as 1[of all parties involved in the open accident] 1, public and records in act the (OPRA). case A of a time deceased when or data incapacitated breaches party, and the identity written theft consent are of increasingly 1[that common, person's] safeguarding the this party's 1 information legal is next essential of kin 1, guardian, or personal representative 1, shall be subject to protecting a individuals' civil privacy penalty rights pursuant and to preventing section misuse 12 of sensitive P.L.2001, data. c.404 (C.47:1A-11).~~

~~The For bill purposes limits of access 1[this to act, 1] unredacted P.L. , vehicle c. accident 1 (C.) 1 reports (pending before the Legislature as this bill), "disclosure to parties the with public" a shall clearly include, defined but legal, not insurance, be limited to, distribution through media, online platforms, commercial sale, correspondence, including email or investigatory written purpose- communication, Authorized or parties any include other method by which such information is made accessible to individuals involved who in are the not accident; authorized under law to access such data.~~

~~1[c.] d.1 The custodian of a government record shall maintain a log of all unredacted vehicle accident reports provided pursuant to 1[this act, 1] P.L. , c. 1 (C.) 1 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), including the name of the 1 authorized 1 requestor, their attorneys; legal basis for access, and the date of the disclosure. Such records shall be made available to the Government Records Council 1 in the Department of Community Affairs 1 or 1 the 1 Attorney General upon request in connection with an investigation.~~

~~insurance companies representing 15. (New Section) Nothing in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be construed to prohibit the disclosure of an unredacted vehicle accident report to a party requestor authorized to access the accident; report pursuant to the federal "Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994," 18 U.S.C.~~

~~and s.2721 local, et State, seq. and An federal law enforcement agencies and their employees or agents acting within the scope of their official duties. Under the bill, authorized recipients requestor are who strictly receives limited an to using unredacted information vehicle for accident official report purposes pursuant and to are prohibited from disclosing it publicly without the written federal consent "Driver's of Privacy all Protection involved Act parties or, in the case of a 1994," deceased 18 or U.S.C. -incapacitated person, the legal next of kin.~~

~~s.2721 To et deter seq. unauthorized disclosure, the bill imposes escalating civil penalties. The penalties are \$1,000 for a first offense, \$2,500 for a second offense, and \$5,000 for each subsequent offense. The bill also requires custodians of government records at government agencies to keep a log of unredacted accident report disclosures, which are required to be made available to the Government Records Council or Attorney General upon request in connection with an investigation.~~

~~shall only use or disclose the report as permitted and pursuant to the limitations established in the federal "Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994," 18 U.S.C.~~

~~s.2721 et seq. 1 1[4.] 6.1 This act shall take effect immediately.~~

