

2396--A

2015-2016 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

January 22, 2015

Introduced by Sens. RITCHIE, FELDER, FUNKE, KLEIN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- recommitted to the Committee on Transportation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to establishing a next of kin registry for holders of drivers' licenses, learners' permits and non-driver identification cards

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new
2 section 215-a to read as follows:
3 S 215-A. NEXT OF KIN REGISTRY. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH AND
4 OPERATE, WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, AN AUTOMATED, STATEWIDE INTERNET ACCESS-
5 SIBLE WEBSITE TO BE KNOWN AS THE "NEXT OF KIN REGISTRY". SUCH REGISTRY
6 SHALL BE CAPABLE OF STORING EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE HOLDERS
7 OF DRIVERS' LICENSES, LEARNERS' PERMITS AND NON-DRIVER IDENTIFICATION
8 CARDS TO BE ACCESSIBLE BY POLICE OFFICERS PURSUANT TO SECTION SIX
9 HUNDRED SEVEN OF THIS CHAPTER. ANY HOLDER OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE,
10 LEARNER'S PERMIT OR NON-DRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARD MAY VOLUNTARILY
11 SUBMIT, VIA AN INTERNET WEBSITE ESTABLISHED THEREFOR, THE NAMES,
12 ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF TWO EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR INCLUSION
13 IN THE NEXT OF KIN REGISTRY.
14 2. IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEXT OF KIN REGISTRY, THE COMMISSIONER
15 SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCESS WHEREBY ANY HOLDER OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE,
16 LEARNER'S PERMIT OR NON-DRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARD MAY ELECTRONICALLY
17 SIGN INTO THE DEPARTMENT INTERNET WEBSITE USING HIS OR HER LICENSE,
18 PERMIT OR CARD NUMBER. THEREAFTER, SUCH HOLDER MAY ENTER HIS OR HER
19 EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO EMERGENCY CONTACT

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 PERSONS, OR MAY REVISE OR UPDATE PREVIOUSLY ENTERED EMERGENCY CONTACT
2 INFORMATION.

3 3. INFORMATION IN THE NEXT OF KIN REGISTRY SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE
4 SOLELY FOR THE USE OF POLICE OFFICERS PURSUANT TO SECTION SIX HUNDRED
5 SEVEN OF THIS CHAPTER. THE INFORMATION IN THE NEXT OF KIN REGISTRY SHALL
6 BE DEEMED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL AND SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE
7 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE SIX OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW.

8 4. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "EMERGENCY CONTACT" SHALL MEAN
9 ANY PERSON, EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, DESIGNATED BY THE HOLDER OF
10 A DRIVER'S LICENSE, LEARNER'S PERMIT OR NON-DRIVER IDENTIFICATION CARD
11 TO BE CONTACTED BY A POLICE AGENCY WHEN SUCH HOLDER IS RENDERED UNABLE
12 TO COMMUNICATE DUE TO PHYSICAL INJURY, DEATH OR INCAPACITATION.

13 S 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section
14 607 to read as follows:

15 S 607. NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY CONTACTS. WHEN A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCI-
16 DENT OR ANY OTHER EVENT RESULTS IN PHYSICAL INJURY, DEATH OR INCAPACI-
17 TATION OF ANY PERSON, THE POLICE OFFICER INVESTIGATING SUCH ACCIDENT OR
18 EVENT SHALL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AN EMERGENCY CONTACT OF THE INJURED PERSON
19 FROM THE NEXT OF KIN REGISTRY ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION TWO
20 HUNDRED FIFTEEN-A OF THIS CHAPTER. A POLICE OFFICER SHALL, WHEN PRACTI-
21 CABLE, EXPEDITIOUSLY NOTIFY AN EMERGENCY CONTACT OF EACH SUCH INJURED
22 PERSON AND INFORM THE EMERGENCY CONTACT OF THE HOSPITAL OR OTHER
23 LOCATION AT WHICH THE INJURED PERSON HAS BEEN TAKEN.

24 S 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
25 it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediate-
26 ly, any actions necessary to implement the provisions of this act on its
27 effective date are authorized and directed to be completed on or before
28 such date.