

# STATE OF NEW YORK

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1910--A

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

January 11, 2017

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Introduced by Sen. RITCHIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- reported favorably from said committee and committed to the Committee on Finance -- 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 and to authorize certain medical providers to access such registry

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 § 215-a. Next of kin registry. 1. The commissioner shall establish and  
4 operate, within the department, an automated, statewide internet acces-  
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, emergency medical services  
9 and treating physicians pursuant to section six hundred seven of this  
10 chapter. Any holder of a driver's license, learner's permit or non-dri-  
11 ver identification card may voluntarily submit, via an internet website  
12 established therefor, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two  
13 emergency contacts for inclusion 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, emergency medical services and  
5 treating physicians pursuant to section six hundred seven of this chap-  
6 ter. The information in the next of kin registry shall be deemed to be  
7 confidential and shall not be subject to disclosure pursuant to article  
8 six of the public officers law.

9 4. For the purposes of this section, "emergency contact" shall mean  
10 any person, eighteen years of age or older, designated by the holder of  
11 a driver's license, learner's permit or non-driver identification card  
12 to be contacted by a police agency when such holder is rendered unable  
13 to communicate due to physical injury, death or incapacitation.

14 § 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section  
15 607 to read as follows:

16 § 607. Notification of emergency contacts. When a motor vehicle acci-  
17 dent or any other event results in physical injury, death or incapaciti-  
18 tation of any person, the police officer investigating such accident or  
19 event shall attempt to locate an emergency contact of the injured person  
20 from the next of kin registry established pursuant to section two  
21 hundred fifteen-a of this chapter. A police officer shall, when practi-  
22 cable, expeditiously notify an emergency contact of each such injured  
23 person and inform the emergency contact of the hospital or other  
24 location at which the injured person has been taken.

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