

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2740
(Second Reprint)

October 7, 2010

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 2740 (Second Reprint) without my approval. This bill would require the Attorney General to study and report on the State's graduated driver's license system six months after the effective date of the act.

The State's graduated driver's license law requires that the performance of new drivers of passenger automobiles be monitored, the operation and effectiveness of the graduated driver's license law be evaluated, and that these findings be reported by the Attorney General to the Governor and the Legislature. As such, enactment of a law requiring a study is unnecessary.

The Division of Highway Traffic Safety in the Department of Law and Public Safety is currently working in partnership with Rowan University and Virginia Tech University to study the graduated driver's license law and the changes to that law that became effective May 1, 2010. Further, I am advised that at least one year of data relevant to the recent changes to the graduated driver's license program is necessary to allow for a meaningful evaluation of those changes. An analysis based on insufficient data may lead to inconclusive or even misleading results. Since the recent changes to the program took effect only a few months ago, the six month time period provided in the bill for a review of the graduated driver's license program is inadequate.

However, I share the concerns of those who raise the issue of whether the new requirement that teen drivers display a decal while driving with a special learner's permit, examination permit, or probationary driver's license may make those teens a target. This well-intentioned requirement, known as "Kyleigh's Law," was established to allow better enforcement of graduated driver's license restrictions and, ultimately, to make our teens safer drivers. To that end, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety is

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

2

already conducting a separate study of this requirement in partnership with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration which will evaluate the effectiveness of the decal requirement from both an enforcement and behavioral standpoint. Any suggestion that the requirement to display the decal may put our teens at risk is troubling and investigation of this issue cannot wait until the study of the graduated driver's license program can be completed.

Therefore, I am directing the Attorney General to immediately conduct a survey and submit a statistical summary of reported criminal complaints in which it is alleged the victim was targeted as a result of being an operator or a passenger in a motor vehicle on which a decal was displayed, and to complete that report no later than six months from today. This survey will highlight any issues with the decal requirement that may need to be addressed immediately.

I am also directing the Division of Highway Traffic Safety to complete its overall study of the graduated driver's license program and submit its report of findings no later than one year from today.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2740 (Second Reprint) without my approval.

Respectfully,
/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

[seal]

Attest:
/s/Jeffrey S. Chiesa
Chief Counsel to the Governor