

CHAPTER 191

AN ACT authorizing the establishment of Yellow Dot programs and supplementing Title 40 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.40:15A-1 Definitions relative to Yellow Dot programs.

1. For the purposes of this act:

“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 of Health and licensed or otherwise authorized by the Department of Health 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 a Yellow Dot window decal provided pursuant to this act to the individual’s vehicle.

C.40:15A-2 “Yellow Dot Program,” establishment permitted.

2. a. The local governing body of any county or municipality in this State may establish a “Yellow Dot Program.” The purpose of a “Yellow Dot 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.

b. A Yellow Dot Program window decal on a motor vehicle involved in a motor vehicle accident or emergency shall serve as notice to an emergency responder assisting the vehicle that the driver or any passenger in the vehicle may be a participant in a Yellow Dot Program established pursuant to this act.

c. If a motor vehicle is involved in a motor vehicle accident or emergency, and a Yellow Dot Program window decal is affixed to the vehicle, an emergency responder at the scene of such accident or emergency is authorized to search the glove compartment of the vehicle for a Yellow Dot Program envelope and health information card.

d. An emergency responder may use the information contained in the Yellow Dot Program envelope for the following purposes:

- (1) To identify a participant in the Yellow Dot Program;
- (2) To ascertain whether the program participant has a medical condition that may impede communications with the emergency responder;
- (3) To communicate with the program participant’s emergency contacts about the location and general condition of the program participant; or
- (4) To consider the program participant’s current medications and pre-existing medical conditions when emergency medical treatment is administered for any injury the participant suffers.

C.40:15A-3 Program materials.

3. a. In implementing a Yellow Dot Program and designing program materials, a local governing body shall give consideration to the program materials used by similar programs in the State and other states. The local governing body may also consult with interested parties, including, but not limited to, local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, emergency medical services personnel, agencies or organizations that have direct contact

with senior citizens, and any other organizations that promote the health and safety of motorists.

b. Program materials shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) An adhesive yellow decal 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 local governing body shall deem to be relevant to emergency responders in the case of a motor vehicle accident or emergency; and

(3) A yellow envelope into which the health information card is to be inserted and which shall be placed in the program participant's glove compartment.

C.40:15A-4 Availability of program materials; fee.

4. a. Any local governing body that establishes a Yellow Dot Program pursuant to this act shall make program materials available for pick up at convenient and accessible locations by any person interested in becoming a program participant. The locations where program materials will be made available for pick up shall be determined by the local governing body. The local governing body may also establish a means whereby program materials may be obtained or ordered through the mail or electronically.

b. A local governing body may charge an individual seeking to participate in a Yellow Dot Program a nominal fee to cover the administrative cost of the program, which may include, but not be limited to, the cost of program materials, any public education campaign which may be undertaken to inform the public about the program, and any assistance provided to program participants.

C.40:15A-5 Immunity from liability for certain civil damages.

5. 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.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 17, 2014.