

# ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS NEWS RELEASE



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## **OLIVER/QUIGLEY/GREENSTEIN BILL TO PROTECT ROADSIDE EMERGENCY WORKERS SIGNED INTO LAW**

(TRENTON) – Legislation sponsored by Assemblywomen Sheila Y. Oliver, Joan M. Quigley, and Linda Greenstein that would require motorists to take safety precautions when approaching roadside emergency vehicles was signed into law today by Governor Jon S. Corzine.

“A little bit of courtesy can go a long way towards improving the safety of roadside emergency crews,” said Oliver (D-Essex). “Making drivers and emergency workers alike cognizant of this fact will most assuredly help to save lives.”

Under the new law, drivers are required to take safety precautions when approaching an authorized emergency vehicle, a stationary tow truck or a highway maintenance vehicle that has engaged its emergency lights.

Motorists are required to approach emergency vehicles with caution, reducing speed and changing lanes to move away from the emergency vehicle, unless specifically directed by law enforcement or maintenance workers. Violators are subject to fines of up to \$500 per offense.

“As motorists, we must be constantly be aware of both the other drivers on the road and of the professionals whose job it is to keep us safe,” said Quigley (D-Hudson). “We need to look out for them because they’re looking out for us.”

“For many law enforcement and emergency service personnel, the most dangerous part of a traffic stop is the other cars on the roadway,” said Greenstein (D-Middlesex). “Giving these individuals the space they need to do their jobs will help improve everyone’s safety.”

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