



Traffic Safety Bulletin

NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY

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STEPHEN'S LAW • SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

ENSURING THE SAFETY OF WHEELCHAIR BOUND PASSENGERS IN TRANSIT

On September 9, 2008, Governor Jon S. Corzine signed into effect Stephen's Law. Named in honor of Stephen Griscti, a wheelchair bound adult who fell over in a group home van because his wheelchair was not secured properly while being transported, the law mandates the use of federally approved wheelchair and occupant securement devices in private passenger automobiles under 39:3-76.1 and 39:3-76.2m of chapter 3, Title 39 of the Revised Statutes. The full text of the law can be found at:

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2008/Bills/PL08/79_.PDF

OVERVIEW OF P.L. 2008, CHAPTER 79

1. A private passenger automobile includes vans, pick-up trucks and sport utility vehicles.
2. The vehicle driver must secure any wheelchair bound passenger in properly adjusted and fastened wheelchair and occupant securement devices. These devices must meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard §571.222 (S5.4.2-4).
<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations/administration/fmcsr/fmcsrruletext.aspx?section=571.222>
3. A person who violates this law is subject to a \$100 fine; no points are assessed for this offense.
4. **This law became effective on September 9, 2008.**



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