

Local Law 14 - 2007

Introduced by Legislators Altmann, Denenberg, Jacobs, Wink and Yatauro

A LOCAL LAW to promote child safety and accident prevention by disseminating vehicle back-over information

BE IT ENACTED by the County Legislature of the County of Nassau as follows:

Section 1. Short title

This law shall be known as Alec's Law and shall appear in the miscellaneous laws as title sixty-five.

§2. Legislative findings and intent

This legislature finds that at least four hundred seventy-five children were killed in the United States between the years two thousand two and two thousand six when vehicles backed over them, as reported by KIDS AND CARS, a not-for-profit group that documents non-traffic incidents involving children. Among the many children on Long Island badly injured and/or killed by vehicles backing into them were Alec Nelson and Cameron Gulbransen, two toddlers who were killed in their own driveways because of poor rearward visibility. A recently passed federal bill calls for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to document non-traffic related incidents such as back-overs and to study devices designed to prevent vehicles from accidentally backing over children. Until such time as a rear visibility performance standard is set by the federal government, the County of Nassau can take measures to help protect Nassau's children by disseminating information concerning the dangers.

§3. Requirements

a. The Nassau County Traffic Safety Board shall establish and maintain a web page promoting child safety and accident prevention for vehicle owners. Such web page shall include but not be limited to current information and statistical data relative to the prevention of non-traffic related incidents such as back-overs; rearward visibility performance standards; information concerning drivers' visibility in "blind zones"; general vehicle safety; and, a list of the names and addresses of all businesses authorized to sell new and used vehicles in Nassau County, which shall be updated at least once every twelve months. Such web page link shall be contained on the Nassau County Executive's Homepage and shall be available through the Nassau County Office of Consumer Affairs and the Nassau County Traffic and Parking Violations Agency web pages.

b. The Nassau County Traffic Safety Board shall distribute to all new and used car dealers in the County of Nassau information relative to promoting child safety and accident prevention for vehicle owners, including but not limited to brochures and/or pamphlets concerning vehicle non-traffic incident prevention pamphlets which focus on vehicle safety and children and shall direct the dealers to distribute them to purchasers and/or customers who lease vehicles.

§4. Nothing in this title shall be deemed to impose any civil or criminal liability upon or to give rise to a cause of action against any official, employee or agency of Nassau County for failing to disseminate information as provided in this title.

§5. Effective date

This local law shall take effect ninety days after it shall have become a law.