



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Senate Ok's Ritchie Bill to Help Notify Family Members and Loved Ones More Quickly in Emergency Situations

PATTY RITCHIE June 2, 2015

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Measure Would Create Online “Next-of-Kin” Registry for Law Enforcement

State Senator Patty Ritchie has announced her bipartisan legislation to help law enforcement more quickly find family members or loved ones of victims following accidents or other emergencies has passed the Senate.

Under Senate bill 2396, the Department of Motor Vehicles would be directed to create an optional “Next-of Kin Registry,” where motorists could add information—such as phone numbers and addresses—of key people to be contacted in the event of an emergency.

“When an accident or medical emergency occurs, often times life or death decisions need to be made and loved ones need to be notified as quickly as possible,” said Senator Ritchie.

“However, law enforcement and emergency responders frequently run into difficulties when trying to find contact information of family members and loved ones. This legislation would make it easier for them to access vital information more quickly in situations when every minute counts.”

Senator Ritchie’s measure would allow holders of drivers’ licenses, learners’ permits and non-driver identification cards to register up to two emergency contacts who are 18 years of age or older. Included in the measure are provisions to protect motorists’ privacy, including limiting registry access solely to law enforcement agents who are actively investigating an accident or emergency scene.

The bill was sent to the Assembly, where it’s sponsored by Assemblyman Marco Crespo.