

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 54

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 8, 2010

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ALBERT COUTINHO**

**District 29 (Essex and Union)**

**Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON**

**District 27 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman L. GRACE SPENCER**

**District 29 (Essex and Union)**

**Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN**

**District 15 (Mercer)**

**Assemblyman JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

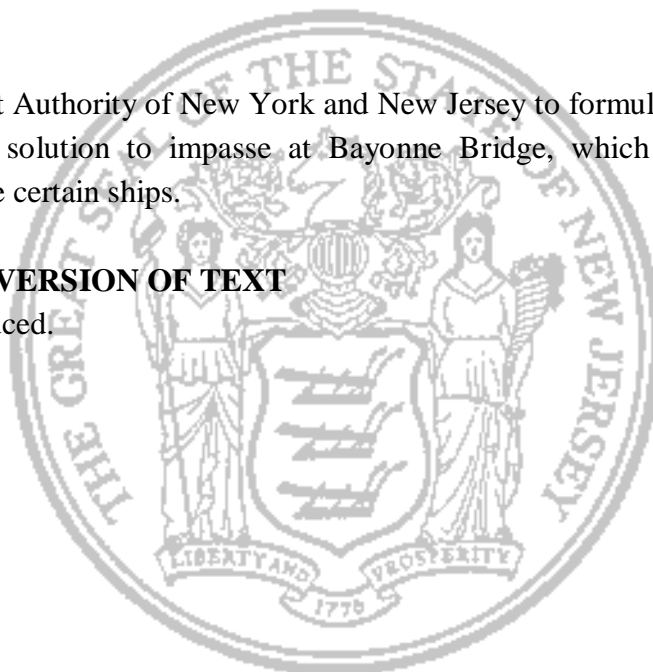
**Assemblywoman Evans, Assemblymen Conaway and Moriarty**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to formulate engineering and funding solution to impasse at Bayonne Bridge, which is too low to accommodate certain ships.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/26/2010)**

AR54 COUTINHO, MCKEON

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1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION urging the Port Authority of New  
2 York and New Jersey to formulate an engineering and funding  
3 solution to the impasse at the Bayonne Bridge, which is too low  
4 to accommodate certain ships.

5

6 WHEREAS, The air clearance of the Bayonne Bridge is 151 feet at low  
7 tide, which is too low to accommodate many large ships calling on  
8 the Port of New York and New Jersey; and

9 WHEREAS, After the completion of the expansion of the Panama Canal  
10 in 2014, the number of large ships requiring air clearance in excess  
11 of 151 feet will grow as more cargo is delivered directly to East  
12 Coast ports from Asia; and

13 WHEREAS, Eighty-eight percent of containerized cargo is delivered to  
14 New York and New Jersey Marine Terminals located west of the  
15 Bayonne Bridge; and

16 WHEREAS, If the bridge remains too low to accommodate these larger  
17 ships, the Port of New York and New Jersey will be put at a  
18 competitive disadvantage with ports in Norfolk, Virginia,  
19 Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, and Halifax, Nova  
20 Scotia, for access to new Asian cargo; and

21 WHEREAS, The Port of New York and New Jersey supports  
22 approximately 27,000 jobs in the region; and

23 WHEREAS, New Jersey could face a loss of jobs and business activity  
24 due to the competitive disadvantage caused by restriction of access  
25 at the Bayonne Bridge; and

26 WHEREAS, The Port Authority has received a study from the Army  
27 Corps of Engineers that validates the need to increase the air  
28 clearance from 151 feet to at least 215 feet, which is the available  
29 air clearance under the Bridge of the Americas on the Panama  
30 Canal; and

31 WHEREAS, It is important to develop an engineering and funding  
32 solution to the impasse at the Bayonne Bridge in time to seek  
33 funding support from available federal transportation funding  
34 programs; now, therefore,

35

36 BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New  
37 Jersey:

38

39 1. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is urged to  
40 formulate an engineering solution to the impasse at the Bayonne  
41 Bridge, and a funding plan to support the engineering solution, in  
42 time to seek funding support from available federal transportation  
43 funding programs.

44

45 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the  
46 Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof,  
47 shall be transmitted to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the  
48 Governor of the State of New York, the Board of Commissioners of

1 the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the President and  
2 Minority Leader of the New Jersey Senate, the Majority and  
3 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and  
4 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and  
5 every member of Congress elected from this State.

6  
7 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

8  
9  
10 STATEMENT

11  
12 This resolution urges the Port Authority of New York and New  
13 Jersey to formulate an engineering solution to the impasse at the  
14 Bayonne Bridge.

15 The air clearance of the Bayonne Bridge is 151 feet at low tide,  
16 which is too low to accommodate many large ships calling on the  
17 Port of New York and New Jersey. After the completion of the  
18 expansion of the Panama Canal in 2014, the number of large ships  
19 requiring air clearance in excess of 151 feet will grow as more  
20 cargo is delivered directly to East Coast ports from Asia. Eighty-  
21 eight percent of containerized cargo is delivered to New York and  
22 New Jersey Marine Terminals located west of the Bayonne Bridge.  
23 If the bridge remains too low to accommodate these larger ships,  
24 the Port of New York and New Jersey will be put at a competitive  
25 disadvantage with ports in Norfolk, Virginia, Charleston, South  
26 Carolina, Savannah, Georgia, and Halifax, Nova Scotia for access  
27 to new Asian cargo. Port of New York and New Jersey supports  
28 approximately 27,000 jobs in the region, and New Jersey could face  
29 a loss of jobs and business activity due to the competitive  
30 disadvantage caused by restriction of access at the Bayonne Bridge.

31 The Port Authority has received a study from the Army Corps of  
32 Engineers that validates the need to increase the air clearance from  
33 151 feet to at least 215 feet, which is the available air clearance  
34 under the Bridge of the Americas on the Panama Canal. It is  
35 important to develop an engineering and funding solution to the  
36 impasse at the Bayonne Bridge in time to seek funding support from  
37 available federal transportation funding programs.