

SENATE, No. 175

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL J. DOHERTY

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes State Transportation Cost Analysis Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the State Transportation Cost Analysis Task
2 Force.

3

4 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has invested more money per mile of highway
5 than any other state since 2009, yet its roads and bridges continue to
6 rank among the worst in the country; and

7 **WHEREAS**, In a recent Annual Highway Report issued by the Reason
8 Foundation, New Jersey's highway system ranks as the most
9 expensive to build, maintain, and operate; and

10 **WHEREAS**, According to the Reason Foundation, New Jersey ranked
11 48th in the nation in overall highway performance, 36th in
12 percentage of deficient bridges, and 46th in urban interstate
13 pavement in poor condition; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Roads and bridges in poor condition cost motorists in the
15 State an estimated \$3.6 billion per year in vehicle repairs and
16 operating costs and \$121 billion per year in fuel costs and time lost
17 in traffic on congested roads; and

18 **WHEREAS**, It has been suggested that the State needs to raise the tax
19 on motor fuels by 25 cents per gallon to fund additional
20 transportation infrastructure improvements, which would cost the
21 average driver an additional \$300 per year; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Before requiring New Jersey taxpayers to bear a greater
23 tax burden, the State should conduct an analysis of the factors that
24 contribute to New Jersey's expensive road costs and possibly look
25 to other states to determine more cost-efficient ways to use
26 transportation funding in this State; and

27 **WHEREAS**, It is in the best interest of the residents of New Jersey for
28 the State to analyze the billions of dollars that it spends per year on
29 transportation infrastructure and determine more efficient ways to
30 build, maintain, and operate New Jersey roadways; now, therefore,

31

32 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
33 *of New Jersey:*

34

35 1. a. There is established the "State Transportation Cost
36 Analysis Task Force." The purpose of the task force is to analyze
37 and compare the costs of transportation projects in the State with
38 the costs of transportation projects in other states and to provide
39 informed long-term and short-term recommendations for cost-
40 efficient construction, maintenance, and operation of public
41 highways and bridges in the State. The task force shall conduct a
42 detailed analysis of:

43 (1) the types of fixed costs paid by the State during and after
44 transportation projects compared with similar types of fixed costs
45 paid by other states during and after transportation projects;

46 (2) how fixed costs of transportation projects are budgeted or
47 predicted in the State compared with how fixed costs of
48 transportation projects are budgeted or predicted in other states;

1 (3) the types of variable costs paid by the State during and after
2 transportation projects compared with similar types of variable
3 costs paid by other states during and after transportation projects;
4 and

5 (4) how variable costs of transportation projects are budgeted or
6 predicted in the State compared with how variable costs of
7 transportation projects are budgeted or predicted in other states.

8 b. The task force shall consist of 15 members as follows:

9 the Commissioner of Transportation, who shall serve ex-officio, or the
10 commissioner's designee; the State Treasurer, who shall serve ex-
11 officio, or the treasurer's designee; the Executive Director of the New
12 Jersey Transit Corporation, who shall serve ex-officio, or the executive
13 director's designee; the Executive Director of the New Jersey
14 Turnpike Authority, who shall serve ex-officio, or the executive
15 director's designee; the Executive Director of the South Jersey
16 Transportation Authority, who shall serve ex-officio, or the executive
17 director's designee; the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the
18 North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, who shall serve ex-
19 officio, or the chairperson's designee; the Chairperson of the Policy
20 Board of the South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization, who
21 shall serve ex-officio, or the chairperson's designee; the Chairperson
22 of the Board of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission,
23 who shall serve ex-officio, or the chairperson's designee; three public
24 members appointed by the Governor, one upon the recommendation of
25 the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers, the State
26 University of New Jersey, one upon the recommendation of the Utility
27 and Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey, and one
28 upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Building and
29 Construction Trades Council; a member of the General Assembly
30 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; a member of the
31 General Assembly appointed by the Assembly Minority Leader; a
32 member of the Senate appointed by the Senate President; and a
33 member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.

34 c. The members shall serve without compensation, but may be
35 reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the
36 performance of their duties to the extent that funds are made
37 available for that purpose.

38 d. The task force shall organize within 30 days of the
39 appointment of a majority of its members and shall select a
40 chairperson from among its members. The task force shall meet at
41 the call of the chairperson.

42 e. The Department of Transportation shall provide staff support
43 to the task force. The task force shall be entitled to call to its
44 assistance and avail itself of the services of the employees of any
45 State department, board, bureau, commission, agency, or authority,
46 as it may require for the purpose of carrying out its duties under this
47 act.

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1 recommendation of the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at
2 Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, one upon the
3 recommendation of the Utility and Transportation Contractors
4 Association of New Jersey, and one upon the recommendation of
5 the New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council; a
6 member of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the
7 General Assembly; a member of the General Assembly appointed
8 by the Assembly Minority Leader; a member of the Senate
9 appointed by the Senate President; and a member of the Senate
10 appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.

11 The bill requires the task force to prepare and submit a final
12 report, which is to include its findings, conclusions, and
13 recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature within six
14 months after the task force's organization.