

**SENATE, No. 2012**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 26, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Abolishes Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, transfers bridges to NJ DOT and Penn DOT, removes tolls.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/25/2019)**

1 AN ACT abolishing the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge  
2 Commission, transferring the bridges under the jurisdiction of  
3 that commission to the New Jersey or Pennsylvania Departments  
4 of Transportation, removing the tolls on certain of these bridges,  
5 supplementing Title 32 of the Revised Statutes and repealing  
6 various parts of the statutory law.

7  
8 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
9 *of New Jersey:*

10  
11 1. As used in this act:

12 "Commission" means the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge  
13 Commission.

14 "Joint state auditors" means the Auditor General of Pennsylvania  
15 and the State Auditor of New Jersey.

16 "Operative Date" means the date, pursuant to section 10 of  
17 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
18 on which P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
19 this bill) shall become operative.

20 "Transfer Date" means, with the respect to the assumption by the  
21 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation or the New Jersey  
22 Department of Transportation of the jurisdiction of the bridges of  
23 the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, the date,  
24 pursuant to section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
25 Legislature as this bill) upon which the Pennsylvania Secretary of  
26 Transportation and the New Jersey Commissioner of Transportation  
27 certify to the Governors of Pennsylvania and New Jersey that all  
28 bonds issued by the commission cease to be outstanding within the  
29 meaning of the resolutions pursuant to which those bonds were  
30 issued.

31  
32 2. On and after the Operative Date, no resolution or other  
33 action of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission  
34 providing for the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, notes or other  
35 obligations shall be adopted or otherwise made effective by the  
36 commission.

37  
38 3. On and after the Operative Date, the commission shall not  
39 enter into any new contracts or authorize expenditures for any new  
40 projects, new facilities or new equipment and may only enter  
41 contracts and authorize expenditures which are necessary for the  
42 maintenance and continued safe operation of the bridges under its  
43 jurisdiction.

44  
45 4. The Auditor General of Pennsylvania and the State Auditor  
46 of New Jersey shall jointly conduct a financial audit, as of the  
47 Operative Date, of all outstanding debt of the commission,  
48 including bonds, notes or other obligations, all contractual

1 obligations and all assets and shall submit a report of the audit to  
2 the Governors and Legislatures of the Commonwealth of  
3 Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey within three months of  
4 the Operative Date. The joint state auditors shall certify in their  
5 report the total amount of all outstanding debt of the commission,  
6 including bonds, notes or other obligations.

7  
8 5. a. As soon as practicable following the certification by the  
9 joint state auditors of the total amount of the commission's  
10 outstanding debt, but no later than six months from the date of the  
11 certification, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of  
12 New Jersey shall each transfer to its respective department of  
13 transportation funds in an amount equal to one half of the total  
14 amount of certified debt, to be used solely for the purpose of the  
15 refunding of the commission's outstanding bonds, notes or other  
16 obligations or the payment of any other portion of the total debt of  
17 the commission.

18 b. When the state departments of transportation have received  
19 the funds, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation and the  
20 New Jersey Commissioner of Transportation shall immediately  
21 proceed to refund all outstanding bonds, notes or other obligations  
22 of the commission. Upon the completion of the refunding, the  
23 commissioner and secretary shall jointly and simultaneously certify  
24 to the Governors and Legislatures of the Commonwealth of  
25 Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey that the refunding has  
26 occurred.

27  
28 6. a. On the Transfer Date, the following bridges shall be  
29 transferred from the jurisdiction of the commission to the  
30 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation:  
31 Trenton-Morrisville Toll Bridge (Route 1),  
32 New Hope-Lambertville Toll Bridge (US 202),  
33 Delaware-Water Gap Toll Bridge ( I-80),  
34 Calhoun Street Bridge,  
35 Washington Crossing Bridge,  
36 Uhlerstown-Frenchtown Bridge,  
37 Riegelsville Bridge,  
38 Northampton Street Bridge,  
39 Riverton-Belvedere Bridge, and  
40 Lumberville-Raven Rock Bridge (pedestrian).

41 b. On the Transfer Date, the following bridges shall be  
42 transferred from the jurisdiction of the commission to the New  
43 Jersey Department of Transportation:  
44 Interstate 78 Toll Bridge,  
45 Easton-Phillipsburg Toll Bridge (US 22)  
46 Portland-Columbia Toll Bridge,  
47 Lower Trenton Bridge,  
48 Scudder Falls Bridge (I-95),

1 New Hope-Lambertville Bridge,  
2 Centre Bridge-Stockton Bridge,  
3 Upper Black Eddy-Milford Bridge,  
4 Milford-Montague Toll Bridge, and  
5 Portland-Columbia Bridge (pedestrian).

6 c. Upon the transfer of the bridges to the state departments of  
7 transportation, the collection of tolls on those bridges charging tolls  
8 shall cease.

9 d. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the  
10 New Jersey Department of Transportation shall enter into a joint  
11 agreement providing for terms of mutual cooperation in the  
12 operation of the bridges.

13

14 7. On the Transfer Date:

15 a. The terms of office of the commissioners of the Delaware  
16 River Joint Toll Bridge Commission shall terminate and the officers  
17 having custody of the commission's funds shall deliver one half into  
18 the custody of the Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation and one  
19 half into the custody of the New Jersey Commissioner of  
20 Transportation.

21 b. Any debts, liabilities, obligations and contracts of the  
22 commission, other than the bonds, notes or other obligations to be  
23 refunded in accordance with the provisions of subsection b. of  
24 section 5 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
25 as this bill), shall become the responsibility of the state department  
26 of transportation which has taken jurisdiction of the bridge which  
27 the debt, liability, obligation or contract is related to.

28 In the case of any debts, liabilities, obligations or contracts not  
29 related to a specific bridge, the state departments of transportation  
30 shall assign responsibility in accordance with the terms of the joint  
31 agreement executed pursuant to subsection d. of section 6 of  
32 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

33 c. The Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission is  
34 abolished.

35

36 8. The Governor is authorized to apply, on behalf of the State  
37 of New Jersey, to the Congress of the United States for its consent  
38 to and approval of, if necessary, the abolishment of the Delaware  
39 River Joint Toll Bridge Commission as provided for in  
40 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

41

42 9. On the Transfer Date, the following are repealed: R.S.32:8-1  
43 through R.S.32:8-3 inclusive; sections 2 through 5 of P.L.1952,  
44 c.333 (C.32:8-3.1 through 3.4); P.L.1994, c.176 (C.32:8-3.5 et  
45 seq.); P.L.1994, c.177 (C.32:8-3.8 et seq.); R.S.32:8-4 through 8-  
46 15; sections 2 through 3 and 5 through 8 of P.L.1951, c.284  
47 (C.32:8-11.1 et seq.); P.L.1994, c.174 (C.32:8-15.6 et seq.); section  
48 4 of P.L.1951, c.284 (C.32:8-16); P.L.1985, c.342 (C.32:8-17 et

1 seq.); section 1 of P.L.1985, c.343 (C.32:8-23); P.L.1994, c.178  
2 (C.32:8-24 et seq.); R.S.32:9-1 to R.S.32:9-16; P.L.1946, c.298  
3 (C.32:9-17 et seq.); P.L.1952, c.219 (C.32:9A-1); R.S.32:10-1 to  
4 10-6; P.L.1961, c.135 (C.32:10A-1); R.S.32:11-1 to 11-11.

5 The repeal of any statute herein shall not be deemed to revive  
6 any act previously repealed by any such statute.

7  
8 10. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain  
9 inoperative until the enactment into law of legislation substantially  
10 similar to P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
11 this bill) by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the approval  
12 by Congress, if necessary, of the abolishment of the Delaware River  
13 Joint Toll Bridge Commission as provided for in  
14 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

#### 15 16 17 STATEMENT

18  
19 This bill would abolish the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge  
20 Commission (DRJTBC), a bi-state authority created by a compact  
21 between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New  
22 Jersey and the approval of the United States Congress. This bill  
23 calls for the two states to pay any outstanding bonds of the  
24 commission, transfer ten bridges to each state and remove the tolls  
25 from those bridges charging tolls in accordance with the following  
26 time line:

27 - New Jersey passes this bill, effective immediately, but with the  
28 operative date delayed,

29 - Pennsylvania passes substantially similar legislation,

30 - When the Pennsylvania bill takes effect and congressional  
31 approval, if necessary, is received, the New Jersey act becomes  
32 operative (Operative Date),

33 - On the Operative Date:

34 1. no more bonds may be issued by DRJTBC,

35 2. no more expenditures or new contracts may be undertaken by  
36 DRJTBC except as needed for safe operation of bridges, and

37 3. joint state auditors begin an audit of DRJTBC.

38 - Within 3 months, the joint state auditors shall report and certify  
39 the amount of DRJTBC debt to the Governors and Legislatures.

40 - After certification, both state legislatures will have up to six  
41 months to transfer to their respective Departments of Transportation  
42 (DOTs) funds equal to one half of the certified amount of debt.

43 - On the Transfer Date, all DRJTBC bonded debt is to be refunded  
44 and Pennsylvania Secretary of Transportation and New Jersey  
45 Commissioner of Transportation certify that there are no  
46 outstanding commission bonds remaining.

47 - Also on the Transfer Date:

48 1. ten bridges are to be transferred to each state DOT in

- 1   accordance with section 6 of the bill,
- 2       2. the two state DOTs are to enter a joint agreement for
- 3   cooperation in operation of the bridges,
- 4       3. terms of DRJTBC commissioners are terminated,
- 5       4. any funds of DRJTBC are to be delivered in equal shares to
- 6   both DOTs,
- 7       5. any remaining debt, contracts, etc. are to be divided between
- 8   DOTs,
- 9       6. toll collection is to cease,
- 10      7. the DRJTBC is abolished, and
- 11      8. Certain statutes related to DRJTBC are repealed.