

ASSEMBLY, No. 225

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblymen GARCIA and ROMANO

1 AN ACT concerning senior citizens and handicapped citizens and  
2 amending P.L.1973, c.126.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

10 a. Many senior citizens and handicapped citizens of this State must  
11 depend on public transportation facilities to obtain the necessities of  
12 life, such as food, clothing and medical services, and to visit their  
13 families and friends; ready access to transportation services is thus  
14 essential to their health, safety and welfare.

15 b. Many senior citizens and handicapped citizens live on fixed or  
16 limited incomes, and the high cost of transportation services thus  
17 makes it difficult for them to take advantage of such services.

18 c. [The need for transportation services for senior citizens and  
19 handicapped citizens can largely be satisfied by providing reduced fare  
20 service during off-peak times, when many public transportation  
21 services are operating below capacity.](Deleted by amendment,  
22 P.L....., c.....)

23 d. [A reduced fare program for senior citizens and handicapped  
24 citizens will increase riding during off-peak times, thus helping to  
25 insure the continued viability of regular public transportation service  
26 during those hours.](Deleted by amendment, P.L....., c.....)

27 e. It is therefore a valid public purpose, and in the best interest of  
28 all the people of this State, to provide for reduced bus and rail fares  
29 for senior citizens and handicapped citizens at State expense.

30 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.1)

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1       2. Section 3 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-66) is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3       3. The Commissioner of Transportation is hereby authorized and  
4 directed to establish and implement within[120] 180 days of the  
5 effective date of [this amendatory act] P.L....., c..... (C.....) (now  
6 pending before the Legislature as this bill) a program to provide motor  
7 bus and rail passenger service for senior citizens and handicapped  
8 citizens [during offpeak times] at all times bus or rail service is  
9 offered, in the case of senior citizens and handicapped citizens who  
10 meet the eligibility requirements of the "Pharmaceutical Assistance to  
11 the Aged and Disabled" program, P.L. 1975, c.194 (C.30:4D-20 et  
12 seq.), and during offpeak times for other senior citizens and  
13 handicapped citizens, on regular routes of carriers within the State or  
14 between points in this State and points in adjacent states at one-half of  
15 the regular adult rates of fare as set forth in the tariffs of carriers filed  
16 with the Interstate Commerce Commission, Board of Public [Utility  
17 Commissioners] Utilities or the [Commuter Operating Agency]  
18 Department of Transportation. The commissioner may take such  
19 action as he deems necessary to implement this program, including  
20 contracts with carriers for the provision of transportation services  
21 under this program, purchase of regular tickets and resale to eligible  
22 senior citizens and handicapped citizens at one-half the ordinary fare,  
23 or direct payments to carriers for services provided to senior citizens  
24 and handicapped citizens under this program. Where carriers may be  
25 entitled to receive or do receive funds from sources other than the  
26 [New Jersey] Department of Transportation for provision of service  
27 to senior citizens and handicapped citizens, reimbursement payments  
28 which may be made by the [New Jersey] Department of Transportation  
29 to the carriers may be adjusted accordingly.  
30 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.3)

31

32       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

33

34

35

#### STATEMENT

36

37       At present, senior citizens and handicapped citizens are provided  
38 with reduced bus and rail fares only during off peak times. Since  
39 senior citizens and handicapped citizens are not always able to arrange  
40 their essential appointments (e.g., medical treatment) so that only  
41 offpeak travel is necessary, this bill removes the offpeak limitation on  
42 the reduced fares for senior citizens and handicapped persons who  
43 meet the eligibility requirements for the "Pharmaceutical Assistance to  
44 the Aged and Disabled" program.

45       The implementation period for the round-the-clock program is 180  
46 days since the change in the discount fare program would require

1 changes in regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Transit  
2 Corporation.

3

4

5

---

6

7 Provides certain senior citizens and handicapped citizens with

8 around-the-clock reduced bus and rail fares.