

ASSEMBLY, No. 2343

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

By Assemblyman 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:*

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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)

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

34 3. The Commissioner of Transportation is hereby authorized and

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

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25 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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30 At present, senior citizens and handicapped citizens are provided
31 with reduced bus and rail fares only during off peak times. Since
32 senior citizens and handicapped citizens are not always able to arrange
33 their essential appointments (e.g., medical treatment) so that only
34 offpeak travel is necessary, this bill removes the offpeak limitation on
35 the reduced fares for all senior citizens and handicapped persons.

36 The implementation period for the round-the-clock program is 180
37 days since the change in the discount fare program would require
38 changes in regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Transit
39 Corporation.

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44 Provides senior citizens and handicapped citizens with
45 around-the-clock reduced bus and rail fares.