

§§1-12  
C. 27:25-5.6  
To  
27:25-5.17  
§14  
Note To §§1-13

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 357, *approved January 15, 1998*  
Assembly Committee Substitute (*First Reprint*) for  
Assembly, No. 2231

1 **AN ACT** concerning use of rail passenger service and supplementing  
2 P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et seq.) and amending N.J.S.2B:12-16.

3

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

6

7 1. (New section) As used in this act:

8 "Authorized employee" means an employee of a provider of rail  
9 passenger service authorized by the provider of rail passenger service  
10 to request and inspect proof of payment of the prescribed fare from  
11 persons using rail passenger service.

12 "Fare enforcement officer" means an employee of the corporation,  
13 appointed pursuant to section 7 of this act, authorized to enforce the  
14 provisions of this act by requesting and inspecting proof of payment  
15 of the prescribed fare from persons using rail passenger services where  
16 proof of payment is required, and by signing and issuing a complaint  
17 and summons to any person for a violation of the provisions of this act  
18 or the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, regardless of whether the  
19 rail passenger service is operated by the corporation or by a public or  
20 private entity under contract to the corporation. A fare enforcement  
21 officer shall include a transit or other police officer, or a conductor or  
22 trainman so authorized.

23 "Pre-paid fare area" means an area designated by a provider of rail  
24 passenger service where payment of the prescribed fare is required  
25 before entering the area.

26 "Proof of payment" means a ticket, pass, receipt or other article

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

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

**<sup>1</sup> Senate SBA committee amendments adopted May 8, 1997.**

1 designated by a provider of rail passenger service to indicate that a  
2 passenger has paid for the use of rail passenger service.

3 "Provider of rail passenger service" means the corporation or a  
4 public or private entity under contract to the corporation to provide  
5 rail passenger service.

6 "Use of rail passenger service" means the boarding, occupying,  
7 riding in, or otherwise utilizing rail passenger service for conveyance.

8

9 2. (New section) The use of a rail passenger service by a person  
10 shall constitute an agreement by the person to pay the prescribed fare  
11 for the service. A person who has paid the prescribed fare for a rail  
12 passenger service and who has been issued proof of payment therefor  
13 shall retain that proof of payment while in a pre-paid fare area or on  
14 designated rail passenger facilities or vehicles.

15

16 3. (New section) It shall be a violation of this act for any person  
17 to use or attempt to use a rail passenger service or enter a pre-paid  
18 fare area and to: fail or refuse to pay the prescribed fare; evade or  
19 attempt to evade payment of the prescribed fare; or fail to display  
20 proof of fare payment immediately upon request of an authorized  
21 employee or fare enforcement officer.

22

23 4. (New section) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or  
24 regulation to the contrary, this act shall apply to users of rail passenger  
25 services who are juveniles as defined in subsection a. of section 3 of  
26 P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-22a).

27

28 5. (New section) A person subject to the issuance of a complaint  
29 and summons under this act shall cooperate in the issuance of the  
30 complaint and summons by providing the person's name and address.  
31 It shall be a violation of this act for a person to fail to cooperate in the  
32 issuance of a summons including failure to provide the person's name  
33 and address, or by providing a false name or address and shall subject  
34 the person to all other provisions and remedies provided by law or  
35 regulation, in addition to the penalties provided in this act.

36

37 6. (New section) A complaint and summons issued for a violation  
38 of the provisions of this act or any of the rules or regulations adopted  
39 by the corporation shall be in a form prescribed and approved by the  
40 Administrative Director of the Courts and served pursuant to the Rules  
41 Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey.

42

43 7. (New section) a. The executive director of the corporation  
44 shall have the power and authority to appoint such number of fare  
45 enforcement officers as the director deems necessary and to administer

1 to the fare enforcement officers an oath or affirmation faithfully to  
2 perform the duties of their offices.

3 b. Fare enforcement officers are authorized to request and inspect  
4 proof of payment of the prescribed fare from persons using rail  
5 passenger services where proof of payment is required, to sign and  
6 issue a complaint and summons to any person for a violation of the  
7 provisions of this act or the regulations adopted by the corporation  
8 pursuant to this act, regardless of whether the rail passenger service  
9 is operated by the corporation or by a public or private entity under  
10 contract to the corporation and to perform such other duties as the  
11 corporation may deem appropriate. A fare enforcement officer who  
12 has probable cause to believe that a person has willfully evaded paying  
13 the required fare, may, for the purpose of obtaining and verifying  
14 identification, issuing a summons and complaint or otherwise detaining  
15 an individual for further action by any law enforcement officer, take  
16 the individual into custody and detain that person in a reasonable  
17 manner for not more than a reasonable time. The taking into custody  
18 by a fare enforcement officer shall not render the fare enforcement  
19 officer criminally or civilly liable unless such action is unreasonable  
20 under all of the circumstances.

21 c. Fare enforcement officers appointed pursuant to this section  
22 shall complete a course of training approved by the executive director  
23 appropriate to the duties required by this act.

24 d. Fare enforcement officers shall work under the direction of the  
25 chief of the transit police, but shall not be police officers.

26 e. Nothing in this section shall be construed as derogating any of  
27 the powers provided by law or regulation for police officers,  
28 conductors, trainmen and other employees of a provider of rail  
29 passenger services but the provisions of this act shall be in addition to  
30 any such powers.

31  
32 8. (New section) An authorized employee or fare enforcement  
33 officer carrying out his duties pursuant to this act shall not be  
34 criminally or civilly liable for false arrest, false imprisonment, slander  
35 or unlawful detention unless such action is unreasonable under all of  
36 the circumstances.

37  
38 9. (New section) The corporation shall adopt rules and  
39 regulations, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
40 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the  
41 purposes of this act. In any prosecution for violating any rule or  
42 regulation adopted by the corporation, copies of that regulation when  
43 authenticated under the seal of the corporation by its secretary or  
44 assistant secretary shall be evidence in like manner and equal effect as  
45 the original.

1        10. (New section) A complaint for a violation of any of the  
2 provisions of this act may be filed with a court having jurisdiction, at  
3 any time within one year after the commission of the violation. When  
4 a person has been charged with a violation of this act and summoned  
5 to appear, upon failure to appear, in addition to any other provisions  
6 of law or the Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey,  
7 a warrant for the arrest of the person may issue. All proceedings shall  
8 be brought before a municipal or central municipal court having  
9 jurisdiction in the municipality in which it is alleged that the violation  
10 occurred, but when a violation occurs on a moving conveyance  
11 operated by the corporation through two or more municipalities, then  
12 the proceeding may be brought before the court having jurisdiction in  
13 any one of the municipalities through which the conveyance has  
14 traversed.

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16        11. (New section) A violation of the provisions of this act or any  
17 rules or regulations adopted pursuant to this act by the corporation  
18 shall be punishable by a civil penalty not exceeding <sup>1</sup>[\$500]~~\$100~~<sup>1</sup>, in  
19 addition to court costs, enforced in a summary proceeding pursuant to  
20 "the penalty enforcement law," N.J.S.2A:58- 1 et seq. The Rules  
21 Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey shall govern the  
22 practice and procedure in such proceedings. Notwithstanding any  
23 other law to the contrary, the court shall remit 50% of any civil  
24 penalty imposed to the corporation for use in furtherance of any of the  
25 purposes of this act and 50% shall be forwarded to the proper financial  
26 officer of the local government entity in which the municipal or central  
27 municipal court has been established to be used for the local  
28 government entity to defray the cost of operating the court and for  
29 general government use.

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31        12. (New section) The provisions of this act shall not affect  
32 certificates issued pursuant to R.S.48:12-109 through R.S.48:12-116,  
33 inclusive, or any certificate or pass issued by the corporation providing  
34 for transportation of current or retired employees, notwithstanding  
35 that payment for such certificate or pass may not have been tendered.

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37        13. N.J.S.2B:12-16 is amended to read as follows:

38        2B:12-16. Territorial jurisdiction. a. A municipal court of a  
39 single municipality shall have jurisdiction over cases arising within the  
40 territory of that municipality except as provided in section 10 of  
41 P.L. , c. (C. )(now before the Legislature as this bill. A joint  
42 municipal court shall have jurisdiction over cases arising within the  
43 territory of any of the municipalities which the court serves. The  
44 territory of a municipality includes any premises or property located  
45 partly in and partly outside of the municipality. A central municipal

1 court shall have jurisdiction over cases arising within the territorial  
2 boundaries of the county.

3 b. A municipal court judge, serving as an acting judge in any other  
4 municipal court in the county, may also hear matters arising out of that  
5 other court, while sitting in the court where the acting judge holds a  
6 regular appointment.

7 (cf: P.L.1996, c.95, s.11)

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9 14. This act shall take effect 180 days after its enactment, except  
10 that section 9 shall take effect immediately.

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15 Provides statutory framework for dealing with NJT rail passenger  
16 service fare evasion and proof of fare payment; provides penalties not  
17 exceeding \$100 for violation of act.