

**ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 119**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

**By Assemblywoman HECK and Assemblyman DeCROCE**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the President and the Congress of the  
2 United States to ensure the timely reauthorization of the federal Intermodal  
3 Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, and a continuation of  
4 federal, financial assistance to AMTRAK.

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6 **WHEREAS**, The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991  
7 (ISTEA), signed into law by the President in December 1991, is a six year  
8 program authorized to provide a total of \$155 billion for highway and mass  
9 transportation purposes; and

10 **WHEREAS**, ISTEA has provided significant, annual federal funds to New  
11 Jersey and all other states to help develop a strong, globally-competitive  
12 economy and to improve the mobility, safety and well-being of our nation's  
13 residents; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Our state, regional and national transportation systems still face  
15 growing travel demand, inadequate capacity, "bottlenecks," and awkward  
16 connections between different forms of transportation; and

17 **WHEREAS**, The need to continue and accelerate improvements to our  
18 transportation systems is absolutely vital for economic growth, to address  
19 safety and environmental concerns, and to reduce the costs and disruptions  
20 that an inefficient transportation system imposes on our residents; and

21 **WHEREAS**, A federal role of providing leadership and long-term funding  
22 remains essential if a smooth, seamless highway and mass transportation  
23 system is to be achieved and then maintained; and

24 **WHEREAS**, A direct federal role is also especially important to the viability of  
25 AMTRAK, and an annual, financial commitment acknowledging such  
26 federal role must be reemphasized by the President and Congress if our  
27 national railroad is to reach the status, importance, and efficiency of  
28 national railroads in other competitive, economically developed countries;  
29 now, therefore,

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31 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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33 1. The President and the Congress of the United States are urged to  
34 reauthorize ISTEA, prior to its expiration in October 1997, for a period of  
35 time and a level of funding that are no less than current ISTEA authorization

1 levels. Timely reauthorization of ISTEA is paramount if states are to continue,  
2 without interruption, their efforts to improve and enhance the effectiveness of  
3 our nation's state, regional, and national transportation systems. Additionally,  
4 the federal government must continue to acknowledge its role relative to  
5 AMTRAK and provide the financial assistance needed by AMTRAK to  
6 ensure the long-term viability of our national railroad passenger corporation.

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8 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of  
9 the General Assembly and attested to by the Clerk thereof, shall be  
10 transmitted to the President and the Vice President of the United States,  
11 members of Congress, and the President of AMTRAK.

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14 STATEMENT

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16 This resolution urges the President and the Congress of the United States  
17 to reauthorize the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of  
18 1991, prior to its expiration in October 1997, for a period of time and a level  
19 of funding that are no less than current ISTEA authorization levels. In  
20 addition, the resolution urges that the federal government continue to provide  
21 financial assistance to AMTRAK.

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26 Urges President and Congress to reauthorize ISTEA and to continue financial  
27 assistance to AMTRAK.