

[First Reprint]

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.

5
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,

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly ATC committee amendments adopted February 3, 1997.

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

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3 1. The President and the Congress of the United States are urged to
4 reauthorize ~~ISTEA~~ the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency
5 Act of 1991 (ISTEA), prior to its expiration in October 1997, for a period
6 of time and a level of funding that are no less than current ISTEA authorization
7 levels and providing that New Jersey's share of that funding is no less than its
8 current ISTEA share. Timely reauthorization of ISTEA is paramount if states
9 are to continue, without interruption, their efforts to improve and enhance the
10 effectiveness of our nation's state, regional, and national transportation
11 systems. Additionally, the federal government must continue to acknowledge
12 its role relative to AMTRAK and provide the financial assistance needed by
13 AMTRAK to ensure the long-term viability of our national railroad passenger
14 corporation.

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16 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of
17 the General Assembly and attested to by the Clerk thereof, shall be
18 transmitted to the President and the Vice President of the United States,
19 members of Congress, and the President of AMTRAK.

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24 Urges President and Congress to reauthorize ISTEA and to continue financial
25 assistance to AMTRAK.