

SENATE, No. 225

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Senator SACCO

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

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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

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 as follows:

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

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31 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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

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3 Provides certain senior citizens and handicapped citizens with

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