

SENATE, No. 798

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 1996

By Senators HAINES and SINGER

1 AN ACT requiring a study of rail passenger service.

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

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6 1. The New Jersey Transit Corporation shall study the feasibility
7 and cost of instituting rail passenger service from the City of Camden
8 to the City of Trenton, making use of existing rail freight lines or
9 rights-of way, with stops at intermediate points in municipalities
10 bordering, or adjacent to, the Delaware River.

11 The study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the
12 cost of using or modifying existing rail freight lines or rights-of-way
13 for both conventional and light rail passenger service, the feasibility
14 and cost of entering into an agreement with the Consolidated Rail
15 Corporation for the use of the existing rail freight lines or rights-of-
16 way and the location and cost of stations at the proposed intermediate
17 stops. The study shall be completed not more than six months
18 following the effective date of this act.

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20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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25 The use of existing rail trackage or rights-of way for instituting
26 rail passenger service is of fundamental importance to the rational
27 growth and development of the State of New Jersey. Existing rail
28 lines or rights-of-way may be used at a fraction of the cost of building
29 or acquiring new facilities in the future. In addition, little used
30 existing rail lines are always in danger of being abandoned or
31 discontinued, making any future use of them difficult if not impossible.
32 Not using available mass transit facilities could lead to excessive
33 reliance upon the passenger automobile, with the attendant problems
34 of congestion and pollution.

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36 Existing rail lines from Camden to Trenton, currently used on an
37 infrequent basis by Conrail for freight service, present an unparalleled
opportunity to institute conventional or light rail passenger service

1 between these two urban transportation centers, with their
2 connections to other points in New Jersey, as well as to Philadelphia
3 and New York. This bill requires the New Jersey Transit Corporation
4 to study the feasibility and estimate the cost of instituting rail
5 passenger service in the Route 130 Corridor along the Delaware
6 Riverfront communities. The study is to be completed within six
7 months of the effective date of this bill becoming law.

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12 Requires NJT to study feasibility and estimate costs of rail passenger
13 service on Route 130 corridor.