

SENATE, No. 1859

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1997

By Senators CASEY and BRYANT

1 AN ACT concerning rail transportation and supplementing Title 27 and  
2 Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. A right-of-way of a railroad line in this State used for rail  
8 passenger service by a railroad company shall contain a marker along  
9 the right-of-way at every one-tenth of a mile interval indicating the  
10 mileage so that the marker may be used to identify the location of a  
11 train in the event of an emergency. The markers required by this  
12 section shall be installed no later than one year following the effective  
13 date of this act.

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15 2. A right-of-way of a railroad line in this State used for rail  
16 passenger service by the New Jersey Transit Corporation shall contain  
17 a marker along the right-of-way at every one-tenth of a mile interval  
18 indicating the mileage so that the marker may be used to identify the  
19 location of a train in the event of an emergency. The markers required  
20 by this section shall be installed no later than one year following the  
21 effective date of this act.

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23 3. Not later than six months following the effective date of this act,  
24 the New Jersey Transit Corporation shall develop an emergency  
25 response access plan for railroad lines in this State used for rail  
26 passenger service. The plan shall evaluate the accessibility of the  
27 various sections of those rail lines to emergency service vehicles and  
28 shall recommend what steps should be taken to improve emergency  
29 vehicle access. In particular, consideration shall be given to the  
30 construction of access roads to the railroad rights-of-way, the  
31 construction of paved or graded roadways and pathways, using  
32 crushed stone or other material, along the right-of-way adjacent to the  
33 tracks so that emergency vehicles will have access during inclement  
34 weather conditions, and any other measures necessary to insure the  
35 accessibility of rail lines to emergency rescue vehicles in the event of  
36 an accident or emergency. The plan, along with any accompanying  
37 findings, conclusions and recommendations, shall be submitted by the

1 board of the corporation to the Commissioner of Transportation, for  
2 the commissioner's consideration, and shall include recommendations  
3 for appropriate funding to be included in the commissioner's report of  
4 proposed projects to be submitted pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984,  
5 c.73 (C.27:1B-22).

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7 4. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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10 STATEMENT  
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12 The purpose of this bill is to address some of the problems found  
13 in the response to the recent train accident in which three people were  
14 killed and hundreds were injured. One problem was that the location  
15 of the train was not able to be determined by a passenger attempting  
16 to call for assistance on his cellular telephone. A second problem was  
17 that, because of muddy conditions on the adjacent right-of-way,  
18 emergency rescue vehicles had difficulty reaching the train to render  
19 assistance to the victims.

20 The bill provides an immediate response to the first problem by  
21 requiring both New Jersey Transit, as well as the railroad companies,  
22 such as Amtrak, to install mile markers every 1/10th of a mile in order  
23 to permit the location of a train to be easily identified in the event of  
24 an emergency. A one-year time period is provided for the installation  
25 of the markers.

26 The bill also provides for New Jersey Transit to develop an  
27 emergency response access plan within six months which would  
28 evaluate the emergency accessibility of various sections of the State's  
29 rail passenger lines and what steps should be taken to improve  
30 accessibility. Particular consideration is to be given to the  
31 construction of access roads to the railroad rights-of-way and the  
32 construction of suitably paved and graded roadways and pathways,  
33 using crushed stone or other suitable material, along the right-of-way  
34 adjacent to the tracks. The plan is to be submitted by the New Jersey  
35 Transit Board of Directors to the Commissioner of Transportation,  
36 along with recommendations for funding to be included by the  
37 commissioner in the annual report of proposed projects for  
38 Transportation Trust Fund funding.  
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44 Requires NJT to install mile markers and develop emergency response  
access plan for railroad lines.