

SENATE, No. 2064

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 15, 1997

By Senators CIESLA and KYRILLOS

1 AN ACT concerning expenditures from the revenues and other funds
2 of the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority.

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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. From funds authorized by the Legislature to be appropriated
8 from the revenues and other funds of the New Jersey Transportation
9 Trust Fund Authority for the Fiscal Year 1997 transportation capital
10 construction program, the Commissioner of Transportation shall
11 allocate and transfer \$15,000,000 from a part or all of any item or
12 items to a new item for the rehabilitation of certain State-owned buses,
13 manufactured by Motor Coach Industries, which have been allocated
14 for private carrier service use and which buses have been in operation
15 for at least 12 years.

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17 2. a. The rehabilitation of buses required by section 1 of this act
18 shall include, but not be limited to, engine and transmission
19 replacement; passenger and driver seat replacement; either replacement
20 or rehabilitation of existing air conditioning systems and components,
21 or both, which are consistent with all rules and regulations issued by
22 the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the New
23 Jersey Department of Environmental Protection; rehabilitation of
24 heating components, radiator and cooling systems, and related items;
25 and either the structural repair or replacement of bus subsection units,
26 or both, as necessary.

27 b. The rehabilitation of buses required by this act shall be
28 completed within 12 months of the effective date of this act.

29 c. The Commissioner of Transportation shall allocate funds in an
30 equitable manner to all private carriers affected by this act to insure
31 the effectuation of the purpose of this act.

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33 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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3 This bill directs the Commissioner of Transportation to allocate and
4 transfer \$15 million from an existing item or items in the Fiscal Year
5 1997 Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) capital construction program
6 to a new item for the rehabilitation of certain State-owned but
7 privately operated buses manufactured by Motor Coach Industries
8 (MCI).

9 The New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJT) assigned the MCI buses
10 to private carriers with the expectation that those buses would be
11 replaced in 1995; however, NJT has extended the life of these buses
12 beyond that date. Since there is a significant need to rehabilitate the
13 condition of these older, heavily used buses, and with no apparent
14 schedule for the near term replacement of these vintage buses, private
15 carriers are not able to insure that their customers receive reliable and
16 quality service. In contrast, NJT has used monies from the TTF to
17 rehabilitate its MCI buses which has benefitted NJT riders.

18 By directing the use of TTF money for the rehabilitation of these
19 State-owned but privately operated buses, private carriers can improve
20 the comfort, reliability and safety of the service it provides to its
21 customers.

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26 Directs DOT commissioner to allocate \$15 million in Transportation
27 Trust Fund monies to rehabilitate certain State-owned but privately
28 operated buses.