

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 57**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 4, 1997

**By Senator SINAGRA**

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** creating a commission to conduct a  
2 comprehensive study on truck movement throughout New Jersey.

3

4 **WHEREAS**, Federal law prohibits States from imposing a vehicle  
5 width limitation which would prohibit 102 inch wide trucks, the  
6 standard width of trucks, from operating on the Federal-aid Primary  
7 System; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Several highways which are a part of the Federal-aid  
9 Primary System in this State are essentially local roadways and are  
10 not suitable for high volume of truck traffic; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The high volume of truck traffic on these highways, many  
12 of which are two-lane undivided highways, has led to traffic  
13 congestion, difficult driving conditions and dangerous situations as  
14 several of these highways are also school bus routes; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The increased truck traffic on local highways, which are  
16 not designed for such traffic, puts the public using local highways  
17 at a greater risk of being involved in a traffic accident and increases  
18 wear and tear on those local highways; and

19 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper and in the public  
20 interest to create a commission to conduct a comprehensive study  
21 on truck movement throughout New Jersey in response to concerns  
22 of citizens with regard to high volume truck traffic on highways  
23 unsuited to that traffic; now, therefore,

24

25 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
26 of New Jersey:

27

28 1. There is created a commission to be known as the "Study  
29 Commission on Truck Traffic and Highway Safety" to study and make  
30 recommendations concerning truck movement throughout the State.

31 The commission shall consist of 11 members as follows: the  
32 Commissioner of Transportation, ex officio, or a designated  
33 representative; the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles in the  
34 Department of Transportation, ex officio, or a designated  
35 representative; the Superintendent of State Police in the Department  
36 of Law and Public Safety, ex officio, or a designated representative;  
37 the Director of the Office of Highway Traffic Safety, in the

1 Department of Law and Public Safety, ex officio, or a designated  
2 representative; the Director of the Office of State Planning in the  
3 Department of the Treasury, ex officio, or a designated representative;  
4 and 6 public members, to be appointed by the Governor, who shall  
5 include a representative of the New Jersey Highway Traffic Safety  
6 Policy Advisory Council, a representative of the New Jersey State  
7 League of Municipalities, a representative of the New Jersey  
8 Association of Counties, a representative of the North Jersey  
9 Transportation Planning Authority, a representative of the Delaware  
10 Valley Regional Planning Commission, and a representative of the  
11 South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization.

12 The members of the commission shall serve without compensation,  
13 but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the  
14 performance of their duties.

15

16 2. The commission shall organize as soon as may be practicable  
17 after the appointment of a majority of its members and shall select a  
18 chairperson from among the members. The members shall select a  
19 secretary, who need not be a member of the commission.

20 The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

21 The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail  
22 itself of the services of the employees of any State department, board,  
23 bureau, commission or agency, as it may require and as may be  
24 available for its purposes, and to employ stenographic and clerical  
25 assistance and incur traveling and other miscellaneous expenses as may  
26 be necessary in order to perform its duties, within the limits of funds  
27 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

28

29 3. The commission shall conduct a comprehensive study on truck  
30 movement throughout New Jersey in response to concerns of citizens  
31 with regard to high volume truck traffic on highways unsuited to that  
32 traffic. The commission shall identify appropriate truck routes through  
33 the State that will reduce or eliminate high volume truck traffic on  
34 highways in residential areas unsuited to that traffic. The commission  
35 shall focus on those highways which are a part of the Federal-aid  
36 Primary System in this State and which are two-lane undivided  
37 highways or essentially local roadways and are not suitable for high  
38 volume of truck traffic. The commission shall develop  
39 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action that it deems  
40 appropriate in order to reduce or eliminate high volume truck traffic  
41 on highways in residential areas.

42

43 4. The commission shall prepare and submit a final report  
44 containing its findings and recommendations, including any  
45 recommendations for legislative or regulatory action that it deems  
46 appropriate, as prescribed in section 3 of this joint resolution, no later

1 than one year after the commission organizes, to the Governor, the  
2 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly, and  
3 the members of the Senate Transportation Committee and the  
4 Assembly Transportation and Communications Committee, or the  
5 successor committees.

6  
7 5. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately and shall  
8 expire 30 days after the commission submits its final report, as  
9 prescribed in section 4 of this joint resolution.

10  
11  
12 STATEMENT

13  
14 This joint resolution would establish an 11 member "Study  
15 Commission on Truck Traffic and Highway Safety" to study and make  
16 recommendations concerning truck movement throughout the State.

17 The commission is charged with conducting a comprehensive study  
18 on truck movement throughout New Jersey in response to concerns of  
19 citizens with regard to high volume truck traffic on highways unsuited  
20 to that traffic. The commission will identify appropriate truck routes  
21 through the State that will reduce or eliminate high volume truck  
22 traffic on highways in residential areas unsuited to that traffic.

23 Within one year of its organization, the commission would submit  
24 a final report containing its findings and recommendations, including  
25 any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action if deemed  
26 appropriate, to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the  
27 Speaker of the General Assembly, and the members of the  
28 transportation committees in each House.

29  
30  
31 \_\_\_\_\_  
32  
33 Creates "Study Commission on Truck Traffic and Highway Safety."