

SENATE, No. 3442

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOT and NJT to study and implement transportation mobility and accessibility improvements for persons with autism and developmental disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/13/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning transportation mobility and accessibility for
2 persons with autism and developmental disabilities and
3 supplementing Title 27 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

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8 1. a. The Department of Transportation, in conjunction with
9 the New Jersey Transit Corporation and the Department of Human
10 Services shall conduct a holistic review of current infrastructure
11 design practices for new and rehabilitated public highways and
12 public transportation projects, as those terms are defined pursuant to
13 section 3 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-3). Upon completion of the
14 review, the department shall adopt new and revised design practices
15 that implement design elements and result in infrastructure
16 improvement projects that promote the ability of individuals
17 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and developmental
18 disabilities to travel independently.

19 b. The Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the
20 New Jersey Transit Corporation and the Department of Human
21 Services shall conduct a study of nationwide best practices, that
22 identifies ways to operate public roadway facilities, public
23 transportation services, and any mobility programs operated or
24 funded under the Department of Human Services in a manner that
25 makes transportation services and mobility programs more
26 accessible for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder
27 and developmental disabilities.

28 c. The Department of Transportation shall encourage regional
29 and local entities that apply for funding through the local aid
30 program, pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-25), to
31 adopt comparable design policies and best practices that are
32 consistent with the measures adopted at the State level pursuant to
33 subsection a. and subsection b. of this section.

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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38 STATEMENT

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40 This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT), the
41 New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJTC) and the Department of
42 Human Services (DHS) to conduct a holistic review of current
43 infrastructure design practices for public highways and public
44 transportation projects. Upon completion of the review, new and
45 revised design practices are to be adopted that will result in projects
46 that promote the ability of individuals diagnosed with autism
47 spectrum disorder and developmental disabilities to travel
48 independently.

1 DOT, NJT, and DHS are also to conduct a study of nationwide
2 best practices that identifies ways to operate public roadway
3 facilities, public transportation services, and mobility programs
4 operated or funded under the DHS in a manner that makes
5 transportation services and mobility programs more accessible for
6 individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and
7 developmental disabilities
8 The DOT is required to encourage regional and local entities that
9 apply for funding through the local aid program to adopt
10 infrastructure design practices and best practices that are consistent
11 with State practices.