

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 27:12B-14.1, 27:12B-14.2 (Highway Authority--public hearing re- quired for toll increase.)

Laws of 1977 Chapter 301

Bill No. S626

Sponsor(s) Dodd, Russo, Bedell

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Transportation and Communications

Senate Transportation and Communications

Amended during passage: Yes ~~No~~ Amendments during pass- age denoted by asterisks.

Date of passage: Assembly November 28, 1977

Senate June 14, 1976

Date of approval February 1, 1978

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes No

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes ~~xNo~~

Senate Yes ~~xNo~~

Fiscal Note Yes No

Veto message Yes No

Message on signing Yes No

Following were printed:

Reports Yes No

Hearings Yes No

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**SENATE, No. 626**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1976 SESSION

By Senators DODD, RUSSO and BEDELL

A SUPPLEMENT to "The New Jersey Highway Authority Act,"  
approved April 14, 1952 (P. L. 1952, c. 16, C. 27:12B-1 et seq.).

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. The authority shall, whenever it desires to increase any exist-  
2 ing toll or establish any new toll for the use of any project and the  
3 different parts or sections thereof, hold a public hearing on such  
4 proposed toll at least 45 days prior to the date on which such toll is  
5 proposed to become effective.

1 2. The authority shall cause to be published notice of such hear-  
2 ing at least 10 days prior to such hearing in at least 10 newspapers  
3 with \***[the largest]**\* \*a\* daily circulation in this State.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill  
is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 626**

with Assembly committee amendments

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: NOVEMBER 8, 1976

This bill provides that the New Jersey Highway Authority shall hold a public hearing on the establishment of any new toll or the increase of any existing toll. This hearing shall take place at least 45 days prior to the date on which such toll is to become effective. At present, such public hearings are not required.

The committee amended the bill so as to provide that the authority shall publish notice of such hearing at least 10 days prior to such hearing in at least 10 newspapers with a daily circulation in New Jersey. The purpose of the amendment is to insure that proper notification will be made available to citizens from the various geographical areas of New Jersey who may be affected by a proposed toll increase.

The Department of Transportation supports this legislation noting that it is consistent with governmental efforts to increase community involvement. A representative from the New Jersey Highway Authority opposed the bill, arguing that the procedure of holding a public hearing might be in direct contravention of contracts that the authority has with its bondholders. He also stated that since the fixing of tolls requires the approval of the Governor and the State Treasurer, the public was adequately protected from unnecessary toll increases.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 626**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: MAY 13, 1976

This bill provides that the New Jersey Highway Authority shall hold a public hearing on the establishment of any new toll or the increase of any existing toll. This hearing shall take place at least 45 days prior to the date on which such toll is to become effective. The authority is required to publish notice of such hearings in accordance with the provisions of this act. Such hearings are not at present required.

The intent of this bill, according to the sponsor, is to provide citizens with an opportunity to voice their opinions before tolls are increased or established. These hearings would allow for public scrutiny of the need for a toll increase or the establishment of a new toll. Thus the public could become involved in a process from which it is now presently excluded.

The Department of Transportation supports this legislation. The representative from the New Jersey Highway Authority took no position on this specific bill but referred to a letter sent by the authority on identical legislation introduced during the previous session. In that letter the authority commented that it could not "support the bill in that the procedure set forth for the increase in rates is in direct contravention of contracts with our bondholders." The committee felt that holding such public hearings would not contravene contracts with bondholders.