

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Christie signs 10 bills into law," NorthJersey.com, August 18, 2016

"Signed into law on Thursday," Herald News, August 19, 2016

RWH/JA

P.L.2016, CHAPTER 25, *approved August 18, 2016*
Senate, No. 1379 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Transit Corporation and
2 persons with guide or service dogs, establishing procedures for
3 complaints and supplementing P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et
4 seq.).
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:
8

9 1. Any person with a disability accompanied by a guide or
10 service dog or any guide or service dog trainer accompanied by a
11 guide or service dog, when riding on any bus, train, or other form of
12 transportation operated by or under contract to the New Jersey
13 Transit Corporation, may keep such dog, appropriately controlled,
14 in the person's immediate custody. The corporation shall not deny
15 to any person use of, or entry to, any vehicle used for public
16 transportation services or any vehicle used for providing
17 transportation to persons with a disability or to guide or service dog
18 trainers because the person is accompanied by a guide or service
19 dog, provided that the guide or service dog is appropriately
20 controlled. As used in this section, the terms "disability," "guide
21 dog," "guide or service dog trainer," and "service dog" shall have
22 the same meaning as set forth in section 5 of P.L.1945,
23 c.169 (C.10:5-5).
24

25 2. a. The corporation shall designate an Access Link Customer
26 Service Group to receive and act upon complaints from passengers
27 with disabilities regarding Access Link service. The corporation
28 shall provide for the establishment of procedures and methods by
29 which such complaints shall be received, processed, and acted upon
30 and for their resolution and settlement. The Access Link Customer
31 Service Group shall, within 21 business days of the receipt of a
32 complaint, respond in writing as to the disposition or status of the
33 complaint. Any person who has not received a written response to a
34 complaint within 21 business days may petition the New Jersey
35 Transit General Manager of ADA Services for a hearing upon that
36 complaint, under rules promulgated by the general manager for the
37 hearing and disposition of such matters. As used in this section,
38 "Access Link" means the paratransit service implemented by the
39 corporation for purposes of complying with the "Americans with

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

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted May 9, 2016.

1 Disabilities Act of 1990," Pub.L.101-336 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

2 b. The corporation shall provide to each person using Access
3 Link, at the time the person is determined to be qualified for Access
4 Link service and at least once in each calendar year thereafter in
5 which the person remains a user, information as to the procedure to
6 be followed in making and pursuing complaints to the Access Link
7 Customer Service Group or the New Jersey Transit General
8 Manager of ADA Services pursuant to this section. The direct
9 telephone number for the Access Link Customer Service Group
10 shall be prominently displayed in all Access Link vehicles.

11 c. The New Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA Services
12 shall report ¹~~semi-annually~~ annually¹ to the board, summarizing
13 the Access Link Customer Service Group's activities for the
14 preceding ¹~~six months~~ year¹, including the number of complaints
15 received, the nature of the complaints, and the resolution of the
16 complaints and setting forth any recommendations for changes
17 which would improve transportation services for passengers with
18 disabilities. The New Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA
19 Services shall ¹~~send~~ make¹ a copy of the report ¹~~to the Division~~
20 ~~on Civil Rights in the Department of Law and Public Safety,~~
21 ~~Disability Rights New Jersey, and the Community Health Law~~
22 ~~Project or their successor organizations~~ publicly available on the
23 corporation's website¹.

24

25 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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30 _____
31 Concerns NJ Transit's treatment of people with guide or service
dogs; establishes Access Link Customer Service Group.

SENATE, No. 1379

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 11, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Allen

SYNOPSIS

Concerns NJ Transit's treatment of people with guide or service dogs; establishes Access Link Customer Service Group.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/19/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Transit Corporation and
2 persons with guide or service dogs, establishing procedures for
3 complaints and supplementing P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et
4 seq.).

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

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9 1. Any person with a disability accompanied by a guide or
10 service dog or any guide or service dog trainer accompanied by a
11 guide or service dog, when riding on any bus, train, or other form of
12 transportation operated by or under contract to the New Jersey
13 Transit Corporation, may keep such dog, appropriately controlled,
14 in the person's immediate custody. The corporation shall not deny
15 to any person use of, or entry to, any vehicle used for public
16 transportation services or any vehicle used for providing
17 transportation to persons with a disability or to guide or service dog
18 trainers because the person is accompanied by a guide or service
19 dog, provided that the guide or service dog is appropriately
20 controlled. As used in this section, the terms "disability," "guide
21 dog," "guide or service dog trainer," and "service dog" shall have
22 the same meaning as set forth in section 5 of P.L.1945, c.169
23 (C.10:5-5).

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26 Service Group to receive and act upon complaints from passengers
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33 complaint. Any person who has not received a written response to a
34 complaint within 21 business days may petition the New Jersey
35 Transit General Manager of ADA Services for a hearing upon that
36 complaint, under rules promulgated by the general manager for the
37 hearing and disposition of such matters. As used in this section,
38 "Access Link" means the paratransit service implemented by the
39 corporation for purposes of complying with the "Americans with
40 Disabilities Act of 1990," Pub.L.101-336 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

41 b. The corporation shall provide to each person using Access
42 Link, at the time the person is determined to be qualified for Access
43 Link service and at least once in each calendar year thereafter in
44 which the person remains a user, information as to the procedure to
45 be followed in making and pursuing complaints to the Access Link
46 Customer Service Group or the New Jersey Transit General
47 Manager of ADA Services pursuant to this section. The direct
48 telephone number for the Access Link Customer Service Group
49 shall be prominently displayed in all Access Link vehicles.

1 c. The New Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA Services
2 shall report semi-annually to the board, summarizing the Access
3 Link Customer Service Group's activities for the preceding six
4 months, including the number of complaints received, the nature of
5 the complaints, and the resolution of the complaints and setting
6 forth any recommendations for changes which would improve
7 transportation services for passengers with disabilities. The New
8 Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA Services shall send a copy
9 of the report to the Division on Civil Rights in the Department of
10 Law and Public Safety, Disability Rights New Jersey, and the
11 Community Health Law Project or their successor organizations.

12

13 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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15

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STATEMENT

17

18 As reported, the bill provides that any person with a disability
19 accompanied by a guide or service dog, or any guide or service dog
20 trainer accompanied by a guide or service dog, when riding on any
21 bus, train, or other form of transportation operated by the New
22 Jersey Transit Corporation (New Jersey Transit), may keep that
23 dog, appropriately controlled, in the person's immediate custody.
24 The bill prohibits New Jersey Transit from denying to any person
25 use of or entry to any vehicle used for public transportation services
26 or any vehicle used for providing transportation to persons with
27 disabilities because the person is accompanied by an appropriately
28 controlled guide or service dog.

29 The bill requires New Jersey Transit to designate an Access Link
30 Customer Service Group to receive and act upon complaints
31 regarding Access Link service and to establish procedures by which
32 complaints are to be processed and resolved. The bill contains
33 requirements for giving Access Link passengers notice of the
34 complaint procedures.

35 The bill requires the New Jersey Transit General Manager of
36 ADA Services to report semi-annually to the New Jersey Transit
37 board with a summary of the Access Link Customer Service Group
38 activities for the preceding six months. The New Jersey Transit
39 General Manager of ADA Services is also required to send a copy
40 of that report to the Division on Civil Rights in the Department of
41 Law and Public Safety, Disability Rights New Jersey, and the
42 Community Health Law Project.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1379

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 2016

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1379.

As reported, the bill provides that any person with a disability accompanied by a guide or service dog, or any guide or service dog trainer accompanied by a guide or service dog, when riding on any bus, train, or other form of transportation operated by the New Jersey Transit Corporation (New Jersey Transit), may keep that dog, appropriately controlled, in the person's immediate custody. The bill prohibits New Jersey Transit from denying use of or entry to any vehicle used for public transportation services or any vehicle used for providing transportation to persons with disabilities because the person is accompanied by an appropriately controlled guide or service dog.

The bill requires New Jersey Transit to designate an Access Link Customer Service Group to receive and act upon complaints from passengers with disabilities regarding Access Link service and to establish procedures by which complaints are to be processed and resolved. The bill contains requirements for giving Access Link passengers notice of the complaint procedures.

The bill requires the New Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA Services to report semi-annually to the New Jersey Transit board with a summary of the Access Link Customer Service Group activities for the preceding six months. The New Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA Services is also required to send a copy of that report to the Division on Civil Rights in the Department of Law and Public Safety, Disability Rights New Jersey, and the Community Health Law Project.

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 1379

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator TURNER)

ADOPTED: MAY 9, 2016

The Senate amendments require that the New Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA Services (General Manager) report annually, instead of semi-annually, to the board of the New Jersey Transit Corporation (New Jersey Transit) concerning the Access Link Customer Service Group's activities for the prior year, instead of the prior six months. The amendments also require that the General Manager make a copy of the report publicly available on the New Jersey Transit website and remove the requirement that the General Manager send a copy of the report to the Division on Civil Rights in the Department of Law and Public Safety, Disability Rights New Jersey, and the Community Health Law Project, or their successor organizations.

ASSEMBLY, No. 3003

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Concerns NJ Transit's treatment of people with guide or service dogs; establishes Access Link Customer Service Group.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A3003 MCKEON

2

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Transit Corporation and
2 persons with guide or service dogs, establishing procedures for
3 complaints and supplementing P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et
4 seq.).

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

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9 1. Any person with a disability accompanied by a guide or
10 service dog or any guide or service dog trainer accompanied by a
11 guide or service dog, when riding on any bus, train, or other form of
12 transportation operated by or under contract to the New Jersey
13 Transit Corporation, may keep such dog, appropriately controlled,
14 in the person's immediate custody. The corporation shall not deny
15 to any person use of, or entry to, any vehicle used for public
16 transportation services or any vehicle used for providing
17 transportation to persons with a disability or to guide or service dog
18 trainers because the person is accompanied by a guide or service
19 dog, provided that the guide or service dog is appropriately
20 controlled. As used in this section, the terms "disability," "guide
21 dog," "guide or service dog trainer," and "service dog" shall have
22 the same meaning as set forth in section 5 of P.L.1945,
23 c.169 (C.10:5-5).

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25 2. a. The corporation shall designate an Access Link Customer
26 Service Group to receive and act upon complaints from passengers
27 with disabilities regarding Access Link service. The corporation
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29 which such complaints shall be received, processed, and acted upon
30 and for their resolution and settlement. The Access Link Customer
31 Service Group shall, within 21 business days of the receipt of a
32 complaint, respond in writing as to the disposition or status of the
33 complaint. Any person who has not received a written response to a
34 complaint within 21 business days may petition the New Jersey
35 Transit General Manager of ADA Services for a hearing upon that
36 complaint, under rules promulgated by the general manager for the
37 hearing and disposition of such matters. As used in this section,
38 "Access Link" means the paratransit service implemented by the
39 corporation for purposes of complying with the "Americans with
40 Disabilities Act of 1990," Pub.L.101-336 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

41 b. The corporation shall provide to each person using Access
42 Link, at the time the person is determined to be qualified for Access
43 Link service and at least once in each calendar year thereafter in
44 which the person remains a user, information as to the procedure to
45 be followed in making and pursuing complaints to the Access Link
46 Customer Service Group or the New Jersey Transit General
47 Manager of ADA Services pursuant to this section. The direct
48 telephone number for the Access Link Customer Service Group
49 shall be prominently displayed in all Access Link vehicles.

1 c. The New Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA Services
2 shall report semi-annually to the board, summarizing the Access
3 Link Customer Service Group's activities for the preceding six
4 months, including the number of complaints received, the nature of
5 the complaints, and the resolution of the complaints and setting
6 forth any recommendations for changes which would improve
7 transportation services for passengers with disabilities. The New
8 Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA Services shall send a copy
9 of the report to the Division on Civil Rights in the Department of
10 Law and Public Safety, Disability Rights New Jersey, and the
11 Community Health Law Project or their successor organizations.

12

13 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

14

15

16

STATEMENT

17

18 This bill provides that any person with a disability accompanied by
19 a guide or service dog, or any guide or service dog trainer
20 accompanied by a guide or service dog, when riding on any bus, train,
21 or other form of transportation operated by the New Jersey Transit
22 Corporation (New Jersey Transit), may keep that dog, appropriately
23 controlled, in the person's immediate custody. The bill prohibits New
24 Jersey Transit from denying to any person use of or entry to any
25 vehicle used for public transportation services or any vehicle used for
26 providing transportation to persons with disabilities because the person
27 is accompanied by an appropriately controlled guide or service dog.

28 The bill requires New Jersey Transit to designate an Access Link
29 Customer Service Group to receive and act upon complaints regarding
30 Access Link service and to establish procedures by which complaints
31 are to be processed and resolved. The bill contains requirements for
32 giving Access Link passengers notice of the complaint procedures.

33 The bill requires the New Jersey Transit General Manager of ADA
34 Services to report semi-annually to the New Jersey Transit board with
35 a summary of the Access Link Customer Service Group activities for
36 the preceding six months. The New Jersey Transit General Manager
37 of ADA Services is also required to send a copy of that report to the
38 Division on Civil Rights in the Department of Law and Public Safety,
39 Disability Rights New Jersey, and the Community Health Law Project.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT
AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 3003

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 6, 2016

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3003.

As amended and reported, this bill provides that any person with a disability accompanied by a guide or service dog, or any guide or service dog trainer accompanied by a guide or service dog, when riding on any bus, train, or other form of transportation operated by the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ Transit), may keep that dog, appropriately controlled, in the person's immediate custody. The bill prohibits New Jersey Transit from denying to any person use of or entry to any vehicle used for public transportation services or any vehicle used for providing transportation to persons with disabilities because the person is accompanied by an appropriately controlled guide or service dog.

The bill requires NJ Transit to designate an Access Link Customer Service Group to receive and act upon complaints regarding Access Link service and to establish procedures by which complaints are to be processed and resolved. The bill contains requirements for giving Access Link passengers notice of the complaint procedures.

The bill requires the NJ Transit General Manager of ADA Services (general manager) to report annually to the NJ Transit board with a summary of the Access Link Customer Service Group activities for the preceding year and to make a copy of that report publicly available on NJ Transit's website.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to require the NJ Transit General Manager of ADA Services to report annually, instead of semi-annually, to the NJ Transit board concerning the Access Link Customer Service Group's activities for the prior year, instead of the prior six months. The committee also amended the bill to require that the general manager make a copy of the report publicly available on NJ Transit's website and remove the requirement that the general manager send a copy of the report to the Division on Civil Rights in the Department of Law and Public Safety, Disability Rights New Jersey, and the Community Health Law Project, of their successor organizations.

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Governor Chris Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation

Thursday, August 18 2016

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State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie announced action that has been taken on the following legislation:

BILLS SIGNED:

S-1379/A-3003 (Turner, Pennacchio/McKeon, Zwicker, Houghtaling, Jasey) - Concerns NJ Transit's treatment of people with guide or service dogs; establishes Access Link Customer Service Group

S-2061/A-3610 (Sweeney, Allen/Conaway, Singleton, Greenwald, Taliaferro, Quijano, Benson) - Increases accidental death benefit to 70% of final compensation for surviving children of SPRS or PFRS member; redefines child in SPRS

S-2099/A-3728 (Vitale, Turner/Singleton) - Places two-year moratorium on moving date of Type II school district's annual school election from day of general election in November back to third Tuesday in April; creates study commission

A-3841/S-2296 (Lampitt/Cunningham) - Allows School of Osteopathic Medicine at Rowan University to maintain principal clinical affiliation with either osteopathic or allopathic hospital

A-3851/S-2033 (Quijano, O'Scanlon/Weinberg, Oroho) - Authorizes certain local government entities to adopt policies for payment of certain claims through use of standard electronic funds transfer technologies

A-3882/S-2287 (Chaparro, Caride, Kennedy/Bateman, Smith) - Changes submission and notice requirements for short-term and long-term financing for environmental infrastructure projects

A-3883/S-2292 (Zwicker, Green, Andrzejczak, Tucker, Benson, Mukherji/Greenstein, Kyrillos) - Authorizes New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust to expend certain sums to make loans for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2017

A-3884/S-2293 (Chiaravalloti, Mukherji, Caputo/Whelan, Gordon) - Appropriates funds to DEP for environmental infrastructure projects for FY2017

AJR-95 (Conaway, McKnight) - Designates August of each year as "Adult Vaccine Preventable Disease Awareness and Improvement Month" in New Jersey

AJR-101/SJR-61 (Prieto, Bramnick, Phoebus, Space/Sweeney, T. Kean) - Recognizes 100th anniversary of National Park Service on August 25, 2016

BILLS VETOED:

A-1944/S-1228 (Coughlin, Schaer, Eustace, Downey, Benson, Wimberly, McKeon, Jasey, Chiaravalloti/Vitale, Gill) - **CONDITIONAL** - Automatically registers or updates voter registration as part of driver's license application or renewal

A-3591/S-2116 (Zwicker, Holley, Muoio, Eustace, Barclay, McKnight, Mukherji/Beach, Gill) - **ABSOLUTE** - "New Voter Empowerment Act"; permits 17 year olds to vote in primary election if they turn 18 years old before next succeeding general election

Press Contact:
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