

27:1A-64

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS OF: 2017 **CHAPTER:** 20

NJSA: 27:1A-64 (Includes all disabled veterans in NJT discount program for senior citizens and persons with disabilities)

BILL NO: A2228 (Substituted for S2489)

SPONSOR(S) DeAngelo and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 1-27-2016

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Military & Veterans' Affairs
Appropriations

SENATE: Military & Veterans' Affairs
Budget & Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 6-27-2016

SENATE: 12-19-2016

DATE OF APPROVAL: 2-10-2017

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced version of bill enacted enacted) Yes

A2228

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 6 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes Military & Veterans' Affairs
Appropriations

SENATE: Yes Military & Veterans' Affairs
Budget & Appropriations

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

S2489

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 6 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes Military & Veterans' Affairs
Budget & Appropriations

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

(continued)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government
Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RWH/JA

P.L.2017, CHAPTER 20, *approved February 10, 2017*

Assembly, No. 2228

1 AN ACT concerning discounted motor bus and rail passenger fares
2 for disabled veterans and amending P.L.1973, c.126 and
3 P.L.1987, c.99.

4

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

7

8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

11 a. Many senior citizens and **【handicapped citizens of】** persons
12 with disabilities, including disabled veterans, in this State **【must】**
13 depend on public transportation facilities to obtain the necessities of
14 life, **【such as】** including food, clothing, and medical services, and
15 to visit their families and friends; ready access to transportation
16 services is thus essential to their health, safety, and welfare.

17 b. Many senior citizens and **【handicapped citizen】** persons
18 with disabilities, including disabled veterans, live on fixed or
19 limited incomes, and the high cost of transportation services **【thus】**
20 makes it difficult for them to take advantage of **【such】** these
21 services.

22 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.179).

23 d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.179).

24 e. It is therefore a valid public purpose, and in the best interest
25 of all the people of this State, to provide for reduced bus and rail
26 fares for senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
27 disabilities, and all disabled veterans at State expense.

28 (cf: P.L.1999, c.179, s.1)

29

30 2. Section 2 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-65) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 2. For the purposes of **【this act】** P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64
33 et seq.), unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

34 **【a.** "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation;
35 provided, however, that he may delegate any of his powers or duties
36 under this act to any subordinate division, agency or employee of
37 the Department of Transportation or to the New Jersey Transit
38 Corporation.

39 **b.】** "Carrier" means any individual, copartnership, association,
40 corporation, joint stock company, public agency, trustee, or receiver
41 operating motor buses or rail passenger service on established

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.

1 routes within this State or between points in this State and points in
2 adjacent states.

3 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation:
4 provided, however, that the commissioner may delegate any of the
5 commissioner's powers or duties under P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-
6 64 et seq.) to any subordinate division, agency, or employee of the
7 Department of Transportation or to the New Jersey Transit
8 Corporation.

9 "Disabled veteran" means "disabled veteran" as defined in
10 N.J.S.11A:5-1.

11 **【c.】** "Motor bus" means "autobus" as defined in R.S.48:4-1, and
12 includes those autobuses, commonly called jitneys, as defined in
13 R.S.48:16-23.

14 **【d.】** "Offpeak times" means the hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
15 and from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. during the weekdays, and all day on
16 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

17 "Person with disabilities" means any individual who, by reason
18 of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent
19 or temporary incapacity or disability, is unable without special
20 facilities or special planning or design to utilize mass transportation
21 facilities and services as effectively as persons who are not so
22 affected.

23 **【e.】** "Senior citizen" means any individual 62 years of age or
24 over.

25 **【f.】** "Handicapped citizen" means any individual who, by reason
26 of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent
27 or temporary incapacity or disability, is unable without special
28 facilities or special planning or design to utilize mass
29 transportation facilities and services as effectively as persons who
30 are not so affected.】

31 (cf: P.L.1979, c.150, s.25)

32

33 3. Section 3 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-66) is amended to
34 read as follows:

35 3. The Commissioner of Transportation is hereby authorized
36 and directed to establish and implement **【within 180 days of the**
37 **effective date of P.L.1999, c.179 (C.27:1A-64 et al.)】** a program to
38 provide motor bus and rail passenger service for senior citizens
39 during offpeak times and to provide motor bus and rail passenger
40 service for senior citizens age 65 and older **【and handicapped**
41 **citizens】**, persons with disabilities, and all disabled veterans at all
42 times bus or rail service is offered, on regular routes of carriers
43 within the State or between points in this State and points in
44 adjacent states at one-half of the regular adult rates of fare **【as set**
45 **forth in the tariffs of carriers filed with the Interstate Commerce**
46 **Commission, Board of Public Utilities or the Department of**
47 **Transportation】**, except that the reduced fare shall not be available

1 to senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
2 disabilities, or disabled veterans traveling on commuter railroad
3 trains operated during peak times which have been designated by
4 the New Jersey Transit Corporation as ineligible for round trip
5 excursion fares. The commissioner may take **【such】** any action **【as**
6 **he】** that the commissioner deems necessary to implement this
7 program, including contracts with carriers for the provision of
8 transportation services under this program, purchase of regular
9 tickets and resale to senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** ,
10 persons with disabilities, and disabled veterans at one-half the
11 ordinary fare, or direct payments to carriers for services provided to
12 senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
13 disabilities, and disabled veterans under this program. Where
14 carriers may be entitled to receive or do receive funds from sources
15 other than the Department of Transportation for the provision of
16 service to senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
17 disabilities, and disabled veterans, reimbursement payments which
18 may be made by the Department of Transportation to the carriers
19 may be adjusted accordingly.

20 (cf: P.L.1999, c.179, s.2)

21

22 4. Section 4 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-67) is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 4. In establishing this program, the commissioner shall, after
25 consulting with the Commissioner of Community Affairs, the **【New**
26 **Jersey State Commission on Aging】** Deputy Commissioner of the
27 Division of Aging Services in the Department of Human Services,
28 and the Board of Public **【Utility Commissioners】** Utilities, establish
29 uniform procedures for:

30 a. Determining the eligibility of persons to receive the reduced
31 fares provided pursuant to **【this act】** P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64
32 et seq.);

33 b. Making **【such】** reduced fares available to eligible persons;
34 and

35 c. Auditing and accounting to insure that no carrier receives
36 payments in excess of the value of services actually rendered to
37 senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
38 disabilities, and disabled veterans pursuant to **【this act】** P.L.1973,
39 c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.).

40 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.4)

41

42 5. Section 7 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-70) is amended to
43 read as follows:

44 7. Nothing in **【this act】** P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.)
45 shall preclude any carrier from providing further fare reductions for
46 senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
47 disabilities, and disabled veterans or preclude any municipality

1 from contracting for **[such]** further reductions pursuant to
2 P.L.1973, c.67 (**[C.40:58-4.1]** C.40:48-4.1 et seq.), or any other
3 law.

4 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.5)

5
6 6. Section 8 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-71) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 8. The commissioner is hereby authorized to hire, employ, or
9 assign **[such]** secretarial, clerical, and other personnel as shall be
10 required for complying with the provisions of **[this act]** P.L.1973,
11 c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.). The commissioner may also expend a
12 reasonable sum, not to exceed **[\$50,000.00]** \$50,000 annually, for
13 advertising to make senior citizens **[and handicapped citizens],**
14 persons with disabilities, and disabled veterans aware of the
15 program and the availability of the reduced fares thereunder.

16 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.6)

17

18 7. Section 9 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-72) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 9. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of chapter 3 of Title
21 48 of the Revised Statutes or of any other law to the contrary, any
22 eligible senior citizen **[or handicapped citizen]** , person with
23 disabilities, or disabled veteran may be transported by any motor
24 bus carrier at less than the usual and ordinary fare charged to one
25 person.

26 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.7)

27

28 8. Section 1 P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-73) is amended to read as
29 follows:

30 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.1973,
31 c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.) or any other law to the contrary, a
32 **[handicapped citizen]** person with disabilities and the **[citizen's]**
33 person's travel attendant or guide shall be transported by any
34 motorbus or rail carrier operated pursuant to the "New Jersey Public
35 Transportation Act of 1979," P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et seq.) at
36 the fare charged to one **[handicapped citizen]** person with
37 disabilities during peak or offpeak times, as the case may be. For
38 the purposes of this section, a **["handicapped citizen"]** "person with
39 disabilities" is one defined pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1973,
40 c.126 (C.27:1A-65) who requires the assistance of a travel attendant
41 or guide in order to use public transportation.

42 (cf: P.L.1987, c.99, s.1)

43

44 9. Section 2 of P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-74) is amended to read
45 as follows:

46 2. The Commissioner of Transportation shall, after consulting
47 with other relevant departments and agencies, adopt reasonable

1 regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of **【this act】**
2 P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-73 et seq.) pursuant to the "Administrative
3 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). The
4 regulations shall include a procedure by which the commissioner
5 shall issue an identification card, upon certification of a physician
6 or upon certification of another person as prescribed by the
7 commissioner, that a **【handicapped citizen】** person with disabilities
8 requires the assistance of a travel attendant or guide in order to use
9 public transportation.

10 (cf: P.L.1987, c.99, s.2)

11
12 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

13
14
15 STATEMENT

16
17 Under current law, the New Jersey Transit Corporation provides
18 reduced fares for senior citizens over the age of 62 and persons with
19 disabilities. A disabled veteran is only eligible for the program if
20 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined
21 that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater. This
22 bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced
23 fare program.

24 For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran
25 who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability
26 from war service by the United States Department of Veterans
27 Affairs or who receives or is entitled to receive equivalent
28 compensation for a service-connected disability which arises out of
29 military or naval service and who has submitted sufficient evidence
30 of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the
31 Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and
32 Veterans' Affairs.

33
34
35 _____
36
37 Includes all disabled veterans in NJT discount program for senior
38 citizens and persons with disabilities.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2228

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman JOSEPH A. LAGANA

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Quijano, Jimenez, Assemblyman Holley, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblymen Johnson, Houghtaling, Chiaravalloti, Mukherji, Assemblywomen Mosquera, Phoebus, Assemblymen Space, Coughlin, O'Scanlon, Rumana, Senators Stack, A.R.Bucco, Allen, Beach, Madden and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Includes all disabled veterans in NJT discount program for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning discounted motor bus and rail passenger fares
2 for disabled veterans and amending P.L.1973, c.126 and
3 P.L.1987, c.99.

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

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

11 a. Many senior citizens and **handicapped citizens of** persons
12 with disabilities, including disabled veterans, in this State **must**
13 depend on public transportation facilities to obtain the necessities of
14 life, **such as** including food, clothing, and medical services, and
15 to visit their families and friends; ready access to transportation
16 services is thus essential to their health, safety, and welfare.

17 b. Many senior citizens and **handicapped citizen** persons
18 with disabilities, including disabled veterans, live on fixed or
19 limited incomes, and the high cost of transportation services **thus**
20 makes it difficult for them to take advantage of **such** these
21 services.

22 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.179).

23 d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.179).

24 e. It is therefore a valid public purpose, and in the best interest
25 of all the people of this State, to provide for reduced bus and rail
26 fares for senior citizens **and handicapped citizens** , persons with
27 disabilities, and all disabled veterans at State expense.

28 (cf: P.L.1999, c.179, s.1)

29

30 2. Section 2 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-65) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 2. For the purposes of **this act** P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64
33 et seq.), unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

34 **a.** "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation;
35 provided, however, that he may delegate any of his powers or duties
36 under this act to any subordinate division, agency or employee of
37 the Department of Transportation or to the New Jersey Transit
38 Corporation.

39 **b.]** "Carrier" means any individual, copartnership, association,
40 corporation, joint stock company, public agency, trustee, or receiver
41 operating motor buses or rail passenger service on established
42 routes within this State or between points in this State and points in
43 adjacent states.

44 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation:
45 provided, however, that the commissioner may delegate any of the

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.

1 commissioner's powers or duties under P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-
2 64 et seq.) to any subordinate division, agency, or employee of the
3 Department of Transportation or to the New Jersey Transit
4 Corporation.

5 "Disabled veteran" means "disabled veteran" as defined in
6 N.J.S.11A:5-1.

7 **【c.】** "Motor bus" means "autobus" as defined in R.S.48:4-1, and
8 includes those autobuses, commonly called jitneys, as defined in
9 R.S.48:16-23.

10 **【d.】** "Offpeak times" means the hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
11 and from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. during the weekdays, and all day on
12 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

13 "Person with disabilities" means any individual who, by reason
14 of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent
15 or temporary incapacity or disability, is unable without special
16 facilities or special planning or design to utilize mass transportation
17 facilities and services as effectively as persons who are not so
18 affected.

19 **【e.】** "Senior citizen" means any individual 62 years of age or
20 over.

21 **【f.】** "Handicapped citizen" means any individual who, by reason
22 of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent
23 or temporary incapacity or disability, is unable without special
24 facilities or special planning or design to utilize mass
25 transportation facilities and services as effectively as persons who
26 are not so affected.】

27 (cf: P.L.1979, c.150, s.25)

28

29 3. Section 3 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-66) is amended to
30 read as follows:

31 3. The Commissioner of Transportation is hereby authorized
32 and directed to establish and implement **【within 180 days of the**
33 **effective date of P.L.1999, c.179 (C.27:1A-64 et al.)】** a program to
34 provide motor bus and rail passenger service for senior citizens
35 during offpeak times and to provide motor bus and rail passenger
36 service for senior citizens age 65 and older **【and handicapped**
37 **citizens】**, persons with disabilities, and all disabled veterans at all
38 times bus or rail service is offered, on regular routes of carriers
39 within the State or between points in this State and points in
40 adjacent states at one-half of the regular adult rates of fare **【as set**
41 **forth in the tariffs of carriers filed with the Interstate Commerce**
42 **Commission, Board of Public Utilities or the Department of**
43 **Transportation】**, except that the reduced fare shall not be available
44 to senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】**, persons with
45 disabilities, or disabled veterans traveling on commuter railroad
46 trains operated during peak times which have been designated by
47 the New Jersey Transit Corporation as ineligible for round trip

1 excursion fares. The commissioner may take **【such】** any action **【as**
2 **he】** that the commissioner deems necessary to implement this
3 program, including contracts with carriers for the provision of
4 transportation services under this program, purchase of regular
5 tickets and resale to senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** ,
6 persons with disabilities, and disabled veterans at one-half the
7 ordinary fare, or direct payments to carriers for services provided to
8 senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
9 disabilities, and disabled veterans under this program. Where
10 carriers may be entitled to receive or do receive funds from sources
11 other than the Department of Transportation for the provision of
12 service to senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
13 disabilities, and disabled veterans, reimbursement payments which
14 may be made by the Department of Transportation to the carriers
15 may be adjusted accordingly.

16 (cf: P.L.1999, c.179, s.2)

17

18 4. Section 4 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-67) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 4. In establishing this program, the commissioner shall, after
21 consulting with the Commissioner of Community Affairs, the **【New**
22 **Jersey State Commission on Aging】** Deputy Commissioner of the
23 Division of Aging Services in the Department of Human Services,
24 and the Board of Public **【Utility Commissioners】** Utilities, establish
25 uniform procedures for:

26 a. Determining the eligibility of persons to receive the reduced
27 fares provided pursuant to **【this act】** P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64
28 et seq.);

29 b. Making **【such】** reduced fares available to eligible persons;
30 and

31 c. Auditing and accounting to insure that no carrier receives
32 payments in excess of the value of services actually rendered to
33 senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
34 disabilities, and disabled veterans pursuant to **【this act】** P.L.1973,
35 c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.).

36 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.4)

37

38 5. Section 7 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-70) is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 7. Nothing in **【this act】** P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.)
41 shall preclude any carrier from providing further fare reductions for
42 senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】** , persons with
43 disabilities, and disabled veterans or preclude any municipality
44 from contracting for **【such】** further reductions pursuant to
45 P.L.1973, c.67 (**【C.40:58-4.1】** C.40:48-4.1 et seq.), or any other
46 law.

47 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.5)

1 6. Section 8 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-71) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 8. The commissioner is hereby authorized to hire, employ, or
4 assign **【such】** secretarial, clerical, and other personnel as shall be
5 required for complying with the provisions of **【this act】** P.L.1973,
6 c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.). The commissioner may also expend a
7 reasonable sum, not to exceed **【\$50,000.00】** \$50,000 annually, for
8 advertising to make senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】**,
9 persons with disabilities, and disabled veterans aware of the
10 program and the availability of the reduced fares thereunder.
11 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.6)

12
13 7. Section 9 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-72) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 9. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of chapter 3 of Title
16 48 of the Revised Statutes or of any other law to the contrary, any
17 eligible senior citizen **【or handicapped citizen】**, person with
18 disabilities, or disabled veteran may be transported by any motor
19 bus carrier at less than the usual and ordinary fare charged to one
20 person.
21 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.7)

22
23 8. Section 1 P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-73) is amended to read as
24 follows:

25 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.1973,
26 c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.) or any other law to the contrary, a
27 **【handicapped citizen】** person with disabilities and the **【citizen's】**
28 person's travel attendant or guide shall be transported by any
29 motorbus or rail carrier operated pursuant to the "New Jersey Public
30 Transportation Act of 1979," P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et seq.) at
31 the fare charged to one **【handicapped citizen】** person with
32 disabilities during peak or offpeak times, as the case may be. For
33 the purposes of this section, a **【"handicapped citizen"】** "person with
34 disabilities" is one defined pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1973,
35 c.126 (C.27:1A-65) who requires the assistance of a travel attendant
36 or guide in order to use public transportation.
37 (cf: P.L.1987, c.99, s.1)

38
39 9. Section 2 of P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-74) is amended to read
40 as follows:

41 2. The Commissioner of Transportation shall, after consulting
42 with other relevant departments and agencies, adopt reasonable
43 regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of **【this act】**
44 P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-73 et seq.) pursuant to the "Administrative
45 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). The
46 regulations shall include a procedure by which the commissioner
47 shall issue an identification card, upon certification of a physician
48 or upon certification of another person as prescribed by the

1 commissioner, that a **【handicapped citizen】** person with disabilities
2 requires the assistance of a travel attendant or guide in order to use
3 public transportation.
4 (cf: P.L.1987, c.99, s.2)

5

6 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

8

9

STATEMENT

10

11 Under current law, the New Jersey Transit Corporation
12 provides reduced fares for senior citizens over the age of 62 and
13 persons with disabilities. A disabled veteran is only eligible for the
14 program if the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has
15 determined that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or
16 greater. This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for
17 the reduced fare program.

18 For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran
19 who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability
20 from war service by the United States Department of Veterans
21 Affairs or who receives or is entitled to receive equivalent
22 compensation for a service-connected disability which arises out of
23 military or naval service and who has submitted sufficient evidence
24 of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the
25 Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and
26 Veterans' Affairs.

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2228

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2016

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 2228.

Under current law, the New Jersey Transit Corporation provides reduced fares for senior citizens over the age of 62 and persons with disabilities. A disabled veteran is only eligible for the program if the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater. This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program.

For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability from war service by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or who receives or is entitled to receive equivalent compensation for a service-connected disability which arises out of military or naval service and who has submitted sufficient evidence of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2228

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 20, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2228.

This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program that the New Jersey Transit Corporation currently provides for seniors citizens over the age of 62 and persons with disabilities. A disabled veteran is currently only eligible for the program if the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater.

For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability from war service by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or who receives or is entitled to receive equivalent compensation for a service-connected disability which arises out of military or naval service and who has submitted sufficient evidence of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) lacks sufficient information to determine the fiscal impact of the bill. It is unclear how many disabled veterans currently use NJ Transit. It is also unclear how many disabled veterans will use NJ Transit in the future, as the number of disabled veterans who will emerge from future wars and military operations is unforeseeable.

It is difficult to determine the financial condition of NJ Transit in future years and the constraints that a reduced fare for all disabled veterans will place on NJ Transit's budget. Therefore, the bill's fiscal impact on NJ Transit is indeterminate. NJ Transit is not a for-profit corporation, and any limitation on its ability to collect fare revenue cannot be accommodated through a reduction in profits. A decrease in fare revenue as result of the reduced fares to all disabled veterans is expected to require either an increase in State General Fund support, an increase in non-fare revenue, or a decrease in internal costs or reduced service levels in order to balance NJ Transit's budget.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2228

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2228.

This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program that the New Jersey Transit Corporation currently provides for seniors citizens over the age of 62 and persons with disabilities. Under current law, a disabled veteran is eligible to participate in the reduced fare program only if the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater. This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program.

For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability from war service by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or who receives, or is entitled to receive, equivalent compensation for a service-connected disability that arises out of military or naval service. To receive the benefit provided under this bill, an individual must submit sufficient evidence of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

Assembly Bill No. 2228 is identical to Senate Bill No. 2489 of 2016-2017, which was also released by the committee on this date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2228

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 5, 2016

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2228.

This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program that the New Jersey Transit Corporation currently provides for seniors citizens over the age of 62 and persons with disabilities. Under current law, a disabled veteran is eligible to participate in the reduced fare program only if the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater. This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program.

For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability from war service by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or who receives, or is entitled to receive, equivalent compensation for a service-connected disability that arises out of military or naval service. To receive the benefit provided under this bill, an individual must submit sufficient evidence of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

As reported, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2489 as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) lacks sufficient information to determine the fiscal impact of the bill. It is unclear how many disabled veterans currently use NJ Transit. It is also unclear how many disabled veterans will use NJ Transit in the future, as the number of disabled veterans who will emerge from future wars and military operations is unforeseeable.

It is difficult to determine the financial condition of NJ Transit in future years and the constraints that a reduced fare for all disabled veterans will place on NJ Transit's budget. Therefore, the bill's fiscal impact on NJ Transit is indeterminate. NJ Transit is not a for-profit corporation, and any limitation on its ability to collect fare revenue cannot be accommodated through a reduction in profits. A decrease in fare revenue as result of the reduced fares to all disabled veterans is expected to require either an increase in State General Fund support, an increase in non-fare revenue, or a decrease in internal costs or reduced service levels in order to balance NJ Transit's budget.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 2228
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 23, 2016

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Includes all disabled veterans in NJ Transit discount program for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Type of Impact: Possible cost increase.

Agencies Affected: New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ Transit)

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate –See comments below.		
State Revenue	Indeterminate—See comments below.		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) lacks sufficient information to determine the fiscal impact of the bill. It is unclear how many disabled veterans currently use NJ Transit. It is also unclear how many disabled veterans will use NJ Transit in the future, as the number of disabled veterans who will emerge from future wars and military operations is unforeseeable.
- It is difficult to determine the financial condition of NJ Transit in future years and the constraints that a reduced fare for all disabled veterans will place on NJ Transit’s budget. Therefore, the bill’s fiscal impact on NJ Transit is indeterminate. NJ Transit is not a for-profit corporation, and any limitation on its ability to collect fare revenue cannot be accommodated through a reduction in profits. A decrease in fare revenue as result of the reduced fares to all disabled veterans is expected to require either an increase in State General Fund support, an increase in non-fare revenue, or a decrease in internal costs or reduced service levels in order to balance NJ Transit’s budget.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 2228 of 2016 includes all disabled veterans in the NJ Transit discount programs for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Under current law, the NJ Transit provides reduced fares for senior citizens over the age of 62 and persons with disabilities. A disabled veteran is only eligible for the program if the United States Department of Veterans

Affairs has determined that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater. This bill provides that all disabled veterans are to be eligible for the reduced fare program.

For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability from war service by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or who receives or is entitled to receive equivalent compensation for a service-connected disability which arises out of military or naval service and who has submitted sufficient evidence of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS lacks sufficient information to determine the fiscal impact of the inclusion of all disabled veterans in the NJ Transit discount fare program. It is unclear how many disabled veterans currently use NJ Transit. It is also unclear how many disabled veterans will use NJ Transit in the future, as the number of disabled veterans who will emerge from future wars and military operations is unforeseeable.

It is difficult to determine the financial condition of NJ Transit in future years and the constraints that a reduced fare for all disabled veterans will place on NJ Transit's budget. Although the bill's fiscal impact on NJ Transit is indeterminate, NJ Transit is not a for-profit corporation, and any limitation on its ability to collect fare revenue cannot be accommodated through a reduction in profits. It is likely that a decrease in fare revenue as result of the reduced fares to all disabled veterans may require either an increase in State General Fund support, an increase in non-fare revenue, or a decrease in internal costs or reduced service levels in order to balance NJ Transit's budget.

Although it is not possible to know the future impact of this bill, it is likely that the bill will eventually result in lost revenue for NJ Transit. To the extent that the reduction in revenue cannot be made up for with increases in non-fare revenue, it is expected to require additional State costs in the form of an increased operating subsidy, a decrease in State costs through internal operating efficiencies, or a decrease in service. The amount of revenue that NJ Transit receives from activities other than fares (parking, advertising, business leases at stations, etc.) is approximately 10 percent of the amount of revenue generated by fares. Other major sources of revenue for NJ Transit include subsidies provided to it from various federal and State sources through the budget process which are not within the power of NJ Transit to increase.

Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications

*Analyst: Richard Diaconu
Senior Research Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

SENATE, No. 2489

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Stack, A.R.Bucco, Allen, Beach, Madden and Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Includes all disabled veterans in NJT discount program for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/20/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning discounted motor bus and rail passenger fares
2 for disabled veterans and amending P.L.1973, c.126 and
3 P.L.1987, c.99.

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

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

11 a. Many senior citizens and **handicapped citizens of** persons
12 with disabilities, including disabled veterans, in this State **must**
13 depend on public transportation facilities to obtain the necessities of
14 life, **such as** including food, clothing, and medical services, and
15 to visit their families and friends; ready access to transportation
16 services is thus essential to their health, safety, and welfare.

17 b. Many senior citizens and **handicapped citizens** persons
18 with disabilities, including disabled veterans, live on fixed or
19 limited incomes, and the high cost of transportation services **thus**
20 makes it difficult for them to take advantage of **such** these
21 services.

22 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.179).

23 d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1999, c.179).

24 e. It is therefore a valid public purpose, and in the best interest
25 of all the people of this State, to provide for reduced bus and rail
26 fares for senior citizens **and handicapped citizens** , persons with
27 disabilities, and all disabled veterans at State expense.

28 (cf: P.L.1999, c.179, s.1)

29

30 2. Section 2 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-65) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 2. For the purposes of **this act** P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64
33 et seq.), unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

34 **a.** "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation;
35 provided, however, that he may delegate any of his powers or duties
36 under this act to any subordinate division, agency or employee of
37 the Department of Transportation or to the New Jersey Transit
38 Corporation.

39 **b.]** "Carrier" means any individual, copartnership, association,
40 corporation, joint stock company, public agency, trustee, or receiver
41 operating motor buses or rail passenger service on established
42 routes within this State or between points in this State and points in
43 adjacent states.

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.

1 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation;
2 provided, however, that the commissioner may delegate any of the
3 commissioner's powers or duties under P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-
4 64 et seq.) to any subordinate division, agency, or employee of the
5 Department of Transportation or to the New Jersey Transit
6 Corporation.

7 "Disabled veteran" means "disabled veteran" as defined in
8 N.J.S.11A:5-1.

9 **【c.】** "Motor bus" means "autobus" as defined in R.S.48:4-1, and
10 includes those autobuses, commonly called jitneys, as defined in
11 R.S.48:16-23.

12 **【d.】** "Offpeak times" means the hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
13 and from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. during the weekdays, and all day on
14 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

15 "Person with disabilities" means any individual who, by reason
16 of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent
17 or temporary incapacity or disability, is unable without special
18 facilities or special planning or design to utilize mass transportation
19 facilities and services as effectively as persons who are not so
20 affected.

21 **【e.】** "Senior citizen" means any individual 62 years of age or
22 over.

23 **【f.】** "Handicapped citizen" means any individual who, by reason
24 of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent
25 or temporary incapacity or disability, is unable without special
26 facilities or special planning or design to utilize mass
27 transportation facilities and services as effectively as persons who
28 are not so affected.】

29 (cf: P.L.1979, c.150, s.25)

30

31 3. Section 3 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-66) is amended to
32 read as follows:

33 3. The Commissioner of Transportation is hereby authorized
34 and directed to establish and implement **【within 180 days of the**
35 **effective date of P.L.1999, c.179 (C.27:1A-64 et al.)】** a program to
36 provide motor bus and rail passenger service for senior citizens
37 during offpeak times and to provide motor bus and rail passenger
38 service for senior citizens age 65 and older **【and handicapped**
39 **citizens】**, persons with disabilities, and all disabled veterans at all
40 times bus or rail service is offered, on regular routes of carriers
41 within the State or between points in this State and points in
42 adjacent states at one-half of the regular adult rates of fare **【as set**
43 **forth in the tariffs of carriers filed with the Interstate Commerce**
44 **Commission, Board of Public Utilities or the Department of**
45 **Transportation】**, except that the reduced fare shall not be available
46 to senior citizens **【and handicapped citizens】**, persons with
47 disabilities, or disabled veterans traveling on commuter railroad

1 trains operated during peak times which have been designated by
2 the New Jersey Transit Corporation as ineligible for round trip
3 excursion fares. The commissioner may take **[such]** any action **[as**
4 **he]** that the commissioner deems necessary to implement this
5 program, including contracts with carriers for the provision of
6 transportation services under this program, purchase of regular
7 tickets and resale to senior citizens **[and handicapped citizens]**,
8 persons with disabilities, and disabled veterans at one-half the
9 ordinary fare, or direct payments to carriers for services provided to
10 senior citizens **[and handicapped citizens]**, persons with
11 disabilities, and disabled veterans under this program. Where
12 carriers may be entitled to receive or do receive funds from sources
13 other than the Department of Transportation for the provision of
14 service to senior citizens **[and handicapped citizens]**, persons with
15 disabilities, and disabled veterans, reimbursement payments which
16 may be made by the Department of Transportation to the carriers
17 may be adjusted accordingly.
18 (cf: P.L.1999, c.179, s.2)

19
20 4. Section 4 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-67) is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 4. In establishing this program, the commissioner shall, after
23 consulting with the Commissioner of Community Affairs, the **[New**
24 **Jersey State Commission on Aging]** Deputy Commissioner of the
25 Division of Aging Services in the Department of Human Services,
26 and the Board of Public **[Utility Commissioners]** Utilities, establish
27 uniform procedures for:

28 a. Determining the eligibility of persons to receive the reduced
29 fares provided pursuant to **[this act]** P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64
30 et seq.);

31 b. Making **[such]** reduced fares available to eligible persons;
32 and

33 c. Auditing and accounting to insure that no carrier receives
34 payments in excess of the value of services actually rendered to
35 senior citizens **[and handicapped citizens]**, persons with
36 disabilities, and disabled veterans pursuant to **[this act]** P.L.1973,
37 c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.).

38 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.4)

39
40 5. Section 7 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-70) is amended to
41 read as follows:

42 7. Nothing in **[this act]** P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.)
43 shall preclude any carrier from providing further fare reductions for
44 senior citizens **[and handicapped citizens]**, persons with
45 disabilities, and disabled veterans or preclude any municipality
46 from contracting for **[such]** further reductions pursuant to

1 P.L.1973, c.67 (~~【C.40:58-4.1】~~ C.40:48-4.1 et seq.), or any other
2 law.

3 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.5)
4

5 6. Section 8 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-71) is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 8. The commissioner is hereby authorized to hire, employ, or
8 assign ~~【such】~~ secretarial, clerical, and other personnel as shall be
9 required for complying with the provisions of ~~【this act】~~ P.L.1973,
10 c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.). The commissioner may also expend a
11 reasonable sum, not to exceed ~~【\$50,000.00】~~ \$50,000 annually, for
12 advertising to make senior citizens ~~【and handicapped citizens】~~,
13 persons with disabilities, and disabled veterans aware of the
14 program and the availability of the reduced fares thereunder.

15 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.6)
16

17 7. Section 9 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-72) is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 9. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of chapter 3 of Title
20 48 of the Revised Statutes or of any other law to the contrary, any
21 eligible senior citizen ~~【or handicapped citizen】~~, person with
22 disabilities, or disabled veteran may be transported by any motor
23 bus carrier at less than the usual and ordinary fare charged to one
24 person.

25 (cf: P.L.1975, c.271, s.7)
26

27 8. Section 1 of P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-73) is amended to read
28 as follows:

29 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of P.L.1973,
30 c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.) or any other law to the contrary, a
31 ~~【handicapped citizen】~~ person with disabilities and the ~~【citizen's】~~
32 person's travel attendant or guide shall be transported by any
33 motorbus or rail carrier operated pursuant to the "New Jersey Public
34 Transportation Act of 1979," P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et seq.) at
35 the fare charged to one ~~【handicapped citizen】~~ person with
36 disabilities during peak or offpeak times, as the case may be. For
37 the purposes of this section, a ~~【"handicapped citizen"】~~ "person with
38 disabilities" is one defined pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1973,
39 c.126 (C.27:1A-65) who requires the assistance of a travel attendant
40 or guide in order to use public transportation.

41 (cf: P.L.1987, c.99, s.1)
42

43 9. Section 2 of P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-74) is amended to read
44 as follows:

45 2. The Commissioner of Transportation shall, after consulting
46 with other relevant departments and agencies, adopt reasonable
47 regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of ~~【this act】~~

1 P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-73 et seq.) pursuant to the "Administrative
2 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). The
3 regulations shall include a procedure by which the commissioner
4 shall issue an identification card, upon certification of a physician
5 or upon certification of another person as prescribed by the
6 commissioner, that a **【handicapped citizen】** person with disabilities
7 requires the assistance of a travel attendant or guide in order to use
8 public transportation.
9 (cf: P.L.1987, c.99, s.2)

10

11 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

12

13

14

STATEMENT

15

16 Under current law, the New Jersey Transit Corporation provides
17 reduced fares for senior citizens over the age of 62 and persons with
18 disabilities. A disabled veteran is only eligible for the program if
19 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined
20 that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater. This
21 bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced
22 fare program.

23 For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran
24 who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability
25 from war service by the United States Department of Veterans
26 Affairs or who receives or is entitled to receive equivalent
27 compensation for a service-connected disability which arises out of
28 military or naval service and who has submitted sufficient evidence
29 of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the
30 Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and
31 Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2489

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2489.

This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program that the New Jersey Transit Corporation currently provides for seniors citizens over the age of 62 and persons with disabilities. Under current law, a disabled veteran is eligible to participate in the reduced fare program only if the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater. This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program.

For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability from war service by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or who receives, or is entitled to receive, equivalent compensation for a service-connected disability that arises out of military or naval service. To receive the benefit provided under this bill, an individual must submit sufficient evidence of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

Senate Bill No. 2489 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2228 of 2016-2017, which was also released by the committee on this date.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2489

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 5, 2016

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2489.

This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program that the New Jersey Transit Corporation currently provides for seniors citizens over the age of 62 and persons with disabilities. Under current law, a disabled veteran is eligible to participate in the reduced fare program only if the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater. This bill provides that all disabled veterans are eligible for the reduced fare program.

For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability from war service by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or who receives, or is entitled to receive, equivalent compensation for a service-connected disability that arises out of military or naval service. To receive the benefit provided under this bill, an individual must submit sufficient evidence of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2228, as also reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) lacks sufficient information to determine the fiscal impact of the bill. It is unclear how many disabled veterans currently use NJ Transit. It is also unclear how many disabled veterans will use NJ Transit in the future, as the number of disabled veterans who will emerge from future wars and military operations is unforeseeable.

It is difficult to determine the financial condition of NJ Transit in future years and the constraints that a reduced fare for all disabled veterans will place on NJ Transit's budget. Therefore, the bill's fiscal impact on NJ Transit is indeterminate. NJ Transit is not a for-profit corporation, and any limitation on its ability to collect fare revenue cannot be accommodated through a reduction in profits. A decrease in fare revenue as result of the reduced fares to all disabled veterans is expected to require either an increase in State General Fund support, an increase in non-fare revenue, or a decrease in internal costs or reduced service levels in order to balance NJ Transit's budget.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 2489
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
217th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 7, 2016

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Includes all disabled veterans in NJ Transit discount program for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Type of Impact: Possible cost increase.

Agencies Affected: New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJ Transit)

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	Indeterminate –See comments below.		
State Revenue	Indeterminate—See comments below.		

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) lacks sufficient information to determine the fiscal impact of the bill. It is unclear how many disabled veterans currently use NJ Transit. It is also unclear how many disabled veterans will use NJ Transit in the future, as the number of disabled veterans who will emerge from future wars and military operations is unforeseeable.
- It is difficult to determine the financial condition of NJ Transit in future years and the constraints that a reduced fare for all disabled veterans will place on NJ Transit’s budget. Therefore, the bill’s fiscal impact on NJ Transit is indeterminate. NJ Transit is not a for-profit corporation, and any limitation on its ability to collect fare revenue cannot be accommodated through a reduction in profits. A decrease in fare revenue as result of the reduced fares to all disabled veterans is expected to require either an increase in State General Fund support, an increase in non-fare revenue, or a decrease in internal costs or reduced service levels in order to balance NJ Transit’s budget.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 2489 of 2016 includes all disabled veterans in the NJ Transit discount programs for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Under current law, the NJ Transit provides reduced fares for senior citizens over the age of 62 and persons with disabilities. A disabled veteran is only eligible for the program if the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran has a disability rating of 70 percent or greater. This bill provides that all disabled veterans are to be eligible for the reduced fare program.

For the purposes of the bill, a disabled veteran is any veteran who is eligible to be compensated for a service-connected disability from war service by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or who receives or is entitled to receive equivalent compensation for a service-connected disability which arises out of military or naval service and who has submitted sufficient evidence of the record of disability incurred in the line of duty to the Adjutant General of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS lacks sufficient information to determine the fiscal impact of the inclusion of all disabled veterans in the NJ Transit discount fare program. It is unclear how many disabled veterans currently use NJ Transit. It is also unclear how many disabled veterans will use NJ Transit in the future, as the number of disabled veterans who will emerge from future wars and military operations is unforeseeable.

It is difficult to determine the financial condition of NJ Transit in future years and the constraints that a reduced fare for all disabled veterans will place on NJ Transit's budget. Although the bill's fiscal impact on NJ Transit is indeterminate, NJ Transit is not a for-profit corporation, and any limitation on its ability to collect fare revenue cannot be accommodated through a reduction in profits. It is likely that a decrease in fare revenue as result of the reduced fares to all disabled veterans may require either an increase in State General Fund support, an increase in non-fare revenue, or a decrease in internal costs or reduced service levels in order to balance NJ Transit's budget.

Although it is not possible to know the future impact of this bill, it is likely that the bill will eventually result in lost revenue for NJ Transit. To the extent that the reduction in revenue cannot be made up for with increases in non-fare revenue, it is expected to require additional State costs in the form of an increased operating subsidy, a decrease in State costs through internal operating efficiencies, or a decrease in service. The amount of revenue that NJ Transit receives from activities other than fares (parking, advertising, business leases at stations, etc.) is approximately 10 percent of the amount of revenue generated by fares. Other major sources of revenue for NJ Transit include subsidies provided to it from various federal and State sources through the budget process which are not within the power of NJ Transit to increase.

ection: *Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communications*

Analyst: *Richard Diaconu*
 Senior Research Analyst

Approved: *Frank W. Haines III*
 Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Chris Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation

Friday, February 10, 2017 Tags: [Bill Action](#)



Stay Connected
with Social Media

Stay Connected
with Email Alerts

LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

[+](#) SHARE [f](#) [t](#) [e](#) ...

Related Links

[Governor's Statement Upon Signing Assembly Bill No. 333 \[pdf 30KB\]](#)

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

BILL SIGNINGS:

A-333/S-2300 (Singleton, Quijano, Caputo, Taliaferro, Green, Caride, Houghtaling/Stack, Beck) – w/STATEMENT - Ensures project deadline fairness, enhances transparency, and establishes foreclosure protection and mortgage relief program for certain Superstorm Sandy-impacted homeowners

A-544/S-385 (Pinkin, Lagana, Mazzeo, Mukherji, Houghtaling/Stack, Barnes) - Requires annual notice of assessment on property to contain bolded notice of filing deadline for appeal

A-1668/S-354 (Schaer, Jasey, Johnson, Zwicker, Giblin, Downey, Wimberly/T. Kean) - Establishes New Jersey Commission on Higher Education and Business Partnerships

A-1945/S-1243 (Coughlin, Sumter, Wimberly/Vitale, Cunningham) - Requires AG and county prosecutor to provide notification on website concerning persons indicted or prosecuted for crimes under certain circumstances

A-2199/S-744 (Singleton, Holley, Rodriguez-Gregg, Downey/Beach, Turner) - Establishes veterans' preference for affordable housing in certain housing projects

A-2228/S-2489 (DeAngelo, Lagana, Pinkin, McKnight, Benson/Cruz-Perez, Van Drew) - Includes all disabled veterans in NJT discount program for senior citizens and persons with disabilities

A-2514/S-2178 (DeAngelo, Pinkin, Tucker, Space, Phoebus/Beach, Oroho) - Permits local units of government to enter into shared services agreements with federal military installations located in the State

A-2517/S-2008 (DeAngelo, Andrzejczak, Tucker, Conaway, Land/Beach, Allen) - Provides preference to certain employers applying for workforce development grants

A-2619/S-2409 (Gusciora, Wimberly, Holley, Muoio, Chiaravalloti, Sumter/Vitale, Cruz-Perez) - Requires that certain inmates with detainers be provided access to drug treatment programs

A-3267/S-2519 (Singleton, Webber, Holley, Mukherji, Lampitt, Wimberly, Houghtaling/Vitale) - Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns to support autism programs

A-3333/S-1509 (Singleton, Mukherji, Oliver, Muoio, Houghtaling/Turner, Cruz-Perez) - Establishes microenterprise training program and assistance for microentrepreneurs; gives priority status to projects involving microenterprises under Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit Program

BILLS VETOED:

A-756/S-2046 (Moriarty, Coughlin, Mukherji, Benson/Cruz-Perez) – CONDITIONAL - Regulates use of motor vehicle payment assurance devices

A-4189/S-2670 (Gusciora, Muoio, Mukherji, Pintor Marin, Chiaravalloti, Wimberly/Van Drew, Turner) – CONDITIONAL - Extends duration of first five designated UEZs for two additional years; specifies permissible use of

UEZ funds; requires DCA Commissioner to assess and issue report on UEZ program

Press Contact:

Brian Murray
609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | 

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017
Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000