

ASSEMBLY, No. 1545

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 20, 1972

By Assemblymen APY, KENNEDY, KALTENBACHER, FRIEDLAND, ESPOSITO, Assemblywoman A. KLEIN, Assemblymen REID, WOODSON, DAWES and ROBERTSON

Referred to Committee on Institutions and Welfare

AN ACT to amend "An act concerning the powers, obligations and legal capacity of certain minors in certain cases, and supplementing Title 9 of the Revised Statutes," approved July 5, 1972 (P. L. 1972, c. 81).

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

1 1. Section 2 of P. L. 1972, c. 81 (C. 9:17B-2) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 2. The Legislature by this act does not intend to:

4 a. Effect the release from confinement or transfer from one
5 institution to another of a person attaining age 18 rather than 21
6 years;

7 b. Affect the right of a court to exercise its discretion in not
8 sentencing a person between 18 and 21 years of age to a State
9 Prison;

10 c. Alter the right of persons under 20 years of age to be eligible
11 for enrollment in public schools;

12 d. Alter the provisions of the uniform law relative to gifts to
13 minors;

14 e. Alter the provisions of N. J. S. 2A:14-21 with respect to the
15 time within which a person under 21 years of age on January 1,
16 1973 may commence an action or make an entry under a cause or
17 right accrued prior to said date.

18 *f. Alter the provision of services pursuant to the laws relating*
19 *to dependent and neglected children, allocated to chapter 4C of*
20 *Title 30 of the Revised Statutes (C. 30:4C-1 to 30:4C-44), to per-*
21 *sons between 18 and 21 years of age who seek to avail themselves*
22 *of such services and who are enrolled in a school or training pro-*
23 *gram below college level or who require a course of treatment for*

24 *emotionally, cognitively or physically disabled persons.*

1 2. Section 3 of P. L. 1972, c. 81 (C. 9:17B-3) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 3. Except with respect to the provisions of N. J. S. 2A:14-21,
4 *with respect to the provision of services pursuant to the laws re-*
5 *lating to dependent and neglected children, allocated to chapter 4C*
6 *of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes (C. 30:4C-1 to 30:4C-44), to*
7 *persons between 18 and 21 years of age who seek to avail them-*
8 *selves of such services and who are enrolled in a school or training*
9 *program below college level or who require a course of treatment*
10 *for emotionally, cognitively or physically disabled persons, with*
11 *respect to the right of a court to take any action it deems appro-*
12 *priate and in the interest of a person under 21 years of age, or to*
13 *require a change in action heretofore taken by a court with respect*
14 *to a person under 21 years of age, or with respect to the provisions*
15 *of the "New Jersey Uniform Gifts to Minors Act" (P. L. 1963,*
16 *c. 177, C. 46:38-13 et seq.), every person 18 or more years of age*
17 *shall in all other matters and for all other purposes be deemed to*
18 *be an adult and, notwithstanding any other provision of law to the*
19 *contrary, shall have the same legal capacity to act and the same*
20 *powers and obligations as a person 21 or more years of age. Except*
21 *as herein otherwise provided, every act or action of any such person*
22 *shall be as valid, binding and enforceable by or against such person*
23 *as if, at the time such act or action was performed or undertaken,*
24 *such person was 21 or more years of age and no act or action by*
25 *any such person performed or undertaken on or after the effective*
26 *date of this act shall be subject to disaffirmance because of minority.*

1 3. This act shall take effect January 1, 1973.

STATEMENT

This bill will permit the Department of Institutions and Agencies to continue supervision and maintenance of persons between 18 and 21 who are enrolled in a school or training program below college level or who require treatment for emotionally, cognitively or physically disabled persons.

These young adults are in foster care placement or institutions as the result of neglect, abuse or family deterioration. Because of these misfortunes, they are generally at least 1 year behind the general population in scholastic achievement.

Completion of their high school education and vocational and job training is necessary to enable them to become self-sufficient.

For those who are seriously disabled, this legislation will permit them to participate in programs which are in part Federally funded.

Otherwise, they must be cared for in other State programs which are entirely State financed. It is estimated this legislation will permit approximately 400 young adults each year to continue their education below college and receive necessary treatment. The approximate cost of \$400,000.00 per year is not an additional cost to the State Government, but rather a continuation of that amount which is presently spent for these purposes.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DECEMBER 29, 1972

FOR RELEASE:
IMMEDIATE

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Governor William T. Cahill signed into law today two bills to aid the state's faltering bus companies by subsidizing student fares, reducing registration fees and eliminating certain taxes.

Senate Bill 1150, sponsored by Senator Garrett W. Hagedorn, (R., Bergen) provides that the State will reimburse bus operators for reduced students' fares by paying the difference between the student fare and the adult fare. In most cases, the student fare is approximately two-thirds of the full fare.

The bill appropriates \$950,000 to fund the act, and stipulates that the bus operator must also establish a program by which purchasers of student fare tickets may redeem unused tickets.

Senate Bill 1151, also sponsored by Senator Hagedorn, establishes a flat \$10 registration fee for buses, provided that 75 per cent or more of the passengers carried in the previous year were regular route passengers. It replaces graduated fees that ranged up to \$48.

The bill also eliminates the excise tax, gross receipt tax and the franchise tax paid to municipalities. The bill appropriates \$675,000 to reimburse municipalities for losses in revenue resulting from elimination of the franchise tax.

In signing the bills, Governor Cahill called attention to the plight of the bus companies which have been caught in the squeeze of declining revenues and escalating costs. "The bus companies are a vital element in our mass transportation system; one that we must attempt to maintain. It is essential that we try to do all we can to ease the pressures on this ailing industry."

The Governor has also signed the following bills:

Assembly Bill 1545, sponsored by Assemblyman Chester Apy (R. Monmouth), which permits the Department of Institutions and Agencies to continue supervision and maintenance of persons between 18 and 21 who are enrolled in a school or training program below college level or who require treatment for emotionally, cognitively or physically disabled persons. The bill was recommended following passage this year of the Age of Majority Law which conferred adult status on youths at 18 years of age rather than at 21.

Senate Bill 1210, sponsored by Senator Raymond H. Bateman (R. Somerset), which appropriates \$8,500 for expenses incurred in connection with the 1972 general election for advertising of Public Question.

Assembly Bill 1529, sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph A. Le Fante (D., Hudson), which allocates the \$1,500,000 appropriated for payment to Hudson County for emergency aid to certain county hospitals.

Senate Bill 650, sponsored by Senator Harold C. Hollenbeck (R. Bergen), which adds to the State Highway System a specified route in Bergen County.

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