

27: 1A-28.1 to 28.6

December 17, 1969

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF R.S. 27:1A-28.1 to 28.6
(Buses and trains - state to continue service)

Report in early 1969 recommended state subsidy of bus lines:

COPY NO. 1

974.90 N.J. Dept. of Transportation.
T764 Buses: crisis and response. 1969.
1969

Bill enacted:

L. 1969, Chapter 134 - S778
Introduced May 5 by Schiaffo [and 13 others].
Amended in Assembly Committee (copy of original bill and amendment enclosed)

Newspaper clippings enclosed:

"Bus subsidies are urged to aid commuter", Courier-Post, 1/13/69.
"Goldberg wants N.J. to run the buses", TET, 5/2/69.
"GOP forestalls state grant for ailing bus line. Phila. Inq., 5/22/69
"Legislature OK's bus line subsidy", APP, 7/3/69.
"Subsidies seen keeping subway running. NEN, 7/3/69.
"Saving the subway", NEN, 7/9/69.

For other clippings, see:

V.F. - N.J. - Buses (1969).

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SENATE, No. 778

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 1969

By Senators SCHIAFFO, CRABIEL, TANZMAN, LYNCH, DICKINSON, HAGEDORN, LACORTE, RINALDO, BATEMAN and ITALIANO

(Without Reference)

AN ACT concerning bus services, providing for public support thereof, supplementing the Transportation Act of 1966, approved December 12, 1966 (P. L. 1966, c. 301), and making an appropriation therefor.

- 1 WHEREAS, Buses are the mainstay of public transportation in New
2 Jersey, carrying an estimated 1.2 million passengers daily; and
3 WHEREAS, An increasing number of bus companies serving urban
4 areas have been developing financial difficulties in rendering
5 essential bus services; and
6 WHEREAS, The bus companies in financial difficulty serve thousands
7 of daily passengers in a great number of municipalities through-
8 out the State; and
9 WHEREAS, A number of the State's urban centers are threatened
10 with the total loss of bus service to the detriment of the persons
11 and areas served; and
12 WHEREAS, Public Service Co-ordinated Transport Company has
13 announced its intention to terminate its lease on the Newark city
14 subway which carries an estimated 15,000 passengers daily and
15 is a critical link in the Essex county public transportation sys-
16 tem; and
17 WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation is undertaking a
18 comprehensive study directed toward a long range solution of
19 the bus crisis which will take up to a year to complete and imple-
20 ment; and
21 WHEREAS, There is a necessity for action at the State level of
22 government if substantial loss of bus services is to be prevented
23 while the necessary studies are carried out; now, therefore,

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

1 1. The Department of Transportation is hereby authorized to
2 contract with any motor bus carrier operating bus or rail transit
3 service in the State which is in imminent danger of terminating
4 all bus services or all rail transit services provided by said motor
5 bus companies to insure the continuance of that portion of the bus
6 and rail transit services which is essential. Payment by the depart-
7 ment under such a contract shall not exceed the actual cost to the
8 motor bus carrier for providing such services and shall not include
9 any return on investment.

1 2. If any motor bus carrier shall terminate all bus or all transit
2 services and shall be unable or unwilling to enter into a contract
3 with the Department of Transportation, as provided in section 1
4 hereof, the department may contract, by negotiated agreement, with
5 any other motor bus carrier in the State to render minimum essen-
6 tial motor bus or transit services in the area affected by the termina-
7 tion of services. Such services need not be of the same quality or fre-
8 quency or along the same routes as the service terminated. Any
9 contract entered into pursuant to the provisions of this section and
10 any services rendered thereunder shall not be subject to regulation
11 by the Board of Public Utility Commissioners or subject to the
12 provisions of articles 2 and 4 of chapter 4 of Title 48 of the Revised
13 Statutes.

1 3. In any proceeding before the Board of Public Utility Commis-
2 sioners for decreasing or abandonment of service, any contract pay-
3 ments offered to a motor bus carrier for continuing service under
4 the provisions of section 1 hereof shall be considered by the board
5 as revenues available to the carrier in making any determination
6 on the application.

1 4. If any public agency or authority shall assume responsibility
2 for operation of motor bus services in order to avoid the loss of
3 such services, during the first year of operations of service the
4 department may enter into a contract with said public agency or
5 authority in the same manner and to the same extent as provided in
6 section 1 hereof.

1 5. Any contract authorized by the provisions of this act shall be
2 approved by and entered into by the commuter operating agency
3 of the department. No such contract shall remain in force and
4 effect for more than 30 days unless prior thereto the county or
5 counties or public agency thereof in which such essential services
6 are being provided shall have entered into an agreement with the
7 department to reimburse the department for not less than 25% of

8 the cost of providing such passenger service. Counties are hereby
9 authorized to enter into such agreements and to appropriate funds
10 to cover the cost of agreements with the department for the pur-
11 pose of preserving essential bus or transit services.

1 6. There is hereby appropriated from the General Treasury to
2 the Department of Transportation the sum of \$750,000.00 to carry
3 out the purposes of this act for the period extending to June 30,
4 1970.

1 7. This act shall take effect immediately but shall terminate on
2 July 1, 1970.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO
SENATE, No. 778

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED JULY 2, 1969

Amend page 3, section 5, after line 11, insert a new section as follows:

“6. The Standing Reference Transportation and Public Utilities Committees of the Senate and General Assembly are constituted a joint committee to confer with and receive reports from the Commissioner of Transportation with respect to the implementation of this act by the commuter operating agency. Not less than 15 days prior to the entering into any contract pursuant to section 1 or 4 of this act, the commissioner shall report to the members of the joint committee his intention to enter into such a contract and the essential features of such contract.”

Amend page 3, section 6, line 1, omit “6.”, insert “7.”

Amend page 3, section 7, line 1, omit “7.”, insert “8.”