

27:25-28

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2009 **CHAPTER:** 261

NJSA: 27:25-28 (Increases funding of Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program)

BILL NO: S1830 (Substituted for A2046)

SPONSOR(S) Sacco and Others

DATE INTRODUCED: May 15, 2008

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** ---

SENATE: Transportation
 Budget and Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** January 11, 2010

SENATE: December 10, 2009

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 17, 2010

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced version of bill enacted)

S1830

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: Yes Transportation 6-9-08
 Budget 11-13-08

(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

A2046

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 4 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes Transportation 6-12-08
 Tourism 3-9-09
 Appropriations 11-23-09

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

LAW/RWH

SENATE, No. 1830

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 15, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)

Assemblyman JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman ALBERT COUTINHO

District 29 (Essex and Union)

Assemblywoman LINDA STENDER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Madden, Buono, Vitale, Haines, S.Kean, Stack, Sarlo, Girgenti, Gordon, Assemblywoman Wagner, Assemblymen L.Smith, Diegnan, Conners, Assemblywoman Voss, Assemblymen Albano, Milam, Assemblywoman Oliver, Assemblymen Caputo, Schaer, Ramos, Vas, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttel, Tucker, Assemblymen Chiappone, Rumana, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Prieto, Rudder, Assemblywoman Addiego, Assemblymen Amodeo, Polistina, Assemblywoman Rodriguez, Assemblymen Moriarty, Rible, Assemblywoman Angelini, Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblyman Burzichelli, Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblymen Dancer, Johnson, DeAngelo, Assemblywoman Casagrande, Assemblyman O'Scanlon, Assemblywomen Pou, Evans, Riley and Spencer

SYNOPSIS

Increases funding of Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/12/2010)

1 AN ACT concerning the funding of “The Senior Citizen and
2 Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program” and
3 amending P.L.1983, c.578.

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

7
8 1. Section 4 of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-28) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 4. a. The board shall establish and administer a program to be
11 known as "The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation
12 Assistance Program" for the following purposes:

13 **[a.](1)** To assist counties **[(1)]** to develop and provide
14 accessible feeder transportation service to accessible fixed-route
15 transportation services where such services are available, and
16 accessible local transit service to senior citizens and the disabled,
17 which may include but not be limited to door-to-door service, fixed
18 route service, local fare subsidy, and user-side subsidy, which may
19 include **[by]** but not be limited to private ride or taxi fare subsidy;
20 and **[(2)]** to coordinate the activities of the various participants in
21 this program in providing the services to be rendered at the county
22 level and between counties**[.]and**;

23 **[b.](2)** To enable the corporation **[(1)]** to develop, provide and
24 maintain capital improvements that afford accessibility to fixed
25 route and other transit services in order to make rail cars, rail
26 stations, bus shelters and other bus equipment accessible to senior
27 citizens and the disabled; **[(2)]** to render technical information and
28 assistance to counties eligible for assistance under this act; and
29 **[(3)]** to coordinate the program within and among counties.

30 b. In the State fiscal year beginning July 1 following the
31 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
32 Legislature as this bill) and in each fiscal year thereafter, there shall
33 be appropriated to the corporation from the revenues deposited in
34 the Casino Revenue Fund established pursuant to section 145 of
35 P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-145) a sum equal to 8.5% of the revenues
36 deposited in the fund during the preceding fiscal year, as
37 determined by the State Treasurer, to effectuate the purposes and
38 provisions of P.L. 1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.).

39 (cf: P.L.1983, c.578, s.4)

40
41 2. Section 7 of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-31) is amended to
42 read as follows:

43 7. a. Moneys under this program shall be allocated by the
44 corporation in the following manner:

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 (1) 85% shall be available to be allocated to eligible counties for
2 the purposes specified under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of
3 section 4 of this act.

4 (2) 15% shall be available for use by the corporation for the
5 purposes specified under paragraph (2) of subsection **[b.]a.**
6 section 4 of this act and for the general administration of the
7 program, but no more than 10% of the total moneys allocated under
8 this program shall be used for the general administration of the
9 program.

10 b. The amount of money which each eligible county may
11 receive shall be based upon the number of persons resident in that
12 county of 60 years of age or older expressed as a percentage of the
13 whole number of persons resident in this State of 60 years or older,
14 as provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. As similar data
15 become available for the disabled population, such data shall be
16 used in conjunction with the senior citizen data to determine the
17 county allocation formula. No eligible county shall receive less
18 than \$150,000.00 during a fiscal year under this program, except
19 that during the first fiscal year no county shall receive less than
20 \$50,000.00 nor more than \$150,000.00.

21 c. The governing body of an eligible county, or a group or
22 groups designated as an applicant or as applicants by the county
23 after a public hearing in which senior citizens and the disabled shall
24 have the opportunity to comment on the appropriateness of such
25 designation, may make application to the board for moneys
26 available under subsection b. of this section. The application shall
27 be in the form of a proposal to the board for transportation
28 assistance and shall specify the degree to which the proposal meets
29 the purposes of the program under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of
30 section 4 of this act and the implementation criteria under the
31 program guidelines and the proposal shall have been considered at a
32 public hearing. The board shall allocate moneys based upon a
33 review of the merits of the proposals in meeting the purposes of the
34 program, and the implementation criteria, under the program
35 guidelines. The governing body of an eligible county shall schedule
36 a public hearing annually for interested parties to provide the
37 governing body with any facts, materials, or recommendations that
38 would be of assistance regarding the efficacy of the program
39 established under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of section 4 of this
40 act.

41 (cf: P.L.1995, c.350, s.1)

42

43 3. Section 11 of P.L.1983, c.578 is amended to read as follows:

44 11. There is appropriated to the New Jersey Transit Corporation
45 from the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund
46 established pursuant to section 145 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-145)
47 the sum of \$3,000,000.00 to effectuate the purposes and provisions
48 of this act during the first fiscal year in which this legislation is

1 enacted. In the fiscal year following the effective date of this
2 legislation there shall be appropriated to the New Jersey Transit
3 Corporation from the Casino Revenue Fund to effectuate the
4 purposes and provisions of this act a sum of \$10,000,000.00[, and
5 in each subsequent fiscal year there shall be appropriated to the
6 corporation from the Casino Revenue Fund a sum equal to 7.5% of
7 the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund during the
8 preceding fiscal year, as determined by the State Treasurer].

9

10 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

STATEMENT

14

15 This bill increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The
16 Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program”
17 from 7.5% to 8.5% of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue
18 Fund. Section 2 of the bill revises references to the program to
19 reflect the amendments in section 1 of the bill.

20 The language providing for the annual appropriation level of
21 7.5% for the program is contained in a section of the “Senior
22 Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act,”
23 P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.), which was not codified. This
24 bill removes the annual appropriation language from the uncodified
25 section and places it, at the increased level, in a section of the act
26 which is codified in order to make the annual appropriation
27 language easier to locate.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1830

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 9, 2008

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1830.

This bill increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program” from 7.5% to 8.5% of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund. Section 2 of the bill revises references to the program to reflect the amendments in section 1 of the bill.

The language providing for the annual appropriation level of 7.5% for the program is contained in a section of the “Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act,” P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.), which was not codified. This bill removes the annual appropriation language from the uncodified section and places it, at the increased level, in a section of the act which is codified in order to make the annual appropriation language easier to locate.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1830

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 13, 2008

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1830.

The bill increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program” from 7.5% to 8.5% of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund.

The language providing for the annual appropriation level of 7.5% for the program is contained in a section of the “Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act,” P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.), which was not codified. This bill removes the annual appropriation language from the uncodified section and places it, at the increased level, in a section of the act which is codified in order to make the annual appropriation language easier to locate.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2046.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Casino Revenue Fund (CRF) receives the revenue from taxes imposed on the casinos and other related activities. Appropriations from this fund are constitutionally required to be used for reductions in property taxes, rental, and utility charges and for specified health and transportation benefits to eligible senior and disabled citizens. There are approximately 15 State programs that receive CRF funding. The bill does not affect the revenue to the CRF, nor to the budgets of those programs, and thus has no financial impact upon the budget. The bill does affect the allocation of CRF funding among those programs. An increase in the proportion of CRF monies statutorily allocated to the paratransit program entails a reduction in the proportion of monies allocated to other programs. It would not, however, entail a reduction in the actual amount of funds that would be available under the lower allocation to those other programs if CRF revenue were to increase by a sufficient amount to offset the decrease in the allocation percentage.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 1830
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 15, 2008

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Increases funding of Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program.
- Type of Impact:** Potential reallocation of funding among programs supported by “The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program” from Casino Revenue Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Law and Public Safety, Department of Transportation, New Jersey Transit Corporation.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	No Impact - See comments below		
State Revenue	No Impact - See comments below		

- Enactment of the legislation will not increase or decrease State revenue or expenditures.
- No estimate is provided for the possible cost to the State. Data is not available to estimate whether the Casino Revenue Fund will have sufficient revenue to provide for the increase without affecting programs for which it is a source of funding.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 1830 of 2008 increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program” from 7.5 percent to 8.5 percent of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund (CRF). This program, often referred to as the “paratransit program”, funds county coordinated paratransit services for senior citizens and people with disabilities, as well as accessibility improvements for New Jersey Transit’s fixed route bus and rail system. Paratransit services use lift equipped vans and minibuses which may

operate modified fixed route, curb to curb, door to door, or on an advance reservation basis. Services may also feed into existing mass transit bus stops, train or light rail stations. Currently, the Program receives 7.5 percent of total CRF funds, on an annual basis. S-1830 proposes to increase this appropriation by 1 percent, from 7.5 percent to 8.5 percent.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The CRF receives the revenue from taxes imposed on the casinos and other related activities. Appropriations from this fund are constitutionally required to be used for reductions in property taxes, rental, and utility charges and for specified health and transportation benefits to eligible senior and disabled citizens. There are approximately 15 State programs that receive CRF funding. The bill does not affect the revenue to the CRF, nor to the budgets of those programs, and thus has no financial impact upon the budget. The bill does affect the allocation of CRF funding among those programs. An increase in the proportion of CRF monies statutorily allocated to the paratransit program entails a reduction in the proportion of monies allocated to other programs. It would not, however, entail a reduction in the actual amount of funds that would be available under the lower allocation to those other programs if CRF revenue were to increase by a sufficient amount to offset the decrease in the allocation percentage.

For the current fiscal year (FY 2009), the amount of revenue anticipated to be available in the CRF is \$414.8 million. Of that amount, 7.5 percent is \$31.1 million. An increase in the allocation percentage to 8.5 percent of CRF revenue would have raised the amount of the statutory allocation to the paratransit program in this fiscal year to \$35.2 million, approximately \$4 million more than the statutory allocation as currently prescribed. Thus, under the statutory allocation, there would have been approximately \$4 million less available for other programs that benefit from the CRF if the provisions of S-1830 had been in effect for this year's budget. However, because the amount actually appropriated to the paratransit program in FY 2009 (\$33 million) was almost \$2 million greater than the amount prescribed under the statutory dedication, the effect of increasing that actual appropriation to the level prescribed under S-1830 would have been to reduce the amount of CRF funding available to other programs only by slightly more than \$2 million.

It is of course possible that the receipt of more total CRF revenue than is anticipated in the FY 2009 Appropriations Act could offset that \$2 million reduction in the allocation for other programs. There is, however, some indication that CRF revenues will actually decrease in the current and future years. The Casino Control Commission has reported that revenues for the first eight months of 2008 were down 5.2 percent from that same period in 2007; if revenues for FY 2009 decline at the rate they did for the first eight months of FY 2008, there would be 5.2 percent, or approximately \$8 million, less available in the CRF in this fiscal year. Any decline in CRF revenue will result in a decline in funding available for the programs it supports. Moreover the fact that the tax on casino comps will be eliminated entirely after FY 2009, coupled with the downward trend in overall casino revenues, raises the possibility that the CRF may experience a considerable decline in revenue in future years. In addition, slot machine venues that have

opened in the Philadelphia area are projected to have a negative impact on New Jersey casino revenues going forward.

It should be noted that if the CRF cannot fund a designated CRF-funded program, additional appropriations may be made from the General Fund to ensure that those programs are fully funded.

Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communication Section

*Analyst: Thomas Churchelow
Deputy Counsel*

*Approved: David J. Rosen
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-1 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 2046

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman ALBERT COUTINHO

District 29 (Essex and Union)

Assemblywoman LINDA STENDER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Wagner, Assemblymen L.Smith, Diegnan, Conners, Assemblywoman Voss, Assemblymen Albano, Milam, Assemblywoman Oliver, Assemblymen Caputo, Schaer, Ramos, Vas, Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Tucker, Assemblymen Chiappone, Rumana, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblymen Prieto, Rudder, Assemblywoman Addiego, Assemblymen Amodeo, Polistina, Assemblywoman Rodriguez, Assemblymen Moriarty, Rible, Assemblywoman Angelini, Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblyman Burzichelli, Assemblywoman McHose, Assemblymen Dancer, Johnson, DeAngelo, Assemblywoman Casagrande, Assemblyman O'Scanlon, Assemblywomen Pou, Evans, Riley and Spencer

SYNOPSIS

Increases funding of Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/12/2010)

1 AN ACT concerning the funding of "The Senior Citizen and
2 Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program" and
3 amending P.L.1983, c.578.

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

7
8 1. Section 4 of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-28) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 4. a. The board shall establish and administer a program to be
11 known as "The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation
12 Assistance Program" for the following purposes:

13 **[a.](1)** To assist counties **[(1)]** to develop and provide
14 accessible feeder transportation service to accessible fixed-route
15 transportation services where such services are available, and
16 accessible local transit service to senior citizens and the disabled,
17 which may include but not be limited to door-to-door service, fixed
18 route service, local fare subsidy, and user-side subsidy, which may
19 include **[by]** but not be limited to private ride or taxi fare subsidy;
20 and **[(2)]** to coordinate the activities of the various participants in
21 this program in providing the services to be rendered at the county
22 level and between counties**[.]and**;

23 **[b.](2)** To enable the corporation **[(1)]** to develop, provide and
24 maintain capital improvements that afford accessibility to fixed
25 route and other transit services in order to make rail cars, rail
26 stations, bus shelters and other bus equipment accessible to senior
27 citizens and the disabled; **[(2)]** to render technical information and
28 assistance to counties eligible for assistance under this act; and
29 **[(3)]** to coordinate the program within and among counties.

30 b. In the State fiscal year beginning July 1 following the
31 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
32 Legislature as this bill) and in each fiscal year thereafter, there shall
33 be appropriated to the corporation from the revenues deposited in
34 the Casino Revenue Fund established pursuant to section 145 of
35 P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-145) a sum equal to 8.5% of the revenues
36 deposited in the fund during the preceding fiscal year, as
37 determined by the State Treasurer, to effectuate the purposes and
38 provisions of P.L. 1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.).

39 (cf: P.L.1983, c.578, s.4)

40
41 2. Section 7 of P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-31) is amended to read
42 as follows:

43 7. a. Moneys under this program shall be allocated by the
44 corporation in the following manner:

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 (1) 85% shall be available to be allocated to eligible counties for
2 the purposes specified under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of
3 section 4 of this act.

4 (2) 15% shall be available for use by the corporation for the
5 purposes specified under paragraph (2) of subsection **[b.]a.** of
6 section 4 of this act and for the general administration of the
7 program, but no more than 10% of the total moneys allocated under
8 this program shall be used for the general administration of the
9 program.

10 b. The amount of money which each eligible county may receive
11 shall be based upon the number of persons resident in that county of
12 60 years of age or older expressed as a percentage of the whole
13 number of persons resident in this State of 60 years or older, as
14 provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. As similar data become
15 available for the disabled population, such data shall be used in
16 conjunction with the senior citizen data to determine the county
17 allocation formula. No eligible county shall receive less than
18 \$150,000.00 during a fiscal year under this program, except that
19 during the first fiscal year no county shall receive less than
20 \$50,000.00 nor more than \$150,000.00.

21 c. The governing body of an eligible county, or a group or
22 groups designated as an applicant or as applicants by the county
23 after a public hearing in which senior citizens and the disabled shall
24 have the opportunity to comment on the appropriateness of such
25 designation, may make application to the board for moneys
26 available under subsection b. of this section. The application shall
27 be in the form of a proposal to the board for transportation
28 assistance and shall specify the degree to which the proposal meets
29 the purposes of the program under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of
30 section 4 of this act and the implementation criteria under the
31 program guidelines and the proposal shall have been considered at a
32 public hearing. The board shall allocate moneys based upon a
33 review of the merits of the proposals in meeting the purposes of the
34 program, and the implementation criteria, under the program
35 guidelines. The governing body of an eligible county shall schedule
36 a public hearing annually for interested parties to provide the
37 governing body with any facts, materials, or recommendations that
38 would be of assistance regarding the efficacy of the program
39 established under paragraph (1) of subsection a. of section 4 of this
40 act.

41 (cf: P.L.1995, c.350, s.1)

42

43 3. Section 11 of P.L.1983, c.578 is amended to read as follows:

44 11. There is appropriated to the New Jersey Transit Corporation
45 from the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund
46 established pursuant to section 145 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-145)
47 the sum of \$3,000,000.00 to effectuate the purposes and provisions
48 of this act during the first fiscal year in which this legislation is

1 enacted. In the fiscal year following the effective date of this
2 legislation there shall be appropriated to the New Jersey Transit
3 Corporation from the Casino Revenue Fund to effectuate the
4 purposes and provisions of this act a sum of \$10,000,000.00[, and
5 in each subsequent fiscal year there shall be appropriated to the
6 corporation from the Casino Revenue Fund a sum equal to 7.5% of
7 the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund during the
8 preceding fiscal year, as determined by the State Treasurer].

9

10 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

STATEMENT

14

15 This bill increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The
16 Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program”
17 from 7.5% to 8.5% of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue
18 Fund. Section 2 of the bill revises references to the program to
19 reflect the amendments in section 1 of the bill.

20 The language providing for the annual appropriation level of
21 7.5% for the program is contained in a section of the “Senior
22 Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act,”
23 P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.), which was not codified. This
24 bill removes the annual appropriation language from the uncodified
25 section and places it, at the increased level, in a section of the act
26 which is codified in order to make the annual appropriation
27 language easier to locate.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC WORKS AND
INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2046

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2008

The Assembly Transportation, Public Works and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2046.

As reported, this bill increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program” from 7.5% to 8.5% of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund. Section 2 of the bill revises references to the program to reflect the amendments in section 1 of the bill.

The language providing for the annual appropriation level of 7.5% for the program is contained in an uncodified section of the “Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act,” P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.). This bill removes the annual appropriation language from the uncodified section and places it, at the increased level, in a section of the act which is codified in order to make the annual appropriation language easier to locate.

ASSEMBLY TOURISM AND GAMING COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2046

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 9, 2009

The Assembly Tourism and Gaming Committee reports favorably Assembly, No. 2046.

This bill increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program” from 7.5% to 8.5% of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund. Section 2 of the bill revises references to the program to reflect the amendments in section 1 of the bill.

The language providing for the annual appropriation level of 7.5% for the program is contained in a section of the “Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act,” P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.), which was not codified. This bill removes the annual appropriation language from the uncodified section and places it, at the increased level, in a section of the act which is codified in order to make the annual appropriation language easier to locate.

This bill is identical to Senate, No. 1830.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2046

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 23, 2009

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2046.

The bill increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program” from 7.5% to 8.5% of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund.

The language providing for the annual appropriation level of 7.5% for the program is contained in a section of the “Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Act,” P.L.1983, c.578 (C.27:25-25 et seq.), which was not codified. This bill removes the annual appropriation language from the uncodified section and places it, at the increased level, in a section of the act which is codified in order to make the annual appropriation language easier to locate.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1830.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Casino Revenue Fund (CRF) receives the revenue from taxes imposed on the casinos and other related activities. Appropriations from this fund are constitutionally required to be used for reductions in property taxes, rental, and utility charges and for specified health and transportation benefits to eligible senior and disabled citizens. There are approximately 15 State programs that receive CRF funding. The bill does not affect the revenue to the CRF, nor to the budgets of those programs, and thus has no financial impact upon the budget. The bill does affect the allocation of CRF funding among those programs. An increase in the proportion of CRF monies statutorily allocated to the paratransit program entails a reduction in the proportion of monies allocated to other programs. It would not, however, entail a reduction in the actual amount of funds that would be available under the lower allocation to those other programs if CRF revenue were to increase by a sufficient amount to offset the decrease in the allocation percentage.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 2046
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 15, 2008

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Increases funding of Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program.
- Type of Impact:** Potential reallocation of funding among programs supported by “The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program” from Casino Revenue Fund.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Department of Law and Public Safety, Department of Transportation, New Jersey Transit Corporation.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	No Impact - See comments below		
State Revenue	No Impact - See comments below		

- Enactment of the legislation will not increase or decrease State revenue or expenditures.
- No estimate is provided for the possible cost to the State. Data is not available to estimate whether the Casino Revenue Fund will have sufficient revenue to provide for the increase without affecting programs for which it is a source of funding.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Assembly Bill No. 2046 of 2008 increases the annual appropriation requirement for “The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Program” from 7.5 percent to 8.5 percent of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund (CRF). This program, often referred to as the “paratransit program”, funds county coordinated paratransit services for senior citizens and people with disabilities, as well as accessibility improvements for New Jersey Transit’s fixed route bus and rail system. Paratransit services use lift equipped vans and minibuses which may

operate modified fixed route, curb to curb, door to door, or on an advance reservation basis. Services may also feed into existing mass transit bus stops, train or light rail stations. Currently, the Program receives 7.5 percent of total CRF funds, on an annual basis. A-2046 proposes to increase this appropriation by 1 percent, from 7.5 percent to 8.5 percent.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Casino Revenue Fund (CRF) receives the revenue from taxes imposed on the casinos and other related activities. Appropriations from this fund are constitutionally required to be used for reductions in property taxes, rental, and utility charges and for specified health and transportation benefits to eligible senior and disabled citizens. There are approximately 15 State programs that receive CRF funding. The bill does not affect the revenue to the CRF, nor to the budgets of those programs, and thus has no financial impact upon the budget. The bill does affect the allocation of CRF funding among those programs. An increase in the proportion of CRF monies statutorily allocated to the paratransit program entails a reduction in the proportion of monies allocated to other programs. It would not, however, entail a reduction in the actual amount of funds that would be available under the lower allocation to those other programs if CRF revenue were to increase by a sufficient amount to offset the decrease in the allocation percentage.

For the current fiscal year (FY 2009), the amount of revenue anticipated to be available in the CRF is \$414.8 million. Of that amount, 7.5 percent is \$31.1 million. An increase in the allocation percentage to 8.5 percent of CRF revenue would have raised the amount of the statutory allocation to the paratransit program in this fiscal year to \$35.2 million, approximately \$4 million more than the statutory allocation as currently prescribed. Thus, under the statutory allocation, there would have been approximately \$4 million less available for other programs that benefit from the CRF if the provisions of A-2046 had been in effect for this year's budget. However, because the amount actually appropriated to the paratransit program in FY 2009 (\$33 million) was almost \$2 million greater than the amount prescribed under the statutory dedication, the effect of increasing that actual appropriation to the level prescribed under A-2046 would have been to reduce the amount of CRF funding available to other programs only by slightly more than \$2 million.

It is of course possible that the receipt of more total CRF revenue than is anticipated in the FY 2009 Appropriations Act could offset that \$2 million reduction in the allocation for other programs. There is, however, some indication that CRF revenues will actually decrease in the current and future years. The Casino Control Commission has reported that revenues for the first eight months of 2008 were down 5.2 percent from that same period in 2007; if revenues for FY 2009 decline at the rate they did for the first eight months of FY 2008, there would be 5.2 percent, or approximately \$8 million, less available in the CRF in this fiscal year. Any decline in CRF revenue will result in a decline in funding available for the programs it supports. Moreover the fact that the tax on casino comps will be eliminated entirely after FY 2009, coupled with the downward trend in overall casino revenues, raises the possibility that the CRF may experience a considerable decline in revenue in future years. In addition, slot machine venues that have

opened in the Philadelphia area are projected to have a negative impact on New Jersey casino revenues going forward.

It should be noted that if the CRF cannot fund a designated CRF-funded program, additional appropriations may be made from the General Fund to ensure that those programs are fully funded.

Section: Authorities, Utilities, Transportation and Communication

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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-1 et seq.).