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("Transportation Trust Fund")

NJSA:

27:1B-3

LAWS OF:

1995

CHAPTER:

108

BILL NO:

A99

SPONSOR (8):

DeCroce and others

DATE INTRODUCED:

May 8, 1995

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY:

Appropriations; Transportation

SENATE:

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:

Second reprint (cc) enacted

Yes

Amendments during passage

denoted by superscript numbers

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY:

May 22, 1995

SENATE:

May 25, 1995

DATE OF APPROVAL:

May 30, 1995

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT:

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:

Yes

SENATE:

No

FISCAL NOTE:

Yes

VETO MESSAGE:

No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING:

No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

Yes

See newspaper clippings--attached:

"\$3.5 billion transit bill is signed by Whitman," 5-31-95.
"Governor OKs transit bill," 5-31-95, Courier-News.
"Trust fund steams ahead," 5-31-95, Asbury Park Press.

974.90

Legislature. Senate. Transportation Committee. New Jersey.

Public hearing, held 6-1-95, Trenton, 1995.

T764 1995

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[CORRECTED COPY]

[SECOND REPRINT] ASSEMBLY, No. 99

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 1995

By Assemblymen DeCROCE, KAVANAUGH, Augustine, Gibson, Gregg, Malone and Assemblywoman Murphy

AN ACT concerning transportation funding, amending various parts of the statutory law and supplementing P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-1 et seq.) and repealing sections 3 and 5 of P.L.1992, c.10.

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32 33 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- 1. Section 3 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-3) is amended to read as follows:
- 3. The following words or terms as used in this act shall have the following meaning unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:
- a. "Act" means this New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act of 1984.
- b. "Authority" means the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority created by section 4 of this act.
- 17 c. "Bonds" means bonds issued by the authority pursuant to the 18 act.
 - d. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation.
 - e. "Department" means the Department of Transportation.
 - f. "Federal aid highway" means any highway within the State in connection with which the State receives payment or reimbursement from the federal government under the terms of Title 23, United States Code or any amendment, successor, or replacement thereof, for the purposes contained in the act.
 - g. "Federal government" means the United States of America, and any officer, department, board, commission, bureau, division, corporation, agency or instrumentality thereof.
 - h. ["New Jersey Expressway Authority" means the public corporation created by section 4 of chapter 10 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1962 as amended or its successor.] "South Jersey Transportation Authority" means the public corporation created by section 4 of P.L.1991, c.252 (C.27:25A-4) or its successor.
- i. "New Jersey Highway Authority" means the public corporation created by section 4 of [chapter 16 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1952 as amended] P.L.1952, c.16 (C.27:12B-4) or its successor.
- j. "New Jersey Turnpike Authority" means the public corporation created by section 3 of [chapter 454 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1948 as amended] P.L.1948, c.454 (C.27:23-3) or its successor.
- 42 k. "Notes" means the notes issued by the authority pursuant to 43 the act.

 $\hbox{EXPLANATION---Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law. } \\$

l. "Public highways" means public roads, streets, expressways, freeways, parkways, motorways and boulevards, including bridges, tunnels, overpasses, underpasses, interchanges, rest areas, express bus roadways, bus pullouts and turnarounds, park-ride facilities, traffic circles, grade separations, traffic control devices, the elimination or improvement of crossings of railroads and highways, whether at grade or not at grade, and any facilities, equipment, property, rights of way, easements and interests therein needed for the construction, improvement and maintenance of highways.

m. "Public transportation project" means, in connection with public transportation service, passenger stations, shelters and terminals, automobile parking facilities, ramps, track connections, signal systems, power systems, information and communication systems, roadbeds, transit lanes or rights of way, equipment storage and servicing facilities, bridges, grade crossings, rail cars, locomotives, motorbuses and other motor vehicles, maintenance and garage facilities, revenue handling equipment and any other equipment, facility or property useful for or related to the provision of public transportation service.

- n. "State agency" means any officers, department, board, commission, bureau, division, agency or instrumentality of the State.
- o. "Toll road authorities" means and includes the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, the New Jersey Highway Authority and the [New Jersey Expressway Authority.] South Jersey Transportation Authority.
- p. "Transportation project" means, in addition to public highways and public transportation projects, any equipment, facility or property useful or related to the provision of any ground, waterborne or air transportation for the movement of people and goods.
- q. "Transportation system" means public highways, public transportation projects, other transportation projects, and all other methods of transportation for the movement of people and goods.
- r. "Maintenance" means, in relation to public transportation projects, direct costs of work necessary for preserving or maintaining the useful life of public transportation projects, provided the work performed is associated with the acquisition, installation and rehabilitation of components which are not included in the normal operating maintenance of equipment and facilities or replaced on a scheduled basis. The work shall ensure the useful life of the project for not less than four years and shall not include routine maintenance or inspection of equipment and facilities that is conducted on a scheduled basis. This definition shall not apply to the term "maintenance" as used in subsection l. of this section.
- s. "Circle of Mobility" means an essential group of related transit projects that include (1) the New Jersey Urban Core Project, as defined in section 3031 of the "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991," Pub.L.102-240, and consisting of the following elements: Secaucus Transfer, Kearny Connection, Waterfront Connection, Northeast Corridor Signal System, Hudson River Waterfront Transportation System,

Newark-Newark International Airport-Elizabeth Transit Link, a rail connection between Penn Station Newark and Broad Street Station, Newark, New York Penn Station Concourse, and the equipment needed to operate revenue service associated with improvements made by the project, and (2) the modification and reconstruction of the West Shore Line in Bergen County connected to Allied Junction/Secaucus Transfer Meadowlands Rail Center; the construction of a rail station and associated Meadowlands components at the Sports Complex; modification and reconstruction of the Susquehanna and Western Railway, as defined and provided in section 3035 (a) of the "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991"; and the modification and reconstruction of the Lackawanna Cutoff Commuter Rail Line connecting Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties to the North Jersey Transportation Rail Centers.

16 (cf: P.L.1995, c.84, s.2)

2. Section 4 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-4) is amended to read as follows:

4. a. There is hereby established in the department a public body corporate and politic, with corporate succession, to be known as the "New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority." For the purpose of complying with the provisions of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the authority is hereby allocated within the Department of Transportation, but notwithstanding said allocation, the authority shall be independent of any supervision or control by the department or by any board or officer thereof. The authority is hereby constituted as an instrumentality of the State, exercising public and essential governmental functions, no part of whose revenues shall accrue to the benefit of any individual, and the exercise by the authority of the powers conferred by the act shall be deemed and held to be an essential governmental function of the State.

b. The authority shall consist of five members as follows: the commissioner and the State Treasurer, who shall be members ex officio, and three public members, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the two remaining to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom upon recommendation of the President of the Senate and the other upon recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly. No more than three members of the authority shall be of the same political party. The public members appointed by the Governor shall serve a four year term, except that the public member appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the President of the Senate shall serve for a four year term and the public member appointed upon recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve for a two year term.

With respect to those public members first appointed by the Governor: the Senate shall advise and consent to the appointment of the member not appointed upon recommendation of the President and the Speaker within 30 days of the receipt thereof from the Governor, such appointment having been sent by the Governor to the Senate within 20 days following the effective

 date of this act; the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly shall send their recommendations for public members to the Governor within 20 days following the effective date of this act. The Governor has an additional 10 days to accept or reject in writing these recommendations.

Each public member shall hold office for the term of the member's appointment and until the member's successor shall have been appointed and qualified. A member shall be eligible for reappointment. Any vacancy in the membership occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.

- c. Each public member, except those appointed upon recommendation of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly, may be removed from office by the Governor, for cause, after public hearing, and may be suspended by the Governor pending the completion of such hearing. All members before entering upon their duties shall take and subscribe an oath to perform the duties of their office faithfully, impartially and justly to the best of their ability. A record of such oaths shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State.
- d. The authority shall not be deemed to be constituted and shall not take action or adopt motions or resolutions until at least three authorized members shall have been appointed and qualified in the manner provided in this section. The commissioner shall serve as chairperson of the authority. Prior to the authority being constituted, the chairperson is authorized to transfer up to \$75 million to the department from the appropriations made to the authority for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1984. The members shall annually elect one of their members as vice The members shall elect a secretary and a chairperson. treasurer, who need not be members, and the same person may be elected to serve both as secretary and treasurer. The powers of the authority shall be vested in the members thereof in office from time to time and three members of the authority shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the authority at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of at least three members of the authority. No vacancy in the membership of the authority shall impair the right of a quorum of the members to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the authority, except that the authority shall not have the power to issue its initial offering of bonds, notes or other obligations unless all five members of the authority shall have been appointed and qualified.
- e. The members of the authority shall serve without compensation, but the authority shall reimburse its members for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, no member shall be deemed to have forfeited nor shall the member forfeit the member's office or employment or any benefits or emoluments thereof by reason of the member's acceptance of the office of ex officio member of the authority or the member's services therein.

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- f. Each ex officio member may designate an employee of the member's department or agency to represent the member at meetings of the authority. All designees may lawfully vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member for whom they constitute the designee. The designation shall be in writing delivered to the authority and shall continue in effect until revoked or amended in writing delivered to the authority.
- 8 g. A true copy of the minutes of every meeting of the 9 authority shall be forthwith delivered by and under the 10 certification of the secretary thereof to the Governor. No action taken at the meeting by the authority shall have force or effect 11 12 until 15 days after such copy of the minutes shall have been so 13 delivered, unless during this 15-day period the Governor shall 14 approve in writing the same or any part thereof, in which case 15 the action shall become effective upon approval. If, in said 15-day period, the Governor returns a copy of the minutes with 16 17 his veto of any action taken by the authority or any member thereof at the meeting, the action shall be null and void and of no 18 effect. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the last day of the 19 20 15-day period shall be a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then 21 the 15-day period shall be deemed extended to the next following 22 business day. The powers conferred in this paragraph upon the 23 Governor shall be exercised with due regard for the rights of the 24 holders of bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority at 25 any time outstanding, and nothing in, or done pursuant to, this 26 paragraph shall in any way limit, restrict or alter the obligation 27 or powers of the authority or any representative or officer of the 28 authority to carry out and perform in every detail each and every 29 covenant, agreement or contract at any time made or entered 30 into by or on behalf of the authority with respect to its bonds, 31 notes or other obligations or for the benefit, protection or 32 security of the holders thereof.
 - h. The authority shall continue in existence until dissolved by act of the Legislature [, except that it shall not continue in existence beyond 22 years unless the Legislature shall by law prescribe otherwise]. However, any dissolution of this authority [, by act of the Legislature or otherwise,] shall be on condition that the authority has no debts, contractual duties or obligations outstanding, or that provision has been made for the payment, discharge or retirement of these debts, contractual duties or obligations. Upon any dissolution of the authority, all property, rights, funds and assets thereof shall pass to and become vested in the State.
- 44 (cf: P.L.1987, c.460, s.1)
- 45 3. Section 6 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-6) is amended to read as follows:
 - 6. In addition to all other powers granted to the authority in the act, the authority shall have power:
 - a. To sue and be sued;
 - b. To have an official seal and alter the same at its pleasure;
- 51 c. To make and alter bylaws for its organization and internal 52 management and rules and regulations for the conduct of its 53 affairs and business;
 - d. To maintain an office at a place or places within the State

as it may determine;

- e. To acquire, hold, use and dispose of its income, revenues, funds and moneys;
- f. To acquire, own, lease as lessee or lessor, hold, use, sell, transfer, and dispose of real or personal property for its purposes;
- g. To borrow money and to issue its bonds, notes or other obligations and to secure the same by its revenues or other funds and otherwise to provide for and secure the payment thereof and to provide for the rights of the holders thereof and to provide for the refunding thereof, all as provided in the act;
- h. To issue subordinated indebtedness and to enter into [bank loan agreements, lines of credit, letters of credit] any revolving credit agreement, agreement establishing a line of credit or letter of credit, reimbursement agreement, interest rate exchange agreement, insurance contract, surety bond, commitment to purchase or sell bonds, purchase or sale agreement, or commitments or other contracts or agreements, and other security agreements as [provided for in the act] approved by the authority in connection with the issuance of bonds or notes;
- i. In its own name, in the name of the New Jersey Transit Corporation or in the name of the State, to apply for and receive and accept appropriations or grants of property, money, services or reimbursements for money previously spent and other assistance offered or made available to it by or from any person, government agency, public authority or any public and private entity whatever for any lawful corporate purpose of the authority, including, without limitation, grants, appropriations or reimbursements from the State or federal government with respect to their respective shares under federal aid highway laws of the costs of planning, acquisition, engineering, construction, reconstruction, repair, resurfacing and rehabilitation of public highways or the costs of planning, acquisition, engineering, reconstruction, construction, repair, maintenance rehabilitation of public transportation projects and other transportation projects in the State and the authority's operating expenses and to apply and negotiate for the same upon such terms and conditions as may be required by any person, government agency, authority or entity or as the authority may determine to be necessary, convenient or desirable;
- j. Subject to any agreement with the holders of bonds, notes or other obligations, to invest moneys of the authority not required for immediate use, including proceeds from the sale of any bonds, notes or other obligations, in obligations, securities and other investments as the authority shall deem prudent;
- k. Subject to any agreements with holders of bonds, notes or other obligations, to purchase bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority out of any funds or moneys of the authority available therefor, and to hold, cancel or resell the bonds, notes or other obligations;
- l. For its sole purpose as established in section 5 of this act, to appoint and employ an executive director and such additional officers, who need not be members of the authority and such other personnel and staff as it may require, at an annual expense

not to exceed \$100,000.00, all without regard to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes;

- m. To do and perform any acts and things authorized by the act under, through, or by means of its officers, agents or employees or by contract with any person, firm or corporation or any public body;
- n. To procure insurance against any losses in connection with its property, operations, assets or obligations in amounts and from insurers as it deems desirable;
- o. To make and enter into any and all contracts and agreements which the authority determines are necessary, incidental, convenient or desirable to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under the act; and
- p. To do any and all things necessary, convenient or desirable to carry out its purposes and exercise the powers given and granted in the act.
- (cf: P.L.1991, c.40, s.4)

- 4. Section 9 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-9) is amended to read as follows:
- 9. a. The authority shall have the power and is hereby authorized after November 15, 1984 and from time to time thereafter to issue its bonds, notes or other obligations in principal amounts as in the opinion of the authority shall be necessary to provide for any of its corporate purposes, including the payment, funding or refunding of the principal of, or interest or redemption premiums on, any bonds, notes or other obligations issued by it, whether the bonds, notes, obligations or interest to be funded or refunded have or have not become due; and to provide for the security thereof and for the establishment or increase of reserves to secure or to pay the bonds, notes or other obligations or interest thereon and all other reserves and all costs or expenses of the authority incident to and necessary or convenient to carry out its corporate purposes and powers; and in addition to its bonds, notes and other obligations, the authority shall have the power to issue subordinated indebtedness, which shall be subordinate in lien to the lien of any or all of its bonds or notes. No resolution or other action of the authority providing for the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, notes, or other obligations shall be adopted or otherwise made effective by the authority without the prior approval in writing of the Governor and [either] the State Treasurer [or the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury].
- b. Except as may be otherwise expressly provided in the act or by the authority, every issue of bonds or notes shall be general obligations payable out of any revenues or funds of the authority, subject only to any agreements with the holders of particular bonds or notes pledging any particular revenues or funds. The authority may provide the security and payment provisions for its bonds or notes as it may determine, including (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) bonds or notes as to which the principal and interest are payable from and secured by all or any portion of the revenues of and payments to the authority, and other moneys or funds as the authority shall determine. In addition, the authority may, in anticipation of the issuance of the

bonds or the receipt of appropriations, grants, reimbursements or other funds, including without limitation grants from the federal government for federal aid highways or public transportation systems, issue notes, the principal of or interest on which, or both, shall be payable out of the proceeds of notes, bonds or other obligations of the authority or appropriations, reimbursements or other funds or revenues of the authority. The authority may also enter into bank loan agreements, lines of credit and other security agreements as authorized pursuant to subsection h. of section 6 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-6) and obtain for or on its behalf letters of credit in each case for the purpose of securing its bonds, notes or other obligations or to provide direct payment of any costs which the authority is authorized to pay by this act and to secure repayment of any borrowings under the loan agreement, line of credit, letter of credit or other security agreement by its bonds, notes or other obligations or the proceeds thereof or by any or all of the revenues of and payments to the authority or by any appropriation, grant or reimbursement to be received by the authority and other moneys or funds as the authority shall determine.

- c. Whether or not the bonds and notes are of the form and character as to be negotiable instruments under the terms of Title 12A, Commercial Transactions, New Jersey Statutes, the bonds and notes are hereby made negotiable instruments within the meaning of and for all the purposes of said Title 12A.
- d. Bonds or notes of the authority shall be authorized by a resolution or resolutions of the authority and may be issued in one or more series and shall bear the date, or dates, mature at the time or times, bear interest at the rate or rates of interest per annum, be in the denomination or denominations, be in the form, carry the conversion or registration privileges, have the rank or priority, be executed in the manner, be payable from the sources, in the medium of payment, at the place or places within or without the State, and be subject to the terms of redemption (with or without premium) as the resolution or resolutions may provide. Bonds or notes may be further secured by a trust indenture between the authority and a corporate trustee within or without the State. All other obligations of the authority shall be authorized by resolution containing terms and conditions as the authority shall determine.
- e. Bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority may be sold at public or private sale at a price or prices and in a manner as the authority shall determine, either on a negotiated or on a competitive basis. [Every bond issued on or before the effective date of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-4 et al.) shall mature and be paid not later than 17 years from the date thereof, except that no bond, note or other obligation shall mature and be paid later than 22 years from the effective date of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-1 et seq.), nor shall any refunding of such obligations mature or be paid later than that date. Every bond issued after the effective date of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-4 et al.) shall mature and be paid not later than 11 years from the date thereof, except that no bond, note or other obligation shall mature and be paid later than

22 years from the effective date of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-1 et seq.).] Every bond, or refunding bond, issued on or after the effective date of P.L.19, c. (C.)(now before the Legislature as this bill) shall mature and be paid no later than 21 years from the date of the issuance of that bond or refunding bond.

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[Notes, the initial series of bonds and bonds issued for refunding purposes of the authority may be sold at public or private sale at a price or prices and in a manner as the authority shall determine.

Except as noted above, all bonds of the authority shall be sold at such price or prices and in such manner as the authority shall determine, after notice of sale, published at least three times in at least three newspapers published in the State of New Jersey, and at least once in a publication carrying municipal bond notices and devoted primarily to financial news, published in New Jersey or the City of New York, the first notice to be at least five days prior to the day of bidding. The notice of sale may contain a provision to the effect that any or all bids made in pursuance thereof may be rejected. In the event of such rejection or of failure to receive any acceptable bid, the authority, at any time within 60 days from the date of such advertised sale, may sell such bonds at private sale upon terms not less favorable to the State than the terms offered by any rejected bid. The authority may sell all or part of the bonds of any series as issued to any State fund or to the federal government or any agency thereof, at private sale, without advertisement.]

- f. Bonds or notes may be issued and other obligations incurred under the provisions of the act without obtaining the consent of any department, division, commission, board, bureau or agency of the State, other than the approval as required by subsection a. of this section, and without any other proceedings or the happening of any other conditions or other things than those proceedings, conditions or things which are specifically required by the act.
- g. Bonds, notes and other obligations of the authority issued or incurred under the provisions of the act shall not be in any way a debt or liability of the State or of any political subdivision thereof other than the authority and shall not create or constitute any indebtedness, liability or obligation of the State or of any political subdivision or be or constitute a pledge of the faith and credit of the State or of any political subdivision but all bonds, notes and obligations, unless funded or refunded by bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority, shall be payable solely from revenues or funds pledged or available for their payment as authorized in the act. Each bond, note or other obligation shall contain on its face a statement to the effect that the authority is obligated to pay the principal thereof or the interest thereon only from revenues or funds of the authority and that neither the State nor any political subdivision thereof is obligated to pay the principal or interest and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State or any political subdivision thereof is pledged to the payment of the principal of or the interest on the bonds, notes or other obligations. For the purposes of this subsection, political subdivision does not include the authority.

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 h. All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of the act shall be payable solely from the revenues or funds provided or to be provided under or pursuant to the provisions of the act and nothing in the act shall be construed to authorize the authority to incur any indebtedness or liability on behalf of or payable by the State or any political subdivision thereof.

i. [The aggregate principal amount of bonds, notes or other obligations outstanding at any one time, including subordinated indebtedness of the authority, may not exceed \$1,700,000,000.00. If in any fiscal year appropriations by the Legislature to the authority, and amounts received in accordance with contracts entered into with the toll road authorities, if those amounts are not included in legislative appropriations, shall be in excess of \$143,000,000.00 in any fiscal year through the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1986 or \$201,000,000.00 for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1987 or \$331,000,000.00 in any fiscal year thereafter, the aggregate principal amount of \$1,700,000,000.00 shall be reduced by an amount equal to the excess. In computing the foregoing limitations there shall be excluded all the bonds, notes or other obligations, including subordinated indebtedness of the authority, which shall be issued for refunding purposes, provided that the refunding shall be determined by the authority to result in a debt service savings.]

The authority shall minimize debt incurrence by first relying on appropriations and other revenues available to the authority before incurring debt to meet its statutory purposes.

[The authority shall not incur debt at any time in any fiscal year in excess of the difference between the amount of appropriations and other revenues to the authority theretofore made in that fiscal year and the amount which the Department of Transportation is permitted to commit for transportation projects under the act in that fiscal year as indicated in the budget, plus reasonably necessary expenses, required debt reserve funds, debt service and outstanding financial obligations from prior fiscal years of the authority.

Debt which would have been incurred pursuant to this section, which is not incurred in any fiscal year, may be issued in subsequent years.]

Commencing on the 90th day following the date of enactment of this 1995 amendatory and supplementary act, the authority shall not incur debt in any fiscal year in excess of \$700,000,000, except that if that permitted amount of debt, or any portion thereof, is not incurred in a fiscal year it may be incurred in a subsequent fiscal year. Any increase in this limitation shall only occur if so provided for by law.

²j. Upon the decision by the authority to issue refunding bonds pursuant to this section, and prior to the sale of those bonds, the authority shall transmit to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, a report that a decision has been made, reciting the basis on which the decision was made, including an estimate of the debt service savings to be achieved and the calculations upon which the authority relied when making the decision to issue refunding bonds. The report shall also disclose the intent of the authority to issue and sell the refunding bonds at public or private sale and the reasons therefor.

k. The Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, shall have authority to approve or disapprove the sale of refunding bonds as included in each report submitted in accordance with subsection j. of this section. The committee shall approve or disapprove the sale of refunding bonds within 10 business days after physical receipt of the report. The committee shall notify the authority in writing of the approval or disapproval as expeditiously as possible.

l. No refunding bonds shall be issued unless the report has been submitted to and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, as set forth in subsection k. of this section.

m. Within 30 days after the sale of the refunding bonds, the authority shall notify the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, of the result of that sale, including the prices and terms, conditions and regulations concerning the refunding bonds, and the actual amount of debt service savings to be realized as a result of the sale of refunding bonds.

n. The Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, shall, however, review all information and reports submitted in accordance with this section and may, on its own initiative, make observations and recommendations to the authority or to the Legislature, or both, as it deems appropriate.²

(cf: P.L.1991, c.40, s.5)

- 5. Section 20 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-20) is amended to read as follows:
- 20. There is hereby established in the General Fund an account entitled "Transportation Trust Fund Account." During the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1984 and during each succeeding fiscal year in which the authority has bonds, notes or other obligations outstanding, the treasurer shall credit to this account:
- a. [Commencing with the last business day of August 1984 and on the last business day of each succeeding calendar month, an amount not less than \$7,333,333.00, provided that if the effective date of the act shall be later than July 1984, the initial credit shall be an amount equal to that which would have been credited to the account had the act become effective on July 1, 1984, and further provided that the amount credited shall be an] An amount equivalent to the revenue derived from \$0.025 per gallon from the tax imposed on the sale of motor fuels pursuant to chapter 39 of Title 54 of the Revised Statutes, as provided in Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 4 of the State Constitution, provided, however, such amount during any fiscal year shall not be less than [\$88,000,000.00] \$100,000,000;
- b. [In] After approval by the voters of the constitutional amendment proposed in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 of 1995 or Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 9 of 1995, in addition to the amount credited in subsection a. of this section, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, [1988] 1996 and the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997 [for each fiscal year thereafter, commencing with the last business day of August 1988 and on the last business day of each succeeding calendar month], an amount equivalent to the revenue derived from \$0.045 per gallon from the tax imposed on the sale of motor fuels pursuant to chapter 39

of Title 54 of the Revised Statutes, provided, however, such amount [during any month] shall not be less than [\$14,812,500.00, nor less than \$177,750,000.00] \$180,000,000 during [any fiscal year] each of those fiscal years, and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998, an amount equivalent to the revenue derived from \$0.055 per gallon from the tax, provided, however, that such amount shall not be less than \$220,000,000, and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999 and for each fiscal year thereafter, an amount equivalent to the revenue derived from \$0.065 per gallon from the tax, provided, however, that such amount shall not be less than \$260,000,000 in any fiscal year, as provided in Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 4 of the State Constitution; and

c. An amount equivalent to moneys received by the State in accordance with contracts entered into with toll road authorities or other State agencies, provided that effective with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1988, the amount so credited shall not be less than \$24,500,000.00 in any fiscal year.

The treasurer shall also credit to this account, in accordance with a contract between the treasurer and the authority, an amount equivalent to the sum of the revenues due from the increase of fees for motor vehicle registrations collected pursuant to the amendment to R.S.39:3-20 made by this act [and from the increase of fees for motor fuels user identification markers collected pursuant to the amendment to section 10 of P.L.1963, c.44 (C.54:39A-10) made by this act] and from the increase in the tax on diesel fuels imposed pursuant to the amendment to R.S.54:39-27 made by this act and by P.L.1987, c.460, provided that the total amount credited during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1984 shall not be less than \$20,000,000.00 and that the total amount credited during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1985 and during every fiscal year thereafter shall not be less than \$30,000,000.00.

In addition to the amounts credited to the account by this section, commencing with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995 and every fiscal year thereafter, there shall be appropriated from the General Fund such additional amounts as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and after January 1, 1997 the fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of section 68 of P.L.1990, c.8 (C.17:33B-63) shall be available for crediting to the account for the purposes of this act.

No later than the fifth business day of the month following the month in which a credit has been made, the treasurer shall pay to the authority, for its purposes as provided herein, the amounts then credited to the Transportation Trust Fund Account, provided that the payments to the authority shall be subject to and dependent upon appropriations being made from time to time by the Legislature of the amounts thereof for the purposes of the act.

49 (cf: P.L.1987, c.460, s.3)

- 6. Section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21) is amended to read as follows:
- 52 21. a. There is hereby established a separate fund entitled 53 "Special Transportation Fund." This fund shall be maintained by 54 the State Treasurer and may be held in depositories as may be

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selected by the treasurer and invested and reinvested as other funds in the custody of the treasurer, in the manner provided by law. The commissioner may from time to time (but not more frequently than monthly) certify to the authority an amount necessary to fund payments made, or anticipated to be made by or on behalf of the department, from appropriations established the department the or made to authority. commissioner's certification shall be deemed conclusive for purposes of the act. The authority shall, within 15 days of receipt of the certificate, transfer from available funds from revenues or other funds of the authority to the treasurer for deposit in the Special Transportation Fund the amount certified by the commissioner, provided that all funds transferred shall only be expended by the department by project pursuant to appropriations made from time to time by the Legislature for the purposes of the act.

- b. The department shall not expend any money except as appropriated by law. Commencing with appropriations for the fiscal years beginning on July 1, 1988, the department shall not expend any funds except as are appropriated by specific projects identified by a description of the projects, the county or counties within which they are located, and amounts to be expended on each project, in the annual appropriations act.
- c. [No funds appropriated, authorized or expended pursuant to this act shall be used to finance the resurfacing of highways by department personnel, where that resurfacing would require the use of more than 150,000 tons of bituminous concrete for that purpose in any calendar year, except that the commissioner may waive this provision when he determines the existence of emergency conditions requiring the use of department personnel for the resurfacing of highways, after the department has effectively reached the 150,000 ton limit.] ¹[Deleted by amendment, P.L.19 , c. (now before the Legislature as this bill).] No funds appropriated, authorized or expended pursuant to this act shall be used to finance the resurfacing of highways by department personnel, where that resurfacing would require the use of more than 150,000 tons of bituminous concrete for that purpose in any calendar year, except that the commissioner may waive this provision when he determines the existence of emergency conditions requiring the use of department personnel for the resurfacing of highways, after the department has effectively reached the 150,000 ton limit. 1
- d. In order to provide the department with flexibility in administering the specific appropriations by project identified in the annual appropriations act, the commissioner may transfer a part of any item to any other item subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting and of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Upon approval of the director and the committee, the transfer shall take effect.
- e. Any federal funds which become available to the State for transportation projects which have not been appropriated to the department in the annual appropriations act, shall be deemed appropriated to the department and may, subject to approval by

the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and the State Treasurer, be expended for any purpose for which such funds are qualified. (cf: P.L.1987, c.460, s.4)

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- 7. Section 8 of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-21.1) is amended to read as follows:
- 6 a. [Commencing with the report of the commissioner 7 required to be submitted pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 8 (C.27:1B-22) on or before March 1, 1988 for the fiscal year 9 commencing July 1, 1988 and for the reports of the commissioner 10 required to be submitted pursuant thereto for each fiscal year 11 through the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1989, the amount 12 reported by the commissioner for proposed projects to be financed shall not exceed \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds, 13 14 except that for fiscal years commencing July 1, 1990 and thereafter the amount shall not exceed \$565,000,000 exclusive of 15 16 federal funds, except as provided herein. If, in the discretion of the commissioner, a greater amount is determined to be necessary to meet the financing requirements for the ensuing 18 19 fiscal year, the commissioner may include in a report an amount in excess of \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds or in excess 21 of \$565,000,000 exclusive of federal funds for the fiscal years in 22 which appropriations above those limits are permitted pursuant to 23 subsection b. of this section; provided that in no event shall that amount be an amount greater than 105% of that \$365,000,000 or of that \$565,000,000 respectively. 25

In any fiscal year for which an amount exceeding \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds or an amount exceeding \$565,000,000 exclusive of federal funds was appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the commissioner shall report on or before March 1 of that fiscal year for the ensuing fiscal year an amount for proposed projects to be financed not greater than the maximum amount authorized to be appropriated for that ensuing fiscal year pursuant to subsection b. of this section.]

Commencing with the report of the commissioner required to be submitted pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) on or before March 1, 1996 for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1996 and for each fiscal year thereafter the amount reported by the commissioner for proposed projects to be financed shall not exceed \$700,000,000 exclusive of federal funds.

b. [For the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1988 and for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1989, the total amount authorized to be appropriated from the revenues and other nonfederal funds of the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority for the projects listed in the appropriations act pursuant to section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21), shall not exceed \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds and for fiscal years beginning on July 1, 1990 and through the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1994 the amount shall not exceed \$565,000,000 exclusive of federal funds, except as provided herein. If, in any fiscal year through the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 1991, a greater amount is determined to be necessary to meet the financing requirements, the amount appropriated may be in excess of \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds or in excess of \$565,000,000 exclusive of federal funds; provided that in any such year: (1) in no event

 shall there be appropriated an amount greater than 105% of that \$365,000,000 or of that \$565,000,000, and provided further, that (2) if, pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, (i) a greater fiscal year appropriation is authorized in excess of the \$365,000,000 limit for a fiscal year, the ensuing fiscal year appropriation is to be reduced by the same amount that the appropriation for that fiscal year exceeds \$365,000,000, or, (ii) a greater fiscal year appropriation is authorized in excess of the \$565,000,000 limit for a fiscal year, the ensuing fiscal year appropriation is to be reduced by the same amount that the appropriation for that fiscal year exceeds \$565,000,000.]

For the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1995 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the total amount authorized to be appropriated from the revenues and other nonfederal funds of the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority for the projects listed in the appropriations act pursuant to section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21) shall not exceed \$700,000,000 exclusive of federal funds.

- c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1991, c.40).
- d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1992, c.10).
- e. The State Auditor shall [develop procedures for the auditing of expenditures made by the department and the New Jersey Transit Corporation from funds appropriated for transportation projects from the revenues of the authority and shall cause a semi-annual audit to be made of these expenditures in order to determine the extent to which these funds are expended for costs directly related to the projects, including but not limited to salaries and other administrative expenses] provide for a unified annual audit of expenditures from the Special Transportation Fund, established by section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21), in order to determine that these funds are expended for costs eligible for funding from the authority and in a manner consistent with appropriations made by the Legislature. The findings of such audits shall be transmitted to the presiding officer of each House of the Legislature, and to the Chair of the Senate Budget and Committee, Senate Appropriations the Transportation Committee, the Assembly Appropriations Committee, and the Assembly Transportation and Communications Committee or their successors. [In addition, the State Auditor shall audit expenditures made for maintenance of public transportation projects every six months and shall transmit the findings of these audits to the Chairs of the Senate Transportation Committee and the Assembly Transportation and Communications Committee.]
- f. [Until the filing of a public issuer's annual report by the Transportation Trust Fund Authority pursuant to section 12 of the "New Jersey Bond Review Board Act," P.L., c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 1199 of 1992), the The State Auditor shall review bond issuances of the authority and report to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and to the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee, or their successors, on the status of the bonds of the authority and projects financed from the proceeds of the bonds. The report shall include the investment status of all unexpended bond

proceeds and provide a description of any bond issues expected during a fiscal year, including type of issue, estimated amount of bonds to be issued and the expected month of sale.

(cf: P.L.1992, c.10, s.2)

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- 8. Section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) is amended to read as follows:
- 22. To the end that the transportation system of the State shall be planned in an orderly and efficient manner and that the Legislature shall be advised of the nature and extent of public highways, public transportation projects and other transportation projects contemplated to be financed under this act, the department shall submit a master plan, as provided in subsection (a) of section 5 of P.L.1966, c.301 (C.27:1A-5). Notwithstanding the provisions of that act, the plan shall be for a period of five years and shall be submitted to the Commission on Capital and Planning, the Chairman of the Senate Budgeting Transportation [and Communications] Committee and Chairman of the Assembly Transportation[, Communications and High Technology] and Communications Committee, or their successors, and the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer, on or before December 15, 1984, and at five year intervals thereafter.

On or before March 1 of each year, the commissioner shall submit a report of general project categories and proposed projects [, including but not limited to public highways,] thereunder to be financed in an ensuing fiscal year, including therewith a description of the projects, the county or counties within which they are to be located, a distinction between State and local projects, and the amount estimated to be expended on each project and also including a financial plan designed to implement the financing of the proposed projects. The financial plan shall contain an enumeration of the bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority which the authority intends to issue, including the amounts thereof and the conditions therefor. The financial plan shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering the authority's proposed operations during the ensuing fiscal year, including amounts of income from all sources, including but not limited to the proceeds of bonds, notes or other obligations to be issued, as well as interest earned. In addition, the plan shall contain proposed amounts to be appropriated and expended, as well as amounts for which the department anticipates to obligate during the ensuing fiscal year for any future expenditures. The report shall be submitted to the Senate and General Assembly. Within 30 days of the receipt thereof, the Senate or the General Assembly may object in writing to the commissioner in regard to any project or projects it disapproves or which it is of the opinion should be modified or added to or any additional or alternative projects considered or in regard to any element of the financial plan. The commissioner shall consider the objections and recommendations and resubmit the report within 10 days, containing therein any modifications based upon the commissioner's consideration of the objections or recommendations.

(cf: P.L.1987, c.460, s.5)

9. (New section) State aid to counties and municipalities

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pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-25), may, at the discretion of the commissioner, be disbursed to any individual county or municipality on a grant basis or on a cost reimbursement basis.

10. (New section) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 8 of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-21.1), section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) or any other law to the contrary, within ten days of the effective date of this section or on June 15, 1995, whichever is sooner, the commissioner shall submit to the Senate and the General Assembly a report of proposed projects to be financed in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995. The amount reported by the commissioner for proposed projects to be financed shall not exceed \$700,000,000 exclusive of federal funds. The report shall include a description of the projects, the county or counties within which they are to be located, a distinction between State and local projects, and the amount estimated to be expended on each project and also include a financial plan designed to implement the financing of the proposed projects. The financial plan shall contain an enumeration of the bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority which the authority intends to issue, including the amounts thereof and the conditions therefor. The financial plan shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering the authority's proposed operations during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995, including amounts of income from all sources, including but not limited to the proceeds of bonds, notes or other obligations to be issued, as well as interest earned. In addition, the plan shall contain proposed amounts to be appropriated and expended, as well as amounts for which the department anticipates to obligate during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995 for any future expenditures. Within five days of the receipt thereof, the Senate or the General Assembly may object in writing to the commissioner in regard to any project or projects it disapproves or which it is of the opinion should be modified or added to or any additional or alternative projects considered or in regard to any element of the financial plan. The commissioner shall consider the objections and recommendations and resubmit the report within five days, therein modifications containing any based upon commissioner's consideration of objections the or recommendations.

11. (New section) The State amount appropriated from the revenues and other funds of the authority for any fiscal year commencing on or after July 1, 1995 may be utilized for any cost incurred in direct or indirect support or advancement of transportation projects authorized by the annual appropriations act, except that indirect costs shall not include the cost of routine operation and routine maintenance of a transportation project, or costs associated with the non-capital programs of the department and the New Jersey Transit Corporation. Costs which directly or indirectly support or advance more than one transportation project may be allocated among those projects in a manner the commissioner finds reasonable, provided such costs are equitably and uniformly distributed among all work that was performed during the fiscal year or accounting period. The rate

of indirect costs appropriated from the State amount in any fiscal year shall not exceed the indirect cost rate additive, as calculated pursuant to the United States Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87, "Cost Principles Applicable to Grants and Contracts with State and Local Governments," applicable to federal funds.

- 12. (New section) a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, the commissioner is authorized to enter into agreements with public or private entities for the loan of federal funds appropriated to the department for the purpose of financing all, or a portion of, the costs incurred for the planning, acquisition, engineering, construction, reconstruction, repair and rehabilitation of a transportation project by that public or private entity.
- b. The commissioner, with the approval of the State Treasurer, shall establish rules and regulations governing the qualifications of the applicants, the application procedures, the criteria for awarding loans, and the standards for establishing the amount, terms and conditions of each loan. The rules and regulations shall provide that the term of the loan agreement shall be no longer than five years and that the loan shall be secured by appropriate collateral or guarantees.
- c. Loans granted pursuant to this section shall be considered an investment or reinvestment of Special Transportation Fund funds within the meaning of subsection a. of section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21). Payments of interest and principal on loans granted pursuant to this section shall be credited to a special subaccount of the Special Transportation Fund and may be used for financing authorized projects. Monies appropriated from the special subaccount pursuant to this section shall be in addition to the total State amount authorized to be appropriated in a fiscal year pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-21.1).
- d. Each loan made pursuant to this section shall require the specific approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee. The Chairman of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee may request periodic reports from the commissioner on the status of any or all loans. The commissioner shall provide reports so requested on a timely basis.
- e. Transportation projects which are the subject of a loan agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be included in the annual report of proposed projects prepared pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) for the fiscal year in which the loan amount for those projects is to be appropriated.
- 13. (New section) The commissioner or the board of the New Jersey Transit Corporation with the approval of the commissioner is authorized to enter into agreements for a period of years for the advancement of a transportation project to be funded by future year appropriations to the authority, except that, in the case of a transportation project involving appropriations in excess of \$100,000,000 in any fiscal year, the agreement shall be subject to approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee. The commissioner or the board of the New Jersey Transit Corporation may pledge grant monies or funds anticipated to be appropriated

to those transportation projects in those agreements, provided, however that payment of monies pledged is subject to the availability of funds in the year in which the funds are to be appropriated. Any transportation project which is the subject of an agreement authorized by this section shall appear in the annual report of proposed projects prepared pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) for each fiscal year in which the agreement is in effect and the report shall indicate the amount to be appropriated, if any, to the project in the upcoming fiscal year.

14. (New section) a. After the commissioner has determined that a project financed through the authority has been completed, the commissioner may direct that any account established for such project be closed, provided that the funds in any such account are less than \$1,000,000. The commissioner may further direct that any appropriated funds remaining in such closed accounts be credited to a special subaccount of the Special Transportation Fund. In the event that an account for a project that has been completed exceeds \$1,000,000, the account shall not be closed and the funds credited to the special subaccount unless such action is approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

b. Subject to approval by the State Treasurer, the commissioner may expend funds from the special subaccount established pursuant to subsection a. of this section for any purpose for which the Legislature has previously appropriated funds and which the authority is authorized to undertake pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-5). Any claims or costs which would have been paid from an account closed pursuant to this section may be paid from the special subaccount established pursuant to subsection a. of this section, or from any other funds appropriated for such purposes.

- 15. (New section) Each year a sum of money shall be appropriated from funds held in the Special Transportation Fund, established pursuant to section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21), and credited to the Airport Safety Fund, established in the General Fund pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1983, c.264 (C.6:1-92), for use for any capital purpose pursuant to the "New Jersey Airport Safety Act of 1983," P.L.1983, c.264 (C.6:1-89 et seq.) and that sum shall be included in the annual report of projects prepared pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22).
- 16. (New section) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, in any fiscal year in which the amount allocated by the Federal Government to the New Jersey Transit Corporation for public transportation operating expenses is less than in the previous fiscal year, an amount equal to the diminution may be appropriated from the revenues and other funds of the authority, excluding bond proceeds, to the department for the operating expenses of the New Jersey Transit Corporation, subject to approval therefor provided in the annual appropriations act.
- 17. Section 68 of P.L.1990, c.8 (C.17:33B-63) is amended to read as follows:
 - 68. a. In addition to the registration fees imposed pursuant to

- Article 2 of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall impose and collect additional registration fees as follows:
- (1) For all motor vehicles, except commercial motor vehicles as defined by R.S.39:1-1 that were manufactured in any model year prior to the 1989 model year, the additional fee shall be \$15, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$12.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$10 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$7.50;
- (2) For all motor vehicles, except commercial motor vehicles as defined by R.S.39:1-1, that were manufactured in model year 1989 and thereafter, the additional fee shall be \$40, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$33.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$27 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$20 for the first two years of registration or renewal and \$15, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$12.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$10 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$7.50 for each year thereafter;
- (3) For all commercial motor vehicles as defined in R.S.39:1-1, the additional fee shall be \$75, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$62.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$50 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$37.50;
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection, the additional fee on motorcycle registrations shall be \$15, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$12.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$10 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$7.50 and further provided the additional registration fee on noncommercial trucks registered pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1968, c.429 (C.39:3-8.1) shall be \$50, except that on and after January 1, 1997 the additional fee collected on noncommercial trucks registered pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1968, c.429 (C.39:3-8.1) shall be \$15 for any vehicle manufactured in any model year prior to the 1996 model year and for any vehicle manufactured in the model year 1996 and thereafter, the additional fee shall be \$40 for the first two years of registration or renewal and \$15 for each year thereafter and on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee collected on noncommercial trucks shall be collected pursuant to the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;
- (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection, there shall not be any additional fee imposed on any vehicle registered pursuant to R.S.39:3-24.
- b. Fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be collected on registrations issued and renewed on or after July 1, 1990 [through December 31, 1996].
- (1) Fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section prior to October 1, 1991 shall be remitted to the New Jersey Automobile Full Insurance Underwriting Association created by section 16 of P.L.1983, c.65 (C.17:30E-4) and shall be income to

the association for purposes of section 20 of P.L.1983, c.65 (C.17:30E-8).

- (2) Fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section on or after October 1, 1991 through December 31, 1996 shall be remitted to the New Jersey Automobile Insurance Guaranty Fund created pursuant to section 23 of this 1990 amendatory and supplementary act.
- (3) Fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section on and after January 1, 1997, shall be remitted to the General Fund and so much thereof as is required pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-20) shall be credited to the "Transportation Trust Fund Account" created by section 20 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-20), such credited funds to be used for transportation projects, pursuant to the "New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act of 1984," P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-1 et seq.).
- c. Notwithstanding any provision of subsection a. of this section to the contrary, no fees shall be imposed pursuant to this section on a registration for which no fee is presently collected pursuant to Article 2 of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes or on a registration for a motor vehicle, except commercial vehicles, if the registrant or, in the case of a leased vehicle, the lessee is eligible for pharmaceutical assistance to the aged and disabled pursuant to P.L.1975, c.194 (C.30:4D-20 et seq.). In the case of a leased vehicle, documentation verifying that the vehicle will be leased for the registration term to a lessee who is entitled to the exemption provided for in this subsection shall be provided according to the requirements established by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles. The lessor shall not collect from the lessee any payment for the registration of the vehicle that exceeds the amount that the lessor paid to register the vehicle.
- (cf: P.L.1991, c.320, s.1)
- 18. Sections 3 and 5 of P.L.1992, c.10 (C.27:1B-21.2 and 27:1B-21.3) are repealed.
- 19. This act shall take effect immediately except that section 5 shall take effect on July 1, 1995.

Revises "New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act of 1984"; changes dedication of monies to Trust Fund Account.

ASSEMBLY, No. 99

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 1995

By Assemblymen DeCROCE and KAVANAUGH

AN ACT concerning transportation funding, amending various parts of the statutory law and supplementing P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-1 et seq.) and repealing sections 3 and 5 of P.L.1992, c.10.

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

- 1. Section 3 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-3) is amended to read as follows:
- 3. The following words or terms as used in this act shall have the following meaning unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:
- a. "Act" means this New Jersey Transportation Trust FundAuthority Act of 1984.
 - b. "Authority" means the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority created by section 4 of this act.
 - c. "Bonds" means bonds issued by the authority pursuant to the act.
- d. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation.
 - e. "Department" means the Department of Transportation.
 - f. "Federal aid highway" means any highway within the State in connection with which the State receives payment or reimbursement from the federal government under the terms of Title 23, United States Code or any amendment, successor, or replacement thereof, for the purposes contained in the act.
 - g. "Federal government" means the United States of America, and any officer, department, board, commission, bureau, division, corporation, agency or instrumentality thereof.
 - h. ["New Jersey Expressway Authority" means the public corporation created by section 4 of chapter 10 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1962 as amended or its successor.] "South Jersey Transportation Authority" means the public corporation created by section 4 of P.L.1991, c.252 (C.27:25A-4) or its successor.
- i. "New Jersey Highway Authority" means the public corporation created by section 4 of [chapter 16 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1952 as amended] P.L.1952, c.16 (C.27:12B-4) or its successor.
- j. "New Jersey Turnpike Authority" means the public corporation created by section 3 of [chapter 454 of the Laws of New Jersey of 1948 as amended] P.L.1948, c.454 (C.27:23-3) or its successor.
- 42 k. "Notes" means the notes issued by the authority pursuant to 43 the act.
- l. "Public highways" means public roads, streets, expressways,

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.

freeways, parkways, motorways and boulevards, including bridges, tunnels, overpasses, underpasses, interchanges, rest areas, express bus roadways, bus pullouts and turnarounds, park-ride facilities, traffic circles, grade separations, traffic control devices, the elimination or improvement of crossings of railroads and highways, whether at grade or not at grade, and any facilities, equipment, property, rights of way, easements and interests therein needed for the construction, improvement and maintenance of highways.

- m. "Public transportation project" means, in connection with public transportation service, passenger stations, shelters and terminals, automobile parking facilities, ramps, track connections, signal systems, power systems, information and communication systems, roadbeds, transit lanes or rights of way, equipment storage and servicing facilities, bridges, grade crossings, rail cars, locomotives, motorbuses and other motor vehicles, maintenance and garage facilities, revenue handling equipment and any other equipment, facility or property useful for or related to the provision of public transportation service.
- n. "State agency" means any officers, department, board, commission, bureau, division, agency or instrumentality of the State.
- o. "Toll road authorities" means and includes the New Jersey Tumpike Authority, the New Jersey Highway Authority and the [New Jersey Expressway Authority.] South Jersey Transportation Authority.
- p. "Transportation project" means, in addition to public highways and public transportation projects, any equipment, facility or property useful or related to the provision of any ground, waterborne or air transportation for the movement of people and goods.
- q. "Transportation system" means public highways, public transportation projects, other transportation projects, and all other methods of transportation for the movement of people and goods.
- r. "Maintenance" means, in relation to public transportation projects, direct costs of work necessary for preserving or maintaining the useful life of public transportation projects, provided the work performed is associated with the acquisition, installation and rehabilitation of components which are not included in the normal operating maintenance of equipment and facilities or replaced on a scheduled basis. The work shall ensure the useful life of the project for not less than four years and shall not include routine maintenance or inspection of equipment and facilities that is conducted on a scheduled basis. This definition shall not apply to the term "maintenance" as used in subsection l. of this section.
- s. "Circle of Mobility" means an essential group of related transit projects that include (1) the New Jersey Urban Core Project, as defined in section 3031 of the "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991," Pub. L. 102-240, and consisting of the following elements: Secaucus Transfer, Kearny Connection, Waterfront Connection, Northeast Corridor Signal System, Hudson River Waterfront Transportation System,

Newark-Newark International Airport-Elizabeth Transit Link, a 1 rail connection between Penn Station Newark and Broad Street 2 Station, Newark, New York Penn Station Concourse, and the 3 equipment needed to operate revenue service associated with 4 improvements made by the project, and (2) the modification and 5 reconstruction of the West Shore Line in Bergen County 6 7 connected to Allied Junction/Secaucus Transfer Meadowlands Rail Center; the construction of a rail station and associated 8 9 components at the Meadowlands Sports Complex; 10 modification and reconstruction of the Susquehanna and Western Railway, as defined and provided in section 3035 (a) of the 11 "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991"; and 12 the modification and reconstruction of the Lackawanna Cutoff 13 14 Commuter Rail Line connecting Morris, Sussex and Warren 15 Counties to the North Jersey Transportation Rail Centers. 16

(cf: P.L.1995, c.84, s.2)

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2. Section 4 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-4) is amended to read as follows:

4. a. There is hereby established in the department a public body corporate and politic, with corporate succession, to be known as the "New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority." For the purpose of complying with the provisions of Article V, Section IV, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, the authority is hereby allocated within the Department of Transportation, but notwithstanding said allocation. the authority shall be independent of any supervision or control by the department or by any board or officer thereof. The authority is hereby constituted as an instrumentality of the State, exercising public and essential governmental functions, no part of whose revenues shall accrue to the benefit of any individual, and the exercise by the authority of the powers conferred by the act shall be deemed and held to be an essential governmental function of the State.

b. The authority shall consist of five members as follows: the commissioner and the State Treasurer, who shall be members ex officio, and three public members, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the two remaining to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom upon recommendation of the President of the Senate and the other upon recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly. No more than three members of the authority shall be of the same political party. The public members appointed by the Governor shall serve a four year term, except that the public member appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the President of the Senate shall serve for a four year term and the public member appointed upon recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve for a two year term.

With respect to those public members first appointed by the Governor: the Senate shall advise and consent to the appointment of the member not appointed upon recommendation of the President and the Speaker within 30 days of the receipt thereof from the Governor, such appointment having been sent by the Governor to the Senate within 20 days following the effective

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 date of this act; the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly shall send their recommendations for public members to the Governor within 20 days following the effective date of this act. The Governor has an additional 10 days to accept or reject in writing these recommendations.

Each public member shall hold office for the term of the member's appointment and until the member's successor shall have been appointed and qualified. A member shall be eligible for reappointment. Any vacancy in the membership occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.

- c. Each public member, except those appointed upon recommendation of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly, may be removed from office by the Governor, for cause, after public hearing, and may be suspended by the Governor pending the completion of such hearing. All members before entering upon their duties shall take and subscribe an oath to perform the duties of their office faithfully, impartially and justly to the best of their ability. A record of such oaths shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State.
- d. The authority shall not be deemed to be constituted and shall not take action or adopt motions or resolutions until at least three authorized members shall have been appointed and qualified in the manner provided in this section. The commissioner shall serve as chairperson of the authority. Prior to the authority being constituted, the chairperson is authorized to transfer up to \$75 million to the department from the appropriations made to the authority for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1984. The members shall annually elect one of their members as vice chairperson. The members shall elect a secretary and a treasurer, who need not be members, and the same person may be elected to serve both as secretary and treasurer. The powers of the authority shall be vested in the members thereof in office from time to time and three members of the authority shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken and motions and resolutions adopted by the authority at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of at least three members of the authority. No vacancy in the membership of the authority shall impair the right of a quorum of the members to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the authority, except that the authority shall not have the power to issue its initial offering of bonds, notes or other obligations unless all five members of the authority shall have been appointed and qualified.
- e. The members of the authority shall serve without compensation, but the authority shall reimburse its members for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the discharge of their duties. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, no member shall be deemed to have forfeited nor shall the member forfeit the member's office or employment or any benefits or emoluments thereof by reason of the member's acceptance of the office of ex officio member of the authority or the member's services therein.

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f. Each ex officio member may designate an employee of the member's department or agency to represent the member at meetings of the authority. All designees may lawfully vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member for whom they constitute the designee. The designation shall be in writing delivered to the authority and shall continue in effect until revoked or amended in writing delivered to the authority.

g. A true copy of the minutes of every meeting of the authority shall be forthwith delivered by and under certification of the secretary thereof to the Governor. No action taken at the meeting by the authority shall have force or effect until 15 days after such copy of the minutes shall have been so delivered, unless during this 15-day period the Governor shall approve in writing the same or any part thereof, in which case the action shall become effective upon approval. If, in said 15-day period, the Governor returns a copy of the minutes with his veto of any action taken by the authority or any member thereof at the meeting, the action shall be null and void and of no effect. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the last day of the 15-day period shall be a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the 15-day period shall be deemed extended to the next following business day. The powers conferred in this paragraph upon the Governor shall be exercised with due regard for the rights of the holders of bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority at any time outstanding, and nothing in, or done pursuant to, this paragraph shall in any way limit, restrict or alter the obligation or powers of the authority or any representative or officer of the authority to carry out and perform in every detail each and every covenant, agreement or contract at any time made or entered into by or on behalf of the authority with respect to its bonds, notes or other obligations or for the benefit, protection or security of the holders thereof.

h. The authority shall continue in existence until dissolved by act of the Legislature [, except that it shall not continue in existence beyond 22 years unless the Legislature shall by law prescribe otherwise]. However, any dissolution of this authority [, by act of the Legislature or otherwise,] shall be on condition that the authority has no debts, contractual duties or obligations outstanding, or that provision has been made for the payment, discharge or retirement of these debts, contractual duties or obligations. Upon any dissolution of the authority, all property, rights, funds and assets thereof shall pass to and become vested in the State.

44 (cf: P.L.1987, c.460, s.1)

- 3. Section 6 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-6) is amended to read as follows:
- 6. In addition to all other powers granted to the authority in the act, the authority shall have power:
 - a. To sue and be sued;
 - b. To have an official seal and alter the same at its pleasure;
- 51 c. To make and alter bylaws for its organization and internal 52 management and rules and regulations for the conduct of its 53 affairs and business;
- d. To maintain an office at a place or places within the State

as it may determine;

- e. To acquire, hold, use and dispose of its income, revenues, funds and moneys;
- f. To acquire, own, lease as lessee or lessor, hold, use, sell, transfer, and dispose of real or personal property for its purposes;
- g. To borrow money and to issue its bonds, notes or other obligations and to secure the same by its revenues or other funds and otherwise to provide for and secure the payment thereof and to provide for the rights of the holders thereof and to provide for the refunding thereof, all as provided in the act;
- h. To issue subordinated indebtedness and to enter into [bankwood loan agreements, lines of credit, letters of credit] any revolving credit agreement, agreement establishing a line of credit or letter of credit, reimbursement agreement, interest rate exchange agreement, insurance contract, surety bond, commitment to purchase or sell bonds, purchase or sale agreement, or commitments or other contracts or agreements, and other security agreements as [provided for in the act] approved by the authority in connection with the issuance of bonds or notes;
- i. In its own name, in the name of the New Jersey Transit Corporation or in the name of the State, to apply for and receive and accept appropriations or grants of property, money, services reimbursements for money previously spent and other assistance offered or made available to it by or from any person, government agency, public authority or any public and private entity whatever for any lawful corporate purpose of the authority, including, without limitation, grants, appropriations or reimbursements from the State or federal government with respect to their respective shares under federal aid highway laws of the costs of planning, acquisition, engineering, construction, reconstruction, repair, resurfacing and rehabilitation of public highways or the costs of planning, acquisition, engineering, construction, reconstruction, repair, maintenance rehabilitation of public transportation projects and other transportation projects in the State and the authority's operating expenses and to apply and negotiate for the same upon such terms and conditions as may be required by any person, government agency, authority or entity or as the authority may determine to be necessary, convenient or desirable;
- j. Subject to any agreement with the holders of bonds, notes or other obligations, to invest moneys of the authority not required for immediate use, including proceeds from the sale of any bonds, notes or other obligations, in obligations, securities and other investments as the authority shall deem prudent;
- k. Subject to any agreements with holders of bonds, notes or other obligations, to purchase bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority out of any funds or moneys of the authority available therefor, and to hold, cancel or resell the bonds, notes or other obligations;
- l. For its sole purpose as established in section 5 of this act, to appoint and employ an executive director and such additional officers, who need not be members of the authority and such other personnel and staff as it may require, at an annual expense

not to exceed \$100,000.00, all without regard to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes;

- m. To do and perform any acts and things authorized by the act under, through, or by means of its officers, agents or employees or by contract with any person, firm or corporation or any public body;
- n. To procure insurance against any losses in connection with its property, operations, assets or obligations in amounts and from insurers as it deems desirable;
- o. To make and enter into any and all contracts and agreements which the authority determines are necessary, incidental, convenient or desirable to the performance of its duties and the execution of its powers under the act; and
- p. To do any and all things necessary, convenient or desirable to carry out its purposes and exercise the powers given and granted in the act.

(cf: P.L.1991, c.40, s.4)

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- 4. Section 9 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-9) is amended to read as follows:
- a. The authority shall have the power and is hereby authorized after November 15, 1984 and from time to time thereafter to issue its bonds, notes or other obligations in principal amounts as in the opinion of the authority shall be necessary to provide for any of its corporate purposes, including the payment, funding or refunding of the principal of, or interest or redemption premiums on, any bonds, notes or other obligations issued by it, whether the bonds, notes, obligations or interest to be funded or refunded have or have not become due; and to provide for the security thereof and for the establishment or increase of reserves to secure or to pay the bonds, notes or other obligations or interest thereon and all other reserves and all costs or expenses of the authority incident to and necessary or convenient to carry out its corporate purposes and powers; and in addition to its bonds, notes and other obligations, the authority shall have the power to issue subordinated indebtedness, which shall be subordinate in lien to the lien of any or all of its bonds or notes. No resolution or other action of the authority providing for the issuance of bonds, refunding bonds, notes, or other obligations shall be adopted or otherwise made effective by the authority without the prior approval in writing of the Governor and [either] the State Treasurer [or the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury].
- b. Except as may be otherwise expressly provided in the act or by the authority, every issue of bonds or notes shall be general obligations payable out of any revenues or funds of the authority, subject only to any agreements with the holders of particular bonds or notes pledging any particular revenues or funds. The authority may provide the security and payment provisions for its bonds or notes as it may determine, including (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) bonds or notes as to which the principal and interest are payable from and secured by all or any portion of the revenues of and payments to the authority, and other moneys or funds as the authority shall determine. In addition, the authority may, in anticipation of the issuance of the

bonds or the receipt of appropriations, grants, reimbursements or other funds, including without limitation grants from the federal government for federal aid highways or public transportation systems, issue notes, the principal of or interest on which, or both, shall be payable out of the proceeds of notes, bonds or other authority appropriations, of the \mathbf{or} reimbursements or other funds or revenues of the authority. The authority may also enter into bank loan agreements, lines of credit and other security agreements as authorized pursuant to subsection h. of section 6 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-6) and obtain for or on its behalf letters of credit in each case for the purpose of securing its bonds, notes or other obligations or to provide direct payment of any costs which the authority is authorized to pay by this act and to secure repayment of any borrowings under the loan agreement, line of credit, letter of credit or other security agreement by its bonds, notes or other obligations or the proceeds thereof or by any or all of the revenues of and payments to the authority or by any appropriation, grant or reimbursement to be received by the authority and other moneys or funds as the authority shall determine.

- c. Whether or not the bonds and notes are of the form and character as to be negotiable instruments under the terms of Title 12A, Commercial Transactions, New Jersey Statutes, the bonds and notes are hereby made negotiable instruments within the meaning of and for all the purposes of said Title 12A.
- d. Bonds or notes of the authority shall be authorized by a resolution or resolutions of the authority and may be issued in one or more series and shall bear the date, or dates, mature at the time or times, bear interest at the rate or rates of interest per annum, be in the denomination or denominations, be in the form, carry the conversion or registration privileges, have the rank or priority, be executed in the manner, be payable from the sources, in the medium of payment, at the place or places within or without the State, and be subject to the terms of redemption (with or without premium) as the resolution or resolutions may provide. Bonds or notes may be further secured by a trust indenture between the authority and a corporate trustee within or without the State. All other obligations of the authority shall be authority shall determine.
- e. Bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority may be sold at public or private sale at a price or prices and in a manner as the authority shall determine, either on a negotiated or on a competitive basis. [Every bond issued on or before the effective date of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-4 et al.) shall mature and be paid not later than 17 years from the date thereof, except that no bond, note or other obligation shall mature and be paid later than 22 years from the effective date of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-1 et seq.), nor shall any refunding of such obligations mature or be paid later than that date. Every bond issued after the effective date of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-4 et al.) shall mature and be paid not later than 11 years from the date thereof, except that no bond, note or other obligation shall mature and be paid later than

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22 years from the effective date of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-1 et seq.).] Every bond, or refunding bond, issued on or after the effective date of P.L.19, c. (C.) (now before the Legislature as this bill) shall mature and be paid no later than 21 years from the date of the issuance of that bond or refunding bond.

[Notes, the initial series of bonds and bonds issued for refunding purposes of the authority may be sold at public or private sale at a price or prices and in a manner as the authority shall determine.

Except as noted above, all bonds of the authority shall be sold at such price or prices and in such manner as the authority shall determine, after notice of sale, published at least three times in at least three newspapers published in the State of New Jersey, and at least once in a publication carrying municipal bond notices and devoted primarily to financial news, published in New Jersey or the City of New York, the first notice to be at least five days prior to the day of bidding. The notice of sale may contain a provision to the effect that any or all bids made in pursuance thereof may be rejected. In the event of such rejection or of failure to receive any acceptable bid, the authority, at any time within 60 days from the date of such advertised sale, may sell such bonds at private sale upon terms not less favorable to the State than the terms offered by any rejected bid. The authority may sell all or part of the bonds of any series as issued to any State fund or to the federal government or any agency thereof, at private sale, without advertisement.]

- f. Bonds or notes may be issued and other obligations incurred under the provisions of the act without obtaining the consent of any department, division, commission, board, bureau or agency of the State, other than the approval as required by subsection a. of this section, and without any other proceedings or the happening of any other conditions or other things than those proceedings, conditions or things which are specifically required by the act.
- g. Bonds, notes and other obligations of the authority issued or incurred under the provisions of the act shall not be in any way a debt or liability of the State or of any political subdivision thereof other than the authority and shall not create or constitute any indebtedness, liability or obligation of the State or of any political subdivision or be or constitute a pledge of the faith and credit of the State or of any political subdivision but all bonds, notes and obligations, unless funded or refunded by bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority, shall be payable solely from revenues or funds pledged or available for their payment as authorized in the act. Each bond, note or other obligation shall contain on its face a statement to the effect that the authority is obligated to pay the principal thereof or the interest thereon only from revenues or funds of the authority and that neither the State nor any political subdivision thereof is obligated to pay the principal or interest and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State or any political subdivision thereof is pledged to the payment of the principal of or the interest on the bonds, notes or other obligations. For the purposes of this subsection, political subdivision does not include the authority.

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- h. All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of the act shall be payable solely from the revenues or funds provided or to be provided under or pursuant to the provisions of the act and nothing in the act shall be construed to authorize the authority to incur any indebtedness or liability on behalf of or payable by the State or any political subdivision thereof.
- i. [The aggregate principal amount of bonds, notes or other obligations outstanding at any one time, including subordinated indebtedness of the authority, may not exceed \$1,700,000,000.00. If in any fiscal year appropriations by the Legislature to the authority, and amounts received in accordance with contracts entered into with the toll road authorities, if those amounts are not included in legislative appropriations, shall be in excess of \$143,000,000.00 in any fiscal year through the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1986 or \$201,000,000.00 for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1987 or \$331,000,000.00 in any fiscal year thereafter, the aggregate principal amount of \$1,700,000,000.00 shall be reduced by an amount equal to the excess. In computing the foregoing limitations there shall be excluded all the bonds, notes or other obligations, including subordinated indebtedness of the authority, which shall be issued for refunding purposes, provided that the refunding shall be determined by the authority to result in a debt service savings.]

The authority shall minimize debt incurrence by first relying on appropriations and other revenues available to the authority before incurring debt to meet its statutory purposes.

[The authority shall not incur debt at any time in any fiscal year in excess of the difference between the amount of appropriations and other revenues to the authority theretofore made in that fiscal year and the amount which the Department of Transportation is permitted to commit for transportation projects under the act in that fiscal year as indicated in the budget, plus reasonably necessary expenses, required debt reserve funds, debt service and outstanding financial obligations from prior fiscal years of the authority.

Debt which would have been incurred pursuant to this section, which is not incurred in any fiscal year, may be issued in subsequent years.]

Commencing on the 90th day following the date of enactment of this 1995 amendatory and supplementary act, the authority shall not incur debt in any fiscal year in excess of \$700,000,000, except that if that permitted amount of debt, or any portion thereof, is not incurred in a fiscal year it may be incurred in a subsequent fiscal year. Any increase in this limitation shall only occur if so provided for by law.

(cf: P.L.1991, c.40, s.5)

- 5. Section 20 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-20) is amended to read as follows:
- 20. There is hereby established in the General Fund an account entitled "Transportation Trust Fund Account." During the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1984 and during each succeeding fiscal year in which the authority has bonds, notes or other obligations outstanding, the treasurer shall credit to this account:
 - a. [Commencing with the last business day of August 1984 and

on the last business day of each succeeding calendar month, an amount not less than \$7,333,333.00, provided that if the effective date of the act shall be later than July 1984, the initial credit shall be an amount equal to that which would have been credited to the account had the act become effective on July 1. 1984, and further provided that the amount credited shall be an] An amount equivalent to the revenue derived from \$0.025 per gallon from the tax imposed on the sale of motor fuels pursuant to chapter 39 of Title 54 of the Revised Statutes, as provided in Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 4 of the State Constitution, provided, however, such amount during any fiscal year shall not be less than [\$88,000,000.00] \$100,000,000;

b. [In] After approval by the voters of the constitutional amendment proposed in Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 of 1995 or Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 9 of 1995, in addition to the amount credited in subsection a. of this section, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, [1988] 1996 and the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997 [for each fiscal year thereafter, commencing with the last business day of August 1988 and on the last business day of each succeeding calendar month], an amount equivalent to the revenue derived from \$0.045 per gallon from the tax imposed on the sale of motor fuels pursuant to chapter 39 of Title 54 of the Revised Statutes, provided, however, such amount [during any month] shall not be less than [\$14,812,500.00, nor less than \$177,750,000.00] \$180,000,000 during [any fiscal year] each of those fiscal years, and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998, an amount equivalent to the revenue derived from \$0.055 per gallon from the tax, provided, however, that such amount shall not be less than \$220,000,000, and for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999 and for each fiscal year thereafter, an amount equivalent to the revenue derived from \$0.065 per gallon from the tax, provided, however, that such amount shall not be less than \$260,000,000 in any fiscal year, as provided in Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 4 of the State Constitution; and

c. An amount equivalent to moneys received by the State in accordance with contracts entered into with toll road authorities or other State agencies, provided that effective with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1988, the amount so credited shall not be less than \$24,500,000.00 in any fiscal year.

The treasurer shall also credit to this account, in accordance with a contract between the treasurer and the authority, an amount equivalent to the sum of the revenues due from the increase of fees for motor vehicle registrations collected pursuant to the amendment to R.S.39:3-20 made by this act [and from the increase of fees for motor fuels user identification markers collected pursuant to the amendment to section 10 of P.L.1963, c.44 (C.54:39A-10) made by this act] and from the increase in the tax on diesel fuels imposed pursuant to the amendment to R.S.54:39-27 made by this act and by P.L.1987, c.460, provided that the total amount credited during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1984 shall not be less than \$20,000,000.00 and that the total amount credited during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1985 and during every fiscal year thereafter shall not be less than \$30,000,000.00.

In addition to the amounts credited to the account by this section, commencing with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995 and every fiscal year thereafter, there shall be appropriated from the General Fund such additional amounts as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and after January 1, 1997 the fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of section 68 of P.L.1990, c.8 (C.17:33B-63) shall be available for crediting to the account for the purposes of this act.

No later than the fifth business day of the month following the month in which a credit has been made, the treasurer shall pay to the authority, for its purposes as provided herein, the amounts then credited to the Transportation Trust Fund Account, provided that the payments to the authority shall be subject to and dependent upon appropriations being made from time to time by the Legislature of the amounts thereof for the purposes of the act.

(cf: P.L.1987, c.460, s.3)

- 6. Section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21) is amended to read as follows:
- 21. a. There is hereby established a separate fund entitled "Special Transportation Fund." This fund shall be maintained by the State Treasurer and may be held in depositories as may be selected by the treasurer and invested and reinvested as other funds in the custody of the treasurer, in the manner provided by law. The commissioner may from time to time (but not more frequently than monthly) certify to the authority an amount necessary to fund payments made, or anticipated to be made by or on behalf of the department, from appropriations established for or made to the department from revenues or other funds of the authority. The commissioner's certification shall be deemed conclusive for purposes of the act. The authority shall, within 15 days of receipt of the certificate, transfer from available funds of the authority to the treasurer for deposit in the Special Transportation Fund the amount certified by the commissioner, provided that all funds transferred shall only be expended by the department by project pursuant to appropriations made from time to time by the Legislature for the purposes of the act.
- b. The department shall not expend any money except as appropriated by law. Commencing with appropriations for the fiscal years beginning on July 1, 1988, the department shall not expend any funds except as are appropriated by specific projects identified by a description of the projects, the county or counties within which they are located, and amounts to be expended on each project, in the annual appropriations act.
- c. [No funds appropriated, authorized or expended pursuant to this act shall be used to finance the resurfacing of highways by department personnel, where that resurfacing would require the use of more than 150,000 tons of bituminous concrete for that purpose in any calendar year, except that the commissioner may waive this provision when he determines the existence of emergency conditions requiring the use of department personnel for the resurfacing of highways, after the department has effectively reached the 150,000 ton limit.] Deleted by amendment, P.L.19, c. (now before the Legislature as this bill).

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- d. In order to provide the department with flexibility in administering the specific appropriations by project identified in the annual appropriations act, the commissioner may transfer a part of any item to any other item subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting and of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Upon approval of the director and the committee, the transfer shall take effect.
 - e. Any federal funds which become available to the State for transportation projects which have not been appropriated to the department in the annual appropriations act, shall be deemed appropriated to the department and may, subject to approval by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and the State Treasurer, be expended for any purpose for which such funds are qualified. (cf: P.L.1987, c.460, s.4)
- 7. Section 8 of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-21.1) is amended to read as follows:
- [Commencing with the report of the commissioner required to be submitted pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) on or before March 1, 1988 for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1988 and for the reports of the commissioner required to be submitted pursuant thereto for each fiscal year through the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1989, the amount reported by the commissioner for proposed projects to be financed shall not exceed \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds, except that for fiscal years commencing July 1, 1990 and thereafter the amount shall not exceed \$565,000,000 exclusive of federal funds, except as provided herein. If, in the discretion of the commissioner, a greater amount is determined to be necessary to meet the financing requirements for the ensuing fiscal year, the commissioner may include in a report an amount in excess of \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds or in excess of \$565,000,000 exclusive of federal funds for the fiscal years in which appropriations above those limits are permitted pursuant to subsection b. of this section; provided that in no event shall that amount be an amount greater than 105% of that \$365,000,000 or of that \$565,000,000 respectively.

In any fiscal year for which an amount exceeding \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds or an amount exceeding \$565,000,000 exclusive of federal funds was appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the commissioner shall report on or before March 1 of that fiscal year for the ensuing fiscal year an amount for proposed projects to be financed not greater than the maximum amount authorized to be appropriated for that ensuing fiscal year pursuant to subsection b. of this section.]

Commencing with the report of the commissioner required to be submitted pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) on or before March 1, 1996 for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1996 and for each fiscal year thereafter the amount reported by the commissioner for proposed projects to be financed shall not exceed \$700,000,000 exclusive of federal funds.

b. [For the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1988 and for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1989, the total amount authorized to be appropriated from the revenues and other nonfederal funds

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of the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority for the projects listed in the appropriations act pursuant to section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21), shall not exceed \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds and for fiscal years beginning on July 1, 1990 and through the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1994 the amount shall not exceed \$565,000,000 exclusive of federal funds, except as provided herein. If, in any fiscal year through the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 1991, a greater amount is determined to be necessary to meet the financing requirements, the amount appropriated may be in excess of \$365,000,000 exclusive of federal funds or in excess of \$565,000,000 exclusive of federal funds; provided that in any such year: (1) in no event shall there be appropriated an amount greater than 105% of that \$365,000,000 or of that \$565,000,000, and provided further, that (2) if, pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, (i) a greater fiscal year appropriation is authorized in excess of the \$365,000,000 limit for a fiscal year, the ensuing fiscal year appropriation is to be reduced by the same amount that the appropriation for that fiscal year exceeds \$365,000,000, or, (ii) a greater fiscal year appropriation is authorized in excess of the \$565,000,000 limit for a fiscal year, the ensuing fiscal year appropriation is to be reduced by the same amount that the appropriation for that fiscal year exceeds \$565,000,000.1

For the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1995 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the total amount authorized to be appropriated from the revenues and other nonfederal funds of the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority for the projects listed in the appropriations act pursuant to section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21) shall not exceed \$700,000,000 exclusive of federal funds.

- c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1991, c.40).
- d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1992, c.10).
- e. The State Auditor shall [develop procedures for the auditing of expenditures made by the department and the New Jersey Transit Corporation from funds appropriated for transportation projects from the revenues of the authority and shall cause a semi-annual audit to be made of these expenditures in order to determine the extent to which these funds are expended for costs directly related to the projects, including but not limited to salaries and other administrative expenses] provide for a unified annual audit of expenditures from the Special Transportation Fund, established by section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21), in order to determine that these funds are expended for costs eligible for funding from the authority and in a manner consistent with appropriations made by the Legislature. The findings of such audits shall be transmitted to the presiding officer of each House of the Legislature, and to the Chair of the Senate Budget and **Appropriations** Committee, the Senate Transportation Committee, the Assembly Appropriations Committee, and the Assembly Transportation and Communications Committee or their successors. [In addition, the State Auditor shall audit expenditures made for maintenance of public transportation projects every six months and shall transmit the findings of these audits to the Chairs of the Senate Transportation Committee and

the Assembly Transportation and Communications Committee.]

f. [Until the filing of a public issuer's annual report by the Transportation Trust Fund Authority pursuant to section 12 of the "New Jersey Bond Review Board Act," P.L., c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as Assembly Bill No. 1199 of 1992), the] The State Auditor shall review bond issuances of the authority and report to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and to the members of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee, or their successors, on the status of the bonds of the authority and projects financed from the proceeds of the bonds. The report shall include the investment status of all unexpended bond proceeds and provide a description of any bond issues expected during a fiscal year, including type of issue, estimated amount of bonds to be issued and the expected month of sale.

(cf: P.L.1992, c.10, s.2)

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- 8. Section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) is amended to read as follows:
- 22. To the end that the transportation system of the State shall be planned in an orderly and efficient manner and that the Legislature shall be advised of the nature and extent of public highways, public transportation projects and other transportation projects contemplated to be financed under this act, the department shall submit a master plan, as provided in subsection (a) of section 5 of P.L.1966, c.301 (C.27:1A-5). Notwithstanding the provisions of that act, the plan shall be for a period of five years and shall be submitted to the Commission on Capital and Planning, the Chairman of the Senate Budgeting Transportation [and Communications] Committee and Chairman of the Assembly Transportation[, Communications and High Technology] and Communications Committee, or their successors, and the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer, on or before December 15, 1984, and at five year intervals thereafter.

On or before March 1 of each year, the commissioner shall submit a report of general project categories and proposed projects [, including but not limited to public highways,] thereunder to be financed in an ensuing fiscal year, including therewith a description of the projects, the county or counties within which they are to be located, a distinction between State and local projects, and the amount estimated to be expended on each project and also including a financial plan designed to implement the financing of the proposed projects. The financial plan shall contain an enumeration of the bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority which the authority intends to issue, including the amounts thereof and the conditions therefor. The financial plan shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering the authority's proposed operations during the ensuing fiscal year, including amounts of income from all sources, including but not limited to the proceeds of bonds, notes or other obligations to be issued, as well as interest earned. In addition, the plan shall contain proposed amounts to be appropriated and expended, as well as amounts for which the department anticipates to obligate during the ensuing fiscal year for any future expenditures. The report shall be submitted to the

Senate and General Assembly. Within 30 days of the receipt 1 2 thereof, the Senate or the General Assembly may object in writing to the commissioner in regard to any project or projects 3 4 it disapproves or which it is of the opinion should be modified or 5 added to or any additional or alternative projects considered or in 6 regard to any element of the financial plan. The commissioner 7 shall consider the objections and recommendations and resubmit 8 the report within 10 days, containing therein any modifications 9 based upon the commissioner's consideration of the objections or 10 recommendations.

(cf: P.L.1987, c.460, s.5)

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9. (New section) State aid to counties and municipalities pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-25), may, at the discretion of the commissioner, be disbursed to any individual county or municipality on a grant basis or on a cost reimbursement basis.

10. (New section) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 8 of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-21.1), section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) or any other law to the contrary, within ten days of the effective date of this section or on June 15, 1995, whichever is sooner, the commissioner shall submit to the Senate and the General Assembly a report of proposed projects to be financed in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995. The amount reported by the commissioner for proposed projects to be financed shall not exceed \$700,000,000 exclusive of federal funds. The report shall include a description of the projects, the county or counties within which they are to be located, a distinction between State and local projects, and the amount estimated to be expended on each project and also include a financial plan designed to implement the financing of the proposed projects. The financial plan shall contain an enumeration of the bonds, notes or other obligations of the authority which the authority intends to issue, including the amounts thereof and the conditions therefor. The financial plan shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering the authority's proposed operations during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995, including amounts of income from all sources, including but not limited to the proceeds of bonds, notes or other obligations to be issued, as well as interest earned. In addition, the plan shall contain proposed amounts to be appropriated and expended, as well as amounts for which the department anticipates to obligate during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995 for any future expenditures. Within five days of the receipt thereof, the Senate or the General Assembly may object in writing to the commissioner in regard to any project or projects it disapproves or which it is of the opinion should be modified or added to or any additional or alternative projects considered or in regard to any element of the financial plan. The commissioner shall consider the objections and recommendations and resubmit the report within five days, modifications containing therein any based upon the commissioner's consideration the objections or recommendations.

11. (New section) The State amount appropriated from the revenues and other funds of the authority for any fiscal year

commencing on or after July 1, 1995 may be utilized for any cost incurred in direct or indirect support or advancement of transportation projects authorized by the annual appropriations act, except that indirect costs shall not include the cost of routine operation and routine maintenance of a transportation project, or costs associated with the non-capital programs of the department and the New Jersey Transit Corporation. Costs which directly or indirectly support or advance more than one transportation project may be allocated among those projects in a manner the commissioner finds reasonable, provided such costs are equitably and uniformly distributed among all work that was performed during the fiscal year or accounting period. The rate of indirect costs appropriated from the State amount in any fiscal year shall not exceed the indirect cost rate additive, as calculated pursuant to the United States Office of Management and Budget Circular A-87, "Cost Principles Applicable to Grants and Contracts with State and Local Governments," applicable to federal funds.

- 12. (New section) a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, the commissioner is authorized to enter into agreements with public or private entities for the loan of federal funds appropriated to the department for the purpose of financing all. or a portion of, the costs incurred for the planning, acquisition, engineering, construction, reconstruction, repair and rehabilitation of a transportation project by that public or private entity.
- b. The commissioner, with the approval of the State Treasurer, shall establish rules and regulations governing the qualifications of the applicants, the application procedures, the criteria for awarding loans, and the standards for establishing the amount, terms and conditions of each loan. The rules and regulations shall provide that the term of the loan agreement shall be no longer than five years and that the loan shall be secured by appropriate collateral or guarantees.
- c. Loans granted pursuant to this section shall be considered an investment or reinvestment of Special Transportation Fund funds within the meaning of subsection a. of section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21). Payments of interest and principal on loans granted pursuant to this section shall be credited to a special subaccount of the Special Transportation Fund and may be used for financing authorized projects. Monies appropriated from the special subaccount pursuant to this section shall be in addition to the total State amount authorized to be appropriated in a fiscal year pursuant to section 8 of P.L.1987, c.460 (C.27:1B-21.1).
- d. Each loan made pursuant to this section shall require the specific approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee. The Chairman of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee may request periodic reports from the commissioner on the status of any or all loans. The commissioner shall provide reports so requested on a timely basis.
- e. Transportation projects which are the subject of a loan agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be included in the annual report of proposed projects prepared pursuant to

section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) for the fiscal year in which the loan amount for those projects is to be appropriated.

13. (New section) The commissioner or the board of the New Jersey Transit Corporation with the approval of the commissioner is authorized to enter into agreements for a period of years for the advancement of a transportation project to be funded by future year appropriations to the authority, except that, in the case of a transportation project involving appropriations in excess of \$100,000,000 in any fiscal year, the agreement shall be subject to approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee. The commissioner or the board of the New Jersey Transit Corporation may pledge grant monies or funds anticipated to be appropriated to those transportation projects in those agreements, provided, however that payment of monies pledged is subject to the availability of funds in the year in which the funds are to be appropriated. Any transportation project which is the subject of an agreement authorized by this section shall appear in the annual report of proposed projects prepared pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22) for each fiscal year in which the agreement is in effect and the report shall indicate the amount to be appropriated, if any, to the project in the upcoming fiscal year.

14. (New section) a. After the commissioner has determined that a project financed through the authority has been completed, the commissioner may direct that any account established for such project be closed, provided that the funds in any such account are less than \$1,000,000. The commissioner may further direct that any appropriated funds remaining in such closed accounts be credited to a special subaccount of the Special Transportation Fund. In the event that an account for a project that has been completed exceeds \$1,000,000, the account shall not be closed and the funds credited to the special subaccount unless such action is approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee.

b. Subject to approval by the State Treasurer, the commissioner may expend funds from the special subaccount established pursuant to subsection a. of this section for any purpose for which the Legislature has previously appropriated funds and which the authority is authorized to undertake pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-5). Any claims or costs which would have been paid from an account closed pursuant to this section may be paid from the special subaccount established pursuant to subsection a. of this section, or from any other funds appropriated for such purposes.

15. (New section) Each year a sum of money shall be appropriated from funds held in the Special Transportation Fund, established pursuant to section 21 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-21), and credited to the Airport Safety Fund, established in the General Fund pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1983, c.264 (C.6:1-92), for use for any capital purpose pursuant to the "New Jersey Airport Safety Act of 1983," P.L.1983, c.264 (C.6:1-89 et seq.) and that sum shall be included in the annual report of projects prepared pursuant to section 22 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-22).

16. (New section) Notwithstanding any other provision of law

- to the contrary, in any fiscal year in which the amount allocated by the Federal Government to the New Jersey Transit Corporation for public transportation operating expenses is less than in the previous fiscal year, an amount equal to the diminution may be appropriated from the revenues and other funds of the authority, excluding bond proceeds, to the department for the operating expenses of the New Jersey Transit Corporation, subject to approval therefor provided in the annual appropriations act.
 - 17. Section 68 of P.L.1990, c.8 (C.17:33B-63) is amended to read as follows:

- 68. a. In addition to the registration fees imposed pursuant to Article 2 of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall impose and collect additional registration fees as follows:
- (1) For all motor vehicles, except commercial motor vehicles as defined by R.S.39:1-1 that were manufactured in any model year prior to the 1989 model year, the additional fee shall be \$15, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$12.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$10 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$7.50;
- (2) For all motor vehicles, except commercial motor vehicles as defined by R.S.39:1-1, that were manufactured in model year 1989 and thereafter, the additional fee shall be \$40, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$33.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$27 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$20 for the first two years of registration or renewal and \$15, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$12.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$10 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$7.50 for each year thereafter;
- (3) For all commercial motor vehicles as defined in R.S.39:1-1, the additional fee shall be \$75, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$62.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$50 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$37.50;
- (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection, the additional fee on motorcycle registrations shall be \$15, except that on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee shall be \$12.50, and on and after January 1, 1999 the additional fee shall be \$10 and on and after January 1, 2000 the additional fee shall be \$7.50 and further provided the additional registration fee on noncommercial trucks registered pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1968, c.429 (C.39:3-8.1) shall be \$50, except that on and after January 1, 1997 the additional fee collected on noncommercial trucks registered pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1968, c.429 (C.39:3-8.1) shall be \$15 for any vehicle manufactured in any model year prior to the 1996 model year and for any vehicle manufactured in the model year 1996 and thereafter, the additional fee shall be \$40 for the first two years of registration or renewal and \$15 for each year thereafter and on and after January 1, 1998 the additional fee collected on

- noncommercial trucks shall be collected pursuant to the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; 2
 - (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection, there shall not be any additional fee imposed on any vehicle registered pursuant to R.S.39:3-24.
 - b. Fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be collected on registrations issued and renewed on or after July 1, 1990 [through December 31, 1996].
 - (1) Fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section prior to October 1, 1991 shall be remitted to the New Jersey Automobile Full Insurance Underwriting Association created by section 16 of P.L.1983, c.65 (C.17:30E-4) and shall be income to the association for purposes of section 20 of P.L.1983, c.65 (C.17:30E-8).
 - (2) Fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section on or after October 1, 1991 through December 31, 1996 shall be remitted to the New Jersey Automobile Insurance Guaranty Fund created pursuant to section 23 of this 1990 amendatory and supplementary act.
 - (3) Fees collected pursuant to subsection a. of this section on and after January 1, 1997, shall be remitted to the General Fund and so much thereof as is required pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-20) shall be credited to the "Transportation Trust Fund Account" created by section 20 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-20), such credited funds to be used for transportation projects, pursuant the "New Jersey to Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act of 1984," P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-1 et seq.).
 - c. Notwithstanding any provision of subsection a. of this section to the contrary, no fees shall be imposed pursuant to this section on a registration for which no fee is presently collected pursuant to Article 2 of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes or on a registration for a motor vehicle, except commercial vehicles, if the registrant or, in the case of a leased vehicle, the lessee is eligible for pharmaceutical assistance to the aged and disabled pursuant to P.L.1975, c.194 (C.30:4D-20 et seq.). In the case of a leased vehicle, documentation verifying that the vehicle will be leased for the registration term to a lessee who is entitled to the exemption provided for in this subsection shall be provided according to the requirements established by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles. The lessor shall not collect from the lessee any payment for the registration of the vehicle that exceeds the amount that the lessor paid to register the vehicle.
 - (cf: P.L.1991, c.320, s.1)
 - 18. Sections 3 and 5 of P.L.1992, c.10 (C.27:1B-21.2 and 27:1B-21.3) are repealed.
 - 19. This act shall take effect immediately except that section 6 shall take effect on July 1, 1995.

STATEMENT

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This bill provides for the continued financing of the capital needs of the State's transportation system by the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority. This legislation is linked to a proposed constitutional amendment, now pending before the Legislature as Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 of 1995 or Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 9 of 1995 which, upon voter approval, will provide for the constitutional dedication of an additional 6.5 cents of the motor fuels tax to the Transportation Trust Fund Account phased in over a period of four fiscal years. This legislation does not increase the motor fuels tax.

This bill eliminates the existing statutory "sunset" of the Transportation Trust Fund Authority and provides that the authority shall continue until dissolved by act of the Legislature. The "life" of the original authority was 22 years. Elimination of the "sunset" will permit the authority to continue to serve the transportation financing needs of the people of New Jersey.

The bill increases the size of the annual transportation program to \$700,000,000 from the current statutory maximum of \$565,000,000. This statutory maximum applies to appropriations from nonfederal funds. Since the size of the transportation program had not been determined at the time the Commissioner of Transportation submitted the report of proposed projects for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995, the bill requires the commissioner to submit a report of proposed projects for a \$700,000,000 program within 10 days of enactment or by June 15, 1995, whichever is sooner. The bill permits the authority in any fiscal year to fund the operating costs of New Jersey Transit to the extent that federal operating funds are reduced below the level allocated in the previous fiscal year, subject to approval therefor provided in the annual appropriations act.

The bill eliminates the cap on the amount of bonds the authority may have outstanding. New bonds issued by the authority may have technical maturities of up to 21 years, resulting in a practical bond maturity of 20 years. Bond maturities of up to this length are consistent with the useful life spans of many of the infrastructure projects financed by the Transportation Trust Fund Authority. The useful life of most transportation projects, such as bridges, can be considerably longer than 20 years, perhaps 50 years or more. In place of existing provisions of law requiring a test before bonds may be issued, the bill provides an annual "cap" of \$700 million on bond issuances, except that if the maximum cap is not reached in any fiscal year, the difference between the cap and the actual amount issued may be applied to subsequent fiscal years. This limitation would go into effect on the 90th day following the enactment of this bill into law, and could only be increased if so provided for by law.

"Pay as you go" resources allocated to the Transportation Trust Fund Authority in the bill include the existing 2.5 cent per gallon constitutional dedication of motor fuels taxes and anticipate a constitutional dedication, in place of the current statutory dedication, of an additional 4.5 cents of the motor fuels tax as of July 1, 1996, an additional 1 cent as of July 1, 1998, and an additional 1 cent as of July 1, 1999, making for a total dedication of 9 cents. Existing Toll Road Authority contributions will continue at a level of \$24.5 million annually; existing heavy

truck/diesel fees will continue at a level of \$30 million annually; and State revenues in the form of annual appropriations from the General Fund will also provide a revenue stream to the Transportation Trust Fund Authority. The bill specifies that revenues credited to the General Fund from the extension of the existing JUA Fair Act motor vehicle registration fees are to be available for the purposes of the Transportation Trust Fund. This total revenue stream will be used, in combination with Federal funds, to fund an annually appropriated transportation program.

The bill continues the current practice of providing that funds shall be appropriated on an individual project basis.

Local aid funds, under this bill, could be distributed by the Commissioner on a grant or reimbursement basis.

The bill reduces the additional registration fees imposed by the JUA Fair Act for noncommercial trucks and other motor vehicles by at least 50 percent as of the year 2000, the reduction being phased in commencing with calendar year 1997, and removes the December 31, 1996 "sunset" for the collection of those fees. The bill further provides that after January 1, 1997 these fees shall be remitted to the General Fund and shall be available for the purposes of the Transportation Trust Fund.

The bill also provides that any federal transportation funds which become available to the State which have not already been appropriated to the Department of Transportation in the annual appropriations act shall be deemed appropriated to the department and may, subject to approval by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and the State Treasurer, be expended for any purpose for which such funds are qualified.

Additional provisions of the bill permit the Commissioner of Transportation to make loans of federal funds to private or public entities for financing the planning, acquisition, engineering, reconstruction, construction, operation, maintenance, preservation, repair and rehabilitation of a transportation project by that entity. The commissioner, with the approval of the State Treasurer, would establish regulations setting application procedures, the criteria for awarding loans, and the standards for establishing loan amounts, terms and conditions. establishes detailed requirements for loan approval disposition of the repaid principal and interest.

In respect to aviation projects, the bill provides that a sum shall be annually appropriated to the Airport Safety Fund from the Special Transportation Fund for use for capital expenditures as prescribed by the "New Jersey Airport Safety Act of 1983," (C.6:1-89 et seq.).

Additional provisions deal with the treatment of indirect costs, the closing of Trust Fund Authority accounts and multi-year project contracts. In the case of multi-year project contracts, approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee is required in the case of contemplated appropriations for a transportation program in excess of \$100 million in any fiscal year.

This bill repeals sections 3 and 5 of P.L.1992, c.10 (C.27:1B-21.2) which deal with Trust Fund Authority project-related State costs and maintenance costs.

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3 Revises "New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act of

4 1984"; changes dedication of monies to Trust Fund Account.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 99

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 11, 1995

The Assembly Transportation and Communications Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 99 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill provides for the continued financing of the capital needs of the State's transportation system by the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority. Sources of funding for the State transportation system include constitutionally dedicating an additional 6.5 cents of the existing motor fuels tax over a period of four fiscal years. This legislation is linked with Assembly Concurrent Resolution 9 of 1995 or the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 of 1995 which amend the constitution to increase the dedication of the motor fuels tax revenue for transportation funding and makes that dedication permanent.

This bill eliminates the existing statutory "sunset" of the Transportation Trust Fund Authority and provides that the authority shall continue until dissolved by act of the Legislature. The "life" of the original authority was 22 years. Elimination of the "sunset" will permit the authority to continue to serve the transportation financing needs of the people of New Jersey.

The bill increases the size of the annual transportation program to \$700,000,000 from the current statutory maximum of \$565,000,000. This statutory maximum applies to appropriations from nonfederal funds.

Although the bill continues the role of the Trust Fund Authority as the capital funding mechanism for transportation projects, the bill permits the authority to fund the operating costs of New Jersey Transit in any fiscal year to the extent that federal operating funds are reduced below the level allocated in the previous fiscal year, subject to approval therefor provided in the annual appropriations act.

The bill eliminates the cap on the amount of bonds the authority may have outstanding. New bonds issued by the authority may have technical maturities of up to 21 years, resulting in a practical bond maturity of 20 years. Bond maturities of up to this length are consistent with the useful life spans of many of the infrastructure projects financed by the Transportation Trust Fund Authority. In place of existing provisions of law requiring a test before bonds may be issued, the bill provides an annual "cap" of \$700 million on bond issuances, except that if the maximum cap is not reached in any fiscal year, the difference between the cap and the actual amount issued may be applied to subsequent fiscal years. This limitation would go into effect on the 90th day following the enactment of this bill into law, and could only be increased if so provided for by law.

Revenue sources allocated to the Transportation Trust Fund Authority in the bill include the existing 2.5 cent per gallon constitutional dedication of motor fuels taxes and anticipate a constitutional dedication, in place of the current statutory dedication, of an additional 4.5 cents of the motor fuels tax as of July 1, 1996, and further anticipate an additional dedication of 1 cent as of July 1, 1998, and 1 cent as of July 1, 1999, making for a total dedication of 9 cents. Existing Toll Road Authority contributions will continue at a level of \$24.5 million annually; existing heavy truck/diesel fees will continue at a level of \$30 million annually; and State revenues in the form of annual appropriations from the General Fund will also provide a revenue stream to the Transportation Trust Fund Authority. The bill specifies that revenues credited to the General Fund from the extension of the existing JUA Fair Act motor vehicle registration fees are to be available for the purposes of the Transportation This total revenue stream will be used, in Trust Fund. combination with Federal funds, to fund an annually appropriated transportation program.

The bill continues the current practice of providing that funds shall be appropriated on an individual project basis.

Local aid funds, under this bill, could be distributed by the Commissioner of Transportation on a grant or reimbursement basis.

The bill reduces the additional registration fees imposed by the JUA Fair Act for noncommercial trucks and other motor vehicles by at least 50 percent as of the year 2000, the reduction being phased in commencing with calendar year 1997, and removes the December 31, 1996 "sunset" for the collection of those fees. The bill further provides that after January 1, 1997 these fees shall be remitted to the General Fund and shall be available for the purposes of the Transportation Trust Fund.

The bill also provides that any federal transportation funds which become available to the State which have not already been appropriated to the Department of Transportation in the annual appropriations act shall be deemed appropriated to the department and may, subject to approval by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and the State Treasurer, be expended for any purpose for which such funds are qualified.

Additional provisions of the bill permit the commissioner to make loans of federal funds to private or public entities for financing the planning, acquisition, engineering, construction, reconstruction, operation, maintenance, preservation, repair and rehabilitation of a transportation project by that entity. The commissioner, with the approval of the State Treasurer, would establish regulations setting application procedures, the criteria for awarding loans, and the standards for establishing loan amounts, terms and conditions. The bill establishes detailed requirements for loan approval and disposition of the repaid principal and interest.

In respect to aviation projects, the bill provides that a sum shall be annually appropriated to the Airport Safety Fund from the Special Transportation Fund for use for capital expenditures as prescribed by the "New Jersey Airport Safety Act of 1983," (C.6:1-89 et seq.).

Additional provisions deal with the treatment of indirect costs, the closing of Trust Fund Authority accounts and multi-year project contracts. In the case of multi-year project contracts, approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee is required in

the case of contemplated appropriations for a transportation project in excess of \$100 million in any fiscal year.

Since the size of the transportation program had not been determined at the time the Commissioner of Transportation submitted the report of proposed projects for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995, the bill requires the commissioner to submit a report of proposed projects for a \$700,000,000 program within 10 days of enactment or by June 15, 1995, whichever is sooner.

Finally, the bill repeals sections 3 and 5 of P.L.1992, c.10 (C.27:1B-21.2) which deal with Trust Fund Authority project-related State costs and maintenance costs.

The committee amendments restore language providing that the authority may not finance resurfacing of highways by department personnel where that resurfacing would require more than 150,000 tons of bituminous concrete in any calendar year.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT] ASSEMBLY, No. 99

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 15, 1995

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 99(1R) with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 99 (1R), as amended, provides for the continued financing of the capital needs of the State's transportation system by the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority. Sources of funding for the State transportation system include the constitutional dedication of an additional 6.5 cents of the existing motor fuels tax over a period of four fiscal years. This legislation is linked with the Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 9 (1R) of 1995 which amends the constitution to increase the dedication of the motor fuels tax revenue for transportation funding and makes that dedication permanent.

This bill eliminates the existing statutory "sunset" of the Transportation Trust Fund Authority and provides that the authority will continue until dissolved by an act of the Legislature.

The bill increases the size of the annual transportation program to \$700,000,000 from the current statutory maximum of \$565,000,000. This statutory maximum applies to appropriations from nonfederal funds.

Although the bill continues the role of the Trust Fund Authority as the capital funding mechanism for transportation projects, it permits the authority to fund the operating costs of New Jersey Transit in any fiscal year to the extent that federal operating funds are reduced below the level allocated in the previous fiscal year, subject to approval provided in the annual appropriations act.

The bill eliminates the cap on the amount of bonds the authority may have outstanding. New bonds issued by the authority may have technical maturities of up to 21 years, resulting in a practical bond maturity of 20 years. Bond maturities of up to this length are consistent with the useful life spans of many of the infrastructure projects financed by the Transportation Trust Fund Authority. In place of existing provisions of law requiring a test before bonds may be issued, the bill provides an annual "cap" of \$700 million on bond issuances, except that if the maximum cap is not reached in any fiscal year, the difference between the cap and the actual amount issued may be applied to subsequent fiscal years.

Revenue sources allocated to the Transportation Trust Fund Authority in the bill include the existing 2.5 cents per gallon constitutional dedication of motor fuels taxes and the anticipated constitutional dedication of an additional 4.5 cents of the motor fuels tax as of July 1, 1996, an additional dedication of 1 cent as of July 1, 1998, and 1 cent as of July 1, 1999, for a total

dedication of 9 cents. Existing Toll Road Authority contributions will continue at a level of \$24.5 million annually; existing heavy truck/diesel fees will continue at a level of \$30 million annually; and State revenues in the form of annual appropriations from the General Fund will also provide a revenue stream to the Transportation Trust Fund Authority. The bill specifies that revenues credited to the General Fund from the extension of the existing JUA Fair Act motor vehicle registration fee surcharges are to be available for the purposes of the Transportation Trust Fund. This total revenue stream will be used, in combination annually appropriated Federal funds, to fund an transportation program.

The bill reduces the additional registration fees imposed by the JUA Fair Act for noncommercial trucks and other motor vehicles by at least 50 percent as of the year 2000, the reduction being phased in commencing with calendar year 1997, and removes the December 31, 1996 "sunset" for the collection of those fees. The bill further provides that after January 1, 1997 these fees shall be remitted to the General Fund and shall be available for the purposes of the Transportation Trust Fund.

The bill also provides that any federal transportation funds which become available to the State and that have not already been appropriated to the Department of Transportation in the annual appropriations act are to be deemed appropriated to the department and may, subject to approval by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and the State Treasurer, be expended for any purpose for which such funds are qualified.

Additional provisions of the bill permit the Commissioner of Transportation to make loans of federal funds to private or public entities for financing the planning, acquisition, engineering, construction, reconstruction, operation, maintenance, preservation, repair and rehabilitation of a transportation project by that entity.

The bill provides that a sum is to be annually appropriated to the Airport Safety Fund from the Special Transportation Fund for use for capital expenditures as prescribed by the "New Jersey Airport Safety Act of 1983," (C.6:1-89 et seq.).

Since the size of the transportation program had not been determined at the time the Commissioner of Transportation submitted the report of proposed projects for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1995, the bill requires the commissioner to submit a report of proposed projects for a \$700,000,000 program within 10 days of enactment of this bill or by June 15, 1995, whichever is sooner.

Finally, the bill repeals sections 3 and 5 of P.L.1992, c.10 (C.27:1B-21.2) which deal with Trust Fund Authority project-related State costs and maintenance costs.

As amended this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 3 Scs (1R).

FISCAL IMPACT

In addition to the current constitutional dedication of 2.5 cents per gallon of the motor fuels tax to the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF), companion legislation pending as SCR-2/ACR-9 would increase the portion of that tax constitutionally dedicated to the TTF to 7.0 cents per gallon in FY1997 and FY1998, to 8.0 cents per gallon in FY1999, and to 9.0 cents per gallon in FY2000 and annually thereafter. As a consequence of this phase-in of motor fuels revenue, the motor fuels tax would contribute no less

than \$100 million to the TTF in FY1996, \$280 million in FY1997 and FY1998, \$320 million in FY1999 and \$360 million in FY2000 and annually thereafter.

Further, the TTF would also receive financial support from certain vehicle registration fees that would be collected beginning on January 1, 1997. At present such fees are to be remitted to the New Jersey Auto Insurance Guaranty Fund until December 31, 1996. Subsequent to December 31, 1996, these fees would be continued and remitted to the General Fund of the State at so much of the fees as required for transportation projects would be credited to the TTF. The amount to be collected from the continuation of these vehicle registration fees would decline annually over a period of years until January 1, 2000, at which time the fee imposed would be no more than 50 percent of the fee imposed on January 1, 1997.

It is estimated that the vehicle registration fees would provide \$60 million to the General Fund in FY1997 based on six months of collection, i.e. January 1, 1997 to June 30, 1997, and then increase to \$102 million in CY1998 because of 12 months of fee collection before declining incrementally each year until CY2000 when annual collections are estimated to total \$60 million. From these annual collections, the TTF would receive a portion of the collected amount until CY2000 when all such collections would be credited to the TTF.

There are no changes to the toll road contractual contributions to the TTF on the amount to be credited from certain truck registration fees and fiscal taxes.

Any amount needed by the TTF that exceeds the revenue available from the specifically noted funding sources would be provided from the General Fund of the State. At present, it is anticipated that the General Fund would provide \$42 million to the TTF in FY1996, no amount in FY1997 and FY1998, \$57 million in FY1999, and \$51 million in FY2000.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments require the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee for the issuance of refunding bonds.

[SECOND RPRINT] ASSEMBLY, No. 99

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: May 24, 1995

Assembly Bill No. 99 (2R) of 1995 provides for the continued financing of the capital needs of the State transportation system by the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority. In addition, this legislation is linked to a proposed constitutional amendment, Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 9(1R) of 1995, which, upon voter approval, would constitutionally dedicate an additional 6.5 cents of the existing motor fuels tax over a period of four fiscal years for the State transportation system.

Currently, 2.5 cents per gallon of the motor fuels tax is constitutional dedicated to the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF). Pending legislation, ACR-9(1R), would increase the portion of that tax constitutionally dedicated to the TTF to 7.0 cents per gallon in FY 1997 and FY 1998, to 8.0 cents per gallon in FY 1999, and to 9.0 cents per gallon in FY 2000 and annually thereafter. As a result of this additional dedication, the motor fuels tax would contribute no less than \$100 million to the TTF in FY 1996, \$280 million in FY 1997 and FY 1998, \$320 million in FY 1999 and \$360 million in FY 2000 and annually thereafter.

Further, beginning on January 1, 1997, the TTF would receive additional financial support from certain currently existing vehicle registration fees that would be collected beginning on January 1, 1997. At present such fees are to be remitted to the New Jersey Auto Insurance Guaranty Fund until December 31, 1996. Subsequent to December 31, 1996, these fees would be continued and remitted to the General Fund of the State and such amount of the fees as is required for transportation projects would be credited to the TTF. However, the amount to be collected from the continuation of these vehicle registration fees would decline annually over a period of years until January 1, 2000, at which time the fee imposed would be no more than 50 percent of the fee imposed on January 1, 1997.

It is estimated that the vehicle registration fees would provide \$60 million to the General Fund in FY 1997 based on six months of collection, (i.e. January 1, 1997 to June 30, 1997), and then increase to \$102 million in FY 1998 for a full 12 month collection period before declining incrementally each year until annual collections level off to an estimated \$60 million. Since these registration fees are reduced incrementally on January 1 of each calendar year until January 1, 2000, each fiscal year would have a collection rate that is greater during the July to December period than the January to June period because each January 1 registration fees would be reduced and collected at a declining, incremental rate. From these annual collections, the TTF would receive a portion of the collected amount until FY 1999, when all such collections would be credited to the TTF.

There are no changes to the annual toll road contractual contributions of \$24.5 million to the TTF or the annual \$30 million amount to be credited from certain truck registration fees and diesel taxes.

Any amount needed by the TTF that exceeds the revenue available from the specifically noted funding sources would be provided from the General Fund of the State. At present, it is anticipated that the General Fund would provide \$42 million to the TTF in FY 1996, no amount in FY 1997 and FY 1998, \$57 million in FY 1999, and \$51 million in FY 2000.

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.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001 Contact:

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Release: TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1995

Governor Whitman renews Transportation Trust Fund

Governor Christie Whitman today joined with legislative, business and transportation leaders as she signed the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund bill into law, renewing the multi-billion dollar source of funding for highway and public transit construction projects.

The renewed trust fund will provide \$3.5 billion in state funding over the next five years starting on July 1, 1995. The renewed trust fund will allow hundreds of transportation projects to be built, generating an estimated 250,000 construction jobs.

The legislation signed by the Governor today will accomplish this without raising a dollar in new taxes. The amount of revenue from the existing gas tax that is Constitutionally dedicated to the fund - now 2.5 cents - will gradually rise to 9 cents.

"By renewing the trust fund, we are providing the tools for renewal of our state's highways and public transit system," Governor Whitman said. "The flow of materials, goods and people throughout our state is as essential as the flow of blood through our bodies. Continued investment in our transportation system is essential in retaining and attracting businesses and the bi-partisan support the renewal bill received underscores this fact."

The renewed trust fund boosts funding for local road and bridge projects from \$100 million to \$130 million annually, in addition to funding work on the state's 2,300 miles of highway and NJ Transit's bus and rall network.

"The 21st century begins today, as we move forward with transportation investments that will serve residents for decades to come," Transportation Commissioner Frank J. Wilson said. "The highways and bridges constructed in the 1950s and 1960s need rebuilding and replacement, and the renewed trust fund will allow this vital work to go forward."

Wilson noted that the NJDOT also is working with new technology to ease congestion for motorists.

"Computerized traffic signals are already helpling to reduce congestion and more of this 'Smart Highway' technology will be funded through the trust fund," Wilson noted.

Congestion relief also will be achieved through the revitalization of the state's public transit system.

"We're moving from bringing a patchwork of rail lines back from the brink into forging a unified system through the construction of new links and connections," the commissioner noted. "That will reduce congestion and improve air quality."

The trust fund provides matching funds to federal transportation grants for major construction projects and rail and bus purchases. Originally created in 1984, the fund has generated \$6.5 billion to date.

The signing ceremony was held at the work site for the Secaucus Transfer, a project that will link NJ Transit's rail lines. It will permit riders from the Main, Bergen County, Pascack Valley and Port Jervis lines to trains traveling on the Northeast Corridor. It will shorten ride times to and from Manhattan, and will allow passengers to travel to many points within New Jersey that they cannot reach by train now.