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(Public utility fees--hazardous materials)

NJSA:

48:2-56

LAWS OF:

1993

CHAPTER: 124

BILL NO:

A2259

SPONSOR(S)

Stuhltrager and Collins

DATE INTRODUCED:

February 8, 1993

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY:

Appropriation; Transportation

SENATE:

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:

No

Assembly Committee Substitute enacted

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY:

March 29, 1993

SENATE:

May 13, 1993

ATE OF APPROVAL:

May 28, 1993

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT:

Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:

Yes 3-22-93 (2)

SENATE:

No

FISCAL NOTE:

Yes

VETO MESSAGE:

No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING:

No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

KBG:pp

P.L.1993, CHAPTER 124, approved May 28, 1993 Assembly Committee Substitute for 1993 Assembly No. 2259

AN ACT concerning certain public utility fees and charges and fees for the transportation of hazardous materials, supplementing P.L.1983, c.401 (C.39:5B-25 et seq.) and amending and supplementing P.L.1959, c.43.

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

- 1. Section 1 of P.L.1959, c.43 (C.48:2-56) is amended to read as follows:
- 1. The Board of [Public Utility] Regulatory Commissioners is hereby empowered, authorized and required to charge and collect fees and charges for the purposes and in the amounts hereinafter set out.

14	A.	Filing of Annual Reports Charge Per Report	
15	(1)	Sewer \$ 20 00	
16		Classes A, B, C, and D 20 00	
17		Class E (Income Sheets) 5 00	
18	(2)	Railroad 50 00	
19		Nonoperating 10 00	
20	(3)	Telephone	
21		Class A 50 00	
22		Class B 20 00	
23	(4)	Water	
24		Class A 50 00	
25		Classes B and C 20 00	
26		Class D 10 00	
27		Class E (Income Sheets) 5 00	
28	(5)	Bus	
29		Class A 50 00	
30		Class B 25 00	
31		Class C 10 00	
32	(6)	Gas 50 00	
33	(7)	Electric 50 00	
34	(8)	Combination gas and electric 100 00	
35	(9)	[Street railway 20 00] Delete	<u>d</u>
36		by amendment. (P.L., c.) (now before the	e
37		Legislature as this bill)	

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- B. Examination and Audit of Annual Reports
- (1) The total fee is to be based on reported intrastate operating revenues, and, except as noted below for certain interstate utilities, will consist of a

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

base charge plus an incremental charge per unit of \$1,000.00 or fraction thereof for each such unit in excess of the lower limit of the indicated range.

3	If the Reported	Operating	Tł	1e	The I	ncremental
4	Revenues Fall within		Base (Charge	Ch	arge per
5	the Ran	ge	it	3	\$1 ,	000 Unit
6						is
7						
8	U nder	\$10,000	\$10	00		
9	\$10,000 to	25.000	15	00		
10	25,000 to	50,000	25	00		
11	50,000 to	500,000	25	00	\$0	50/M
12	500,000 to	1,000,000	250	00	0	39/M
13	1,000,000 to	5,000,000	445	00	0	15/M
14	5,000,000 to	10,000,000	1,045	00	0	10/M
15	10,000,000 to	50,000,000	1,545	00	0	08/M
16	50,000,000 to	100,000,000	4,745	00	0	07/M
17	100,000,000 to	200,000,000	8,245	00	0	05/M
18	200,000,000 and	over	13,245	00	0	03/M

(2) Public utilities engaged in interstate commerce who are required to file annual reports with the board and who derive 50% or more of their operating revenues from interstate commerce shall pay a fee for examination and audit of their annual report in accordance with the following schedule. The board may establish reasonable rules for the determination of such intrastate revenues in cases where the same have not been reported.

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28	For Intrastate Re	evenues	
29	The Fee is	Within the Range	
30	Under	\$ 10,000 \$25	00
31	\$10,000 to	50,000 50	00
32	50,001 to	200,000 75	00
33	200,001 to	500,000 150	00
34	500,001 to	1,000,000 300	00
35	over	1,000,000 500	00
36			
37	C. Pamphlets and	d Publications Charge	Per Copy
38	(1) Annual repor	rt of the Board of [Public	
39	Utility] Regula	atory Commissioners\$	2 00
40	(2) Utility annu	ual report forms	
41	Sewer	E	00
42	Income Sheets	s	00
43	Railroad		00
44	Telephone		00
45	Water		
46	•	nd C 10	
47	Class D	8	00
48	Class E (Income	e Sheets) 2	00
49	Buses		
50	Class A		00
51	Class B		00
52	Class C		00
53	Gas		00
54	Electric		00

[Street railway 10 00]

1	(3) Pamphlets containing rules and regulations and
2	all other pamphlets published by the board
3	Pamphlets with less than 25 pages 2 00
4	Pamphlets with 25 pages or more but less
5	than 50 pages 2 50
6	Pamphlets with 50 pages or more 2 50
7	Plus \$0.25 for each additional 25 pages or
8	fraction thereof in excess of 50 pages
9	(1) Uniform system of accounts10 00
10	(5) Photocopies of documents or reportsper page 1 00
11	Charge for Each
12	Year Covered
13	(6) Compilation of board's decisions\$2 00
14	(7) Statistics of utilitiesprivate and municipal 3 00
15	D. SubpoenasPetition for and Issuance Charge per
16	Subpoena
17	(1) Subpoena for the attendance of witnesses \$2 00
18	(2) Subpoena duces tecum 5 00
19	E. Applications and Petitions Submitted to the Board
20	(1) For approval of issuance of securities or evidences of
21	indebtedness the filing fee shall be based on the estimated

(1) For approval of issuance of securities or evidences of indebtedness the filing fee shall be based on the estimated proceeds before costs and expenses of issuance. When the actual proceeds become known, the fee will be adjusted accordingly. The total filing fee will consist of a base charge plus an incremental charge per unit of \$1,000.00 or fraction thereof of proceeds in excess of the lower limit of the range of the indicated block. In the case of stock dividends, the proceeds shall be taken as the amount to be transferred from earned surplus account.

		The Incremental
If the Proceeds of the	The	Charge per
Transaction	Base Charge	\$1,000 Unit
Fall Within the Range	is	i s
Under \$5,000	\$ 10 00	
\$5,001 to 10,000	15 00	
10,001 to 20,000	30 00	
20,001 to 30,000	50 00	
30,001 to 100,000	50 00	\$0 70/M
100,001 to 500,000	99 00	0 60/M
500,001 to 1,000,000	339 00	0 50/M
1,000,001 to 5,000,000	5 8 9 00	0 40/M
5,000,001 to 10,000,000	2,189 00	O 35/M
10,000,001 to 25,000,000	3,939 00	0 30/M
25,000,001 and over	8,439 00	0 25/M

(2) For increases in rates or fares, whether by petition, filing of revised tariff, or by petition for negotiated relief under R.S.48:2-21.1, provided that when 2 petitions or a petition with an amendment relate to one and the same increase only one fee shall be charged, the fees are to be based on the proposed increase in annual operating revenues for which application is made and will consist of a base charge plus an incremental charge per unit of \$1,000.00 or fraction thereof for each such unit in excess of the lower limit of the indicated range.

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1			The Incremental
2	If the Proposed Increase	The	Charge per
3	Falls Within the	Base Charge	\$1,000 Unit
4	Range	is	is
5	_		
6	Up to \$5,000	\$25 00	
7	\$5,000 to 30,000	25 00	\$2 00/M
8	30,000 to 100,000	75 00	1 80/M
9	100,000 to 300,000	201 00	1 60/M
10	300,000 to 600,000	521 00	1 40/M
11	600,000 to 1,000,000	941 00	1 20/M
12	1,000,000 to 5,000,000	1,421 00	1 00/M
13	5,000,000 to 10,000,000	5,421 00	0 80/M
14	10,000,000 to 20,000,000	9,421 00	0 60/M
15	20,000,000 and over	15,421 00	0 30/M
16	2010001000 4 0.01	10,121 00	G 00
17	Filing of an initial rate, a c	ontract for a	
18	special rate or any other do		a
19	tariff change not otherwise	-	
20	In addition to the filing fe	-	5 111111420 00
21	accordance with the foregoing,	•	
22		_	
	utility shall pay a processing	=	
23	of 1% of the new or initial ar		
24	revenues or increase in annual		
25	revenues that may be authorize	•	* 05.00
26	which fee in no event shall be		•
27	Filing automatic adjustment cl		
28	(3) For sales of property of	· -	
29	(Based on the Consideration	·	Filing Fee
30	Up to \$1,000		\$10 00
31	4-1		25 00
32	· ·		50 00
33	• -		75 00
34			150 00
35	•		250 00
36	100,001 and over		350 00
37	(4) For approval of mergers		Filing Fee
38	The filing fee for approve		
39	is to be based on the total	- -	
40	account of the surviving		
41	computed according to the	_	es
42	set forth herein for sales	s of property or	
43	leases of property.		
44	(5) For approval of a munic		\$20 00
45	Where petition requests ap	-	
46	than one municipal consent		
47	route for each such additi	ional consent	10 00
48	(6) For rehearing, reopening		
49	reconsideration of any mag	tter	15 00
50	(7) For approval of contrac		
51	48:3-7.1		100 00
52	(8) For establishment of no	ew railroad-highway	y crossing at
53	grade	- '	•
54	(9) For grade crossing sepa		
55	(10) For relocation or wide		

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1	(11) For abandonment of grade crossing 50 00
2	(12) For discontinuance of station agents
3	and stations 50 00
4 5	(13) For authority to exercise eminent domain for each separate parcel of property involved 100 00
5 6	(14) Any application or petition not herein specifically
7	designated or described
8	(15) For inspection or test of electric,
9	water or gas meter 5 00
10	(This fee is to be returned to the
11	customer and collected from the utility
12	in cases where the meter is found to be
13	registering fast beyond the allowable
14	limit of accuracy established by the board.)
15	F. Autobuses or Other Motor Vehicles
16	(1) For approval of transfer of municipal consents \$25 00
17	(2) For approval of conditional sale contract, notes
18	or chattel mortgage based on the principal
19	amount involved
20	\$5,000 or less10 00
21	5,001 to 10,00015 00
22	10,001 to 25,00025 00
23	25,001 to 50,00050 00
24	50,001 to 100,00075 00
25	Over \$100,000100 00
26	(3) For changes, extensions or consolidation
27	of existing autobus routes
28	(4) For approval of leases of equipment25 00
29	Charges
30	(5) For inspection of new bus equipment and issuance
31	of certificate of compliance—each bus [\$25 00] \$115
32	(6) Specification reshock each bus
33	(6) Specification recheck—each bus
34 35	[(6)] (7) For issuance of duplicate certificate of compliance—each
36	[(7)] (8) For inspection of autobus for restoration
37	to service after removal for lack of
38	insurance
39	[(8)] (9) For each periodic inspection of autobus by board's
40	inspector (including first recheck)each bus [5 00] 85 00
41	(10) Additional maintenance recheck—each bus 35 00
42	(11) Self inspectioneach bus
43	G. Miscellaneous Filing Fee
44	(1) Formal complaintsCosts to be assessed
45	against the respondent utility if the
46	complaint is sustained by the board\$25 00
47	(2) Answers to formal complaints 10 00
48	(3) Where the answer sets up a prayer
49	for affirmative relief
50	(4) Amendment to any petition or answer 10 00
51	(5) Reports and statements filed by pipeline
52	companies as required by board's rules issued
53	under the authority of Title 48[,] of the Revised Statutes
54	[of New Jersey] except accident reports200 00

Charge Per Copy

- (8) Certification of any document 2 50

All filing fees shall be paid at the time of the original filing of the report, application, petition or other document or paper in the matter. No pleading will be considered filed until the appropriate fees are paid. In cases where such payment is not feasible, as may be determined by the board, the amount will be due and payable on the presentation of an invoice.

When a petition covers more than one matter or makes a prayer for relief with respect to more than one matter, the fee for filing the same shall be the sum of the fees that would be paid for each individual matter.

When several utilities or petitioners join in the filing of a single petition, then the fees herein provided shall apply to each petitioner as may be appropriate.

(cf: P.L.1967, c.156, s.2)

- 2. (New section) Moneys received from fees collected by the Department of Transportation pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1959, c.43 (C.48:2-56) for the bus inspection program shall be deposited in the General Fund and shall be disbursed to the department, subject to appropriation, to defray the expenses of the bus inspection program.
- 3. (New section) a. Notwithstanding any provision of Title 39 or Title 48 of the Revised Statutes to the contrary, the Commissioner of Transportation shall require all railroads operating in the State of New Jersey to annually report to the department the number of placarded rail freight cars transporting hazardous materials, as defined pursuant to P.L.1983, c.401 (C.39:5B-25 et seq.), originating or terminating in the State, and shall annually pay the department a \$3 fee per placarded rail freight car transporting hazardous materials which originates or terminates in this State during the reporting year.
- b. After a 24-month period following the effective date of this amendatory and supplementary act, the Commissioner of Transportation may, annually or less frequently, adopt regulations in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) providing for the revision of the fee set forth is subsection a. of this section, provided, however that such fee shall not be increased by more than the increase in the consumer price index for all urban wage earners and clerical workers (CPI-W) in the Philadelphia-New Jersey Area, as reported by the United States Department of Labor for the period since the fee was last determined.
- c. Moneys received from fees collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the General Fund and shall be disbursed to the department, subject to appropriation, to defray the expenses of the placarded rail freight car transporting hazardous materials program.

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4. This act shall take effect on the first Monday of the first month following enactment.

Increases certain bus inspection fees; authorizes DOT to collect

fee per rail car transporting hazardous materials.

- b. Any autobus, railroad, traction railway, subway, or street railway public utility fee, charge, or penalty in effect prior to the effective date of this amendatory and supplementary act shall remain in effect until such time as the fee, charge or penalty is revised or superseded pursuant to regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Transportation.
- c. The commissioner retains the authority to waive or reduce through administrative action any penalty assessed against any autobus, railroad, traction railway, subway or street railway public utility.
- d. Fees and charges established and collected pursuant to this section shall be credited to the "Transportation Utilities Safety Account" established pursuant to section 5 of this amendatory and supplementary act.
- 5. (New section) There is created in the General Fund a special nonlapsing account to be known as the "Transportation Utilities Safety Account." All monies from fees, charges, or collected pursuant to this amendatory and supplementary act, or pursuant to regulatory functions under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Transportation or by duly authorized representatives of the Department of Transportation under Title 39 and Title 48 of the Revised Statutes, and all other funds that may be appropriated to this account, and all investment earnings from this account, shall be deposited in the account. Monies in the account shall be administered exclusively by the Department of Transportation to implement the department's inspection, safety, and regulatory oversight functions authorized by law under Title 39 and Title 48 of the Revised Statutes.
- 6. (New section) Such funds as shall be deposited during fiscal year 1993 into the Transportation Utilities Safety Account created pursuant to section 5 of P.L., c.... (C.)(now pending before the Legislature as this bill) are appropriated to the Department of Transportation for the purposes of the account.
- 7. This act shall take effect on the first Monday of the first month following enactment, except that section 1 shall remain inoperative until the first day of the thirteenth month following the effective date.

STATEMENT

This bill changes P.L.1959, c.43 (C.48:2-56 et seq.) to delete specific fees and charges the Board of Regulatory Commissioners was authorized to collect for autobus, railroad, traction railway, subway and street railway public utilities and to authorize the Commissioner of Transportation to set these fees by regulation. The current statutory fee schedule for transportation public entities was established over 20 years ago and is no longer appropriate. The regulation of autobus, railroad and street railway public utilities was transferred to the Department of Transportation by Executive Reorganization in 1978.

In order to ensure the Department of Transportation's ability to continue to collect the fees being repealed in section 1 of the bill for a period of one year after the bill becomes law, section 7 of the bill delays the operative date of section 1 for one year. During the one year period following the bill's effective date, the department may continue to collect these fees; at the end of the one year period, the fees will officially be repealed.

The bill takes effect on the first Monday of the first month after enactment. However, for a period of 12 months following the effective date, section 2 of the bill establishes the fees which the department will charge for the regulation and inspection of buses. After this 12-month period, the commissioner may set these fees by administrative regulation.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Transportation to obtain annual reports from all railroads concerning the number of railroad cars originating or terminating in this State which transport hazardous materials. The railroads will be required to pay to the department a \$3.00 fee per placarded carload of hazardous materials originating or terminating in this State. This \$3 fee will remain in effect for 24 months following the bill's effective date; after this period, the Commissioner of Transportation may change the fee by administrative regulation.

Under the provisions of the bill, any fees charged by the department for the inspection, safety and regulatory oversight functions described in the bill cannot exceed that which is necessary to ensure the collection of sufficient revenues in any fiscal year to support 105% of the department's projected expenditures for the regulatory activities associated with those fees.

In addition, annual increases in the fees established by the department under this bill may not be greater than the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers in the New York and Philadelphia area for the most recent 12-month period preceding the increase for which data are available.

Finally, the bill creates the "Transportation Utilities Safety Account" in the General Fund into which all fees, charges or penalties collected by the Department of Transportation under the provisions of this bill or pursuant its regulatory functions in Title 39 or Title 48 of the Revised Statutes will be deposited. The money in the account will be used by the department to implement its inspection, safety and regulatory functions.

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Provides for establishing fees for transportation public utilities and hazardous materials transportation by DOT regulation.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2259

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 22, 1993

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2259 (ACS).

This legislation would increase the fees charged by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for certain bus inspection functions. The current statutory fee schedule for transportation public entities was established over 20 years ago and is no longer appropriate. The regulation of autobus, railroad and street railway public utilities was transferred to the DOT by executive reorganization in 1978.

The provisions increase the fee for inspection of new bus equipment and issuance of certificate of compliance, from \$25 to \$115; the fee for inspection of autobus for restoration to service after removal for lack of insurance, from \$10 to \$70; and the fee for periodic autobus inspection by the DOT's inspector, from \$5 to \$85. In addition, the bill authorizes the DOT to charge a \$50 specification recheck fee; a \$35 additional maintenance recheck fee; and a \$30 self inspection fee.

The Commissioner of DOT is required to obtain annual reports from all railroads concerning the number of railroad cars originating or terminating in this State which transport hazardous materials. The railroads will be required to pay to the department a \$3 fee per placarded freight car of hazardous materials originating or terminating in this State. This \$3 fee will remain in effect for 24 months following the bill's effective date. After this period, the commissioner may adjust the fee in accordance with the Consumer Price Index by administrative regulation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The intent of the legislation is to reset the fees which have not been adjusted for approximately 20 years. The adjusted fees should cover the entire cost of the bus inspection operation which is approximately \$677,000 annually. In addition, the fee for the rail hazardous material inspection operation should cover the cost of \$150,000 annually.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPURTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2259

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 22, 1993

The Assembly Transportation and Communications Committee favorably reports an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2259.

This substitute bill would increase the fees charged by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for certain bus inspection functions. The current statutory fee schedule for transportation public entities was established over 20 years ago and is no longer appropriate. The regulation of autobus, railroad and street railway public utilities was transferred to the Department of Transportation by Executive Reorganization in 1978.

In particular, the bill would increase the fee for inspection of new bus equipment and issuance of certificate of compliance from \$25 to \$115; the fee for inspection of autobus for restoration to service after removal for lack of insurance from \$10 to \$70; and the fee for periodic autobus inspection by the DOT's inspector from \$5 to \$85. In addition, the substitute bill authorizes the DOT to charge a \$50 specification recheck fee; a \$35 additional maintenance recheck fee; and a \$30 self inspection fee.

The bill provides that moneys received from fees collected by the DOT for the bus inspection program are to be deposited in the General Fund and disbursed to the DOT, subject to appropriation, to defray the expenses of the bus inspection program.

The substitute bill also requires the Commissioner of Transportation to obtain annual reports from all railroads concerning the number of railroad cars originating or terminating in this State which transport hazardous materials. The railroads will be required to pay to the department a \$3 fee per placarded freight car transporting hazardous materials originating or terminating in this State. This \$3 fee will remain in effect for 24 months following the bill's effective date; after this period, the Commissioner of Transportation may adjust the fee in accordance with the Consumer Price Index by administrative regulation. The bill provides that fees collected for the placarded freight car transporting hazardous materials program shall be deposited in the General Fund and disbursed to the DOT, subject to appropriation, to defray the expenses of the program.

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FISCAL NOTE TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2259

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: July 1, 1993

Assembly Committee Substitute of 1993 for Assembly Bill No. 2259 of 1992 increases the fees charged by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for certain bus inspection functions. The bill also establishes a fee for each rail car transporting hazardous materials which originates or terminates in this State.

The DOT has noted that the increase in bus inspection fees should generate an additional \$485,000 in annual revenue while the new rail car hazardous materials fee is expected to generate \$150,000 each year. This total \$635,000 in new revenue would be used to support the bus and rail car inspection programs.

The Office of Legislative Services concurs with the estimate of additional revenue.

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.