

32:1-61

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST  
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**NJSA:** 32:1-61 (Port Authority---open public meetings)

**LAWS OF:** 1991 **CHAPTER:** 395

**Bill No:** S656

**Sponsor(s):** Weiss

**Date Introduced:** Pre-filed

**Committee: Assembly:** Independent Authorities

**Senate:** State Government

**Amended during passage:** No

**Date of Passage: Assembly:** January 13, 1991

**Senate:** March 8, 1991

**Date of Approval:** January 17, 1992

**Following statements are attached if available:**

**Sponsor statement:** Yes Below

**Committee Statement: Assembly:** Yes

**Senate:** Yes

**Fiscal Note:** No

**Veto Message:** No

**Message on signing:** No

**Following were printed:**

**Reports:** No

**Hearings:** No

**Sponsors Statement:**

This bill directs the Board of Commissioners of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to adopt rules and regulations providing for open public meetings.

KBG/dgw

§§1-3  
C.32:1-6.1  
to  
32:1-6.3  
§4  
Note to  
§§1-3

P.L.1991, CHAPTER 395, *approved January 17, 1992*  
1990 Senate No. 656

1 AN ACT directing the Board of Commissioners of the Port  
2 Authority of New York and New Jersey to adopt rules and  
3 regulations providing for open public meetings.  
4

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

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the right of the  
8 public to be present at meetings of the Port Authority of New  
9 York and New Jersey, and to witness in full detail all phases of  
10 the deliberation, policy formulation, and decision making of the  
11 authority, is vital to the enhancement and proper functioning of  
12 the democratic process, and that secrecy in public affairs  
13 undermines the faith of the public in government and the public's  
14 effectiveness in fulfilling its role in a democratic society; and  
15 declares it to be the public policy of this State to insure the right  
16 of its citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right  
17 to attend all meetings of the authority at which any business  
18 affecting the public is discussed or acted upon in any way except  
19 only in those circumstances where otherwise the public interest  
20 would be clearly endangered or the personal privacy of  
21 guaranteed rights of individuals would be clearly in danger of  
22 unwarranted invasion.

23 2. As used in this act:

24 a. "Board" means the Board of Commissioners of the Port  
25 Authority of New York and New Jersey.

26 b. "Meeting" means any gathering, whether corporeal or by  
27 means of communication equipment, which is attended by, or  
28 open to, the board, held with the intent, on the part of the board  
29 members present, to discuss or act as a unit upon the specific  
30 public business of the authority. "Meeting" does not mean a  
31 gathering (1) attended by less than an effective majority of the  
32 board, or (2) attended by or open to all the members of three or  
33 more similar public bodies at a convention or similar gathering.

34 c. "Public business" means matters which relate in any way,  
35 directly or indirectly, to the performance of the functions of the  
36 Port Authority of New York and New Jersey or the conduct of its  
37 business.

38 3. The board shall adopt and promulgate appropriate rules and  
39 regulations concerning the right of the public to be present at  
40 meetings of the authority. The board may incorporate in its rules  
41 and regulations conditions under which it may exclude the public

1 from a meeting or a portion thereof.

2 Any rules or regulations adopted hereunder shall become a part  
3 of the minutes of the Port Authority of New York and New  
4 Jersey and shall be subject to the approval of the Governor of  
5 New Jersey and the Governor of New York.

6 4. This act shall take effect upon the enactment into law by  
7 the State of New York of legislation having an identical effect  
8 with this act, but if the State of New York has already enacted  
9 such legislation, this act shall take effect immediately.

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#### AUTHORITIES AND REGIONAL AGENCIES

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14

Directs the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to adopt  
15 rules and regulations providing for open public meetings.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1990 SESSION

By Senator WEISS

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STATEMENT

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ASSEMBLY INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 656

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 11, 1990

The Assembly Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 656.

As reported, this bill directs the Board of Commissioners of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to adopt rules and regulations concerning the right of the public to be present at meetings of the authority. The board may incorporate in its rules and regulations conditions under which it may exclude the public from a meeting. These rules and regulations shall become part of the minutes of the authority and shall be subject to the approval of the Governor of New Jersey and the Governor of New York. This act shall take effect upon the enactment into law by the State of New York of legislation having an identical effect.

This bill is intended to insure that the Port Authority adopt rules and regulations to permit public access to its meetings at which any public business is discussed or acted upon, except in those circumstances where the public interest would be clearly endangered or the personal privacy of individuals would be clearly in danger of unwarranted invasion.



SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT AND FEDERAL  
AND INTERSTATE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 656

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 18, 1990

The Senate State Government and Federal and Interstate Relations Committee reports favorably Senate, No. 656.

This bill directs the Board of Commissioners of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to adopt rules and regulations concerning the right of the public to be present at meetings of the authority. The board may incorporate in its rules and regulations conditions under which it may exclude the public from a meeting. These rules and regulations shall become part of the minutes of the authority and shall be subject to the approval of the Governor of New Jersey and the Governor of New York. This act shall take effect upon the enactment into law by the State of New York of legislation having an identical effect.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1990 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.