

40:52-1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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(Gypsie--discrimination)

NJSA: 40:52-1

LAWS OF: 1997 CHAPTER: 320

BILL NO: A2654

SPONSOR(S): Cruz-Perez

DATE INTRODUCED: January 9, 1997

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Local Government

SENATE: Community Affairs

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: May 22, 1997

SENATE: December 15, 1997

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 8, 1998

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VE TO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

See newspaper clipping--attached:

"Whitman repeals 1917 law regulating Gypsy travelers," 1-9-98, Trenton Times.

KBP:pp

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 320, *approved January 8, 1998*
Assembly, No. 2654

1 AN ACT concerning the regulation of gypsies and amending
2 R.S.40:52-1.

3

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

6

7 1. R.S.40:52-1 is amended to read as follows:

8 40:52-1. The governing body may make, amend, repeal and enforce
9 ordinances to license and regulate:

10 a. All vehicles used for the transportation of passengers, baggage,
11 merchandise, and goods and chattels of every kind, and the owners and
12 drivers of all such vehicles; and the places and premises in which or at
13 which the different kinds of business or occupations mentioned herein
14 are carried on and conducted. Nothing herein contained shall be
15 construed as modifying or repealing any of the provisions of chapter
16 4 of Title 48 of the Revised Statutes (R.S.48:4-1 et seq.);

17 b. Autobuses, and the owners and drivers of all such vehicles, and
18 to fix the fees for such licenses, which may be imposed for revenue,
19 and to prohibit the operation of all such vehicles in the public streets
20 or places of such municipality, unless such ordinances are complied
21 with, whether such vehicles are operated over routes wholly or partly
22 within the territorial limits of such municipality; the powers conferred
23 by this section shall not be in substitution of but in addition to
24 whatever other right, power and authority any such municipality may
25 at any time have as to licensing, regulating, or control of the operation
26 of such autobuses, commonly called jitneys, and this section shall not
27 be construed as modifying or repealing any of the provisions of
28 chapter 4 (R.S.48:4-1 et seq.) or article 3 of chapter 16 (R.S.48:16-23
29 et seq.) of Title 48 of the Revised Statutes;

30 c. Cartmen, expressmen, baggagemen, porters, common criers,
31 hawkers, peddlers, employment agencies, pawnbrokers, junk
32 shop-keepers, junk dealers, motor vehicle junk dealers, street
33 sprinklers, bill posters, bill tackers, sweeps, scavengers, itinerant
34 vendors of merchandise, medicines and remedies; and the places and

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

- 1 premises in which or at which the different kinds of business or
2 occupations mentioned herein are conducted and carried on;
- 3 d. Hotels, boardinghouses, lodging and rooming houses, trailer
4 camps and camp sites, motels, furnished and unfurnished rented
5 housing or living units and all other places and buildings used for
6 sleeping and lodging purposes, and the occupancy thereof, restaurants
7 and all other eating places, and the keepers thereof;
- 8 e. Automobile garages, dealers in second-hand motor vehicles and
9 parts thereof, bathhouses, swimming pools, and the keepers thereof;
- 10 f. Theatres, cinema and show houses, opera houses, concert halls,
11 dance halls, pool or billiard parlors, bowling alleys, exhibition grounds,
12 and all other places of public amusement, circuses and traveling or
13 other shows, plays, dances, exhibitions, concerts, theatrical
14 performances, and all street parades in connection therewith;
- 15 g. Lumber and coal yards, stores for the sale of meats, groceries
16 and provisions, dry goods and merchandise, and goods and chattels of
17 every kind, and all other kinds of business conducted in the
18 municipality other than herein mentioned, and the places and premises
19 in or at which the business is conducted and carried on; street stands
20 for the sale or distribution of newspapers, magazines, periodicals,
21 books, and goods and merchandise or other articles;
- 22 h. Street signs and other objects projecting beyond the building
23 line, into or over any public street or highway;
- 24 i. Auctioneers and their business, whether the auctioneers be real
25 estate brokers engaged in selling at auction or real estate auctioneers
26 licensed by the New Jersey Real Estate Commission; fix their fees, and
27 license and regulate public auctions; make such regulations as the
28 governing body of the municipality shall deem necessary, to protect
29 the public against fraud at public auction sales, and for the safety and
30 protection of the property of the municipality and its inhabitants,
31 including the power to require from auctioneers a bond to the
32 municipality, not exceeding the penal sum of \$5,000.00, conditioned
33 as the governing body shall require;
- 34 j. Sales of goods, wares and merchandise to be advertised, held out
35 or represented, or which are advertised, held out or represented, to the
36 public, by any means, directly or by implication, as forced sales at
37 reduced prices or as insurance, bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure,
38 insolvency, removal, loss or expiration of lease or closing out sales, or
39 as assignees', receivers' or trustees' sales or as sales of goods
40 distrained or as sales of goods damaged by fire, smoke or water,
41 except any sale which is to be held under a judicial order, judgment or
42 decree or a writ issuing out of any court or to enforce any lawful lien
43 or power of sale whether by judicial process or not or by a licensed
44 auctioneer; to make such regulations governing the advertisement
45 holding out or representing to the public of such sales, and the conduct
46 thereof, as the governing body of the municipality shall deem

1 necessary to protect the public against fraud; to prohibit the
2 advertising, holding out or representing to the public of any sale as
3 being of the character above described which is not of such character
4 and to fix license fees for the conduct of such sales and to impose
5 penalties for the violation of any such ordinance;

6 k. **[Roving bands of nomads, commonly called gypsies]** (Deleted
7 by amendment, P.L. , c.) (now pending before the Legislature as
8 this bill); and

9 l. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1984, c.205).

10 m. The rental of real property for commercial or residential
11 purposes.

12 Nothing in this chapter contained shall be construed to authorize or
13 empower the governing body of any municipality to license or regulate
14 any person holding a license or certificate issued by any department,
15 board, commission, or other agency of the State; provided, however,
16 that the governing body of a municipality may make, amend, repeal
17 and enforce ordinances to license and regulate real estate auctioneers
18 or real estate brokers engaged in selling at auction and their business
19 as provided in this section despite the fact that such real estate
20 auctioneers or brokers may be licensed by the New Jersey Real Estate
21 Commission and notwithstanding the provisions of this act or any
22 other act.

23 (cf: P.L.1995, c.385, s.1)

24

25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

26

27

28

STATEMENT

29

30 This bill is intended to remove from the statutes an offensive
31 reference to the Roma and Sinti ethnic groups, commonly referred to
32 as gypsies. No other ethnic group is singled-out in the statutes for
33 special licensing treatment by a municipality and subsection k. of
34 R.S.40:52-1 probably would be unenforceable if tested in the courts.

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39 Deletes offensive reference to ethnic group in statute.

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ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2654

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 1997

The Assembly Local Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2654.

Assembly Bill No. 2654 is intended to remove from the statutes an offensive reference to the Roma and Sinti ethnic groups, commonly referred to as gypsies. No other ethnic group is singled out in the statutes for special licensing treatment by a municipality and subsection k. of R.S.40:52-1 probably would be unenforceable if tested in the courts.

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2654

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 1997

The Senate Community Affairs Committee reports favorably
Assembly Bill No. 2654.

This bill would remove from the statutes an offensive reference to
the Roma and Sinti ethnic groups, commonly referred to as gypsies.
No other ethnic group is singled out in the statutes for special
licensing treatment by a municipality and subsection k. of R.S.40:52-1
probably would be unenforceable if tested in the courts.

The Times

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Speed limit change delayed

TRENTON (AP) — Drivers hoping for news that driving 65 will become legal on major New Jersey highways are going to have to wait until next week.

Lawmakers pushing for the higher speed limit on interstate highways and the state's toll roads said yesterday that final details are still being worked out on side issues concerning safety studies that will measure the impact of the higher speeds.

As a result, the final version of the bill is expected to be brought before both the Senate and Assembly on Monday, the last session day of the term.

Sen. Dick LaRossa, R-Ewing, and Assemblyman Guy Gregg, R-Washington Township, Morris County, the prime sponsors, said the Whitman administration is no longer asking for the bill to include a trial pe-

riod after which the speed limit might revert to 55 mph if safety studies warrant it.

Instead the bill will require a review after 18 or 24 months on whether the right highways have been designated for the higher speeds, Gregg said.

There was no active discussion of higher speed limits during last year's campaigns for office except by Libertarian Murray Sabrin in his dark-horse race for governor.

Then, shortly after the Nov. 4 election, Republican legislators began calling for the change to 65 mph. More surprisingly, Gov. Christie Whitman, who had steadfastly opposed higher speeds since her 1993 campaign for office, switched her position.

Whitman repeals 1917 law regulating Gypsy travelers

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Gypsy travelers are free to come and go without a license, under a law that Gov. Christie Whitman signed yesterday.

The new law strips municipal governments of the authority to li-

cense and regulate traveling gypsy groups.

Not that anyone could say whether the 1917 law has been used any time in recent decades against ethnic Gypsies or traveling bands of any ethnic origin.

"This law is unquestionably dis-

crimatory and an insult to many New Jersey residents," said Assemblywoman Nilsa Cruz-Perez, the sponsor of bill A-2654. She noted that the term "gypsy" can be seen as an offensive reference to people of the Roma and Sinti ethnic groups of eastern Europe.