

ASSEMBLY, No. 4858

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen McKnight and Jaffer

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Senior Citizen Transportation Grant Program in DHS; appropriates \$2.5 million for grant program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/14/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning transportation services provided to senior
2 citizens and appropriating funds.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. There is hereby established in the Department of Human
8 Services a Senior Citizen Transportation Grant Program. The
9 purpose of this program shall be to provide municipalities with
10 grant awards to support the establishment or expansion of programs
11 that provide transportation services to senior citizens, without cost-
12 sharing and regardless of the senior citizen's income.

13 b. The department shall develop an application and process for
14 municipalities to submit a request for grant funds. The application
15 shall include, at a minimum: (1) a description of the municipality's
16 existing transportation program for senior citizens, including the
17 number of senior citizens serviced annually and the current fiscal
18 year budget for senior citizen transportation services, if applicable;
19 (2) a requested grant amount of \$25,000 or less; (3) an explanation
20 of how the grant funds will be utilized to support transportation
21 services for senior citizens in the municipality; and (4) the
22 estimated number of senior citizens who will be provided
23 transportation services with the use of the grant funds. The
24 department shall establish and promote a six-month period during
25 which municipalities may submit applications for the Senior Citizen
26 Transportation Grant Program, which period shall begin no more
27 than 180 days after the effective date of this act.

28 c. The department shall determine: (1) grant award amounts
29 based upon information provided by the municipality through the
30 application process and the availability of State appropriations; and
31 (2) criteria for eligibility for grant awards, provided that the use of
32 the grant funds by the municipality are within the scope of the
33 program as provided for in this section.

34 d. The department shall report to the Governor and the
35 Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
36 19.1), no later than 30 days following the closure of the six-month
37 application period, a summary of the grant program, including a list
38 of municipalities that submitted an application for the grant, noting
39 any application that was denied and the reason for the denial, as
40 well as the amount and use of each awarded grant.

41 e. For the purpose of the section:

42 "Senior Citizen" means a resident of the applicable municipality
43 who is 55 years of age or older.

44 "Transportation services" means the availability of round-trip
45 transportation from the senior citizen's residence or other
46 designated location, such as the municipality's senior center, to a
47 location, either specified by the municipality or requested by the

1 senior citizen, for purposes that may include medical appointments,
2 recreational activities, or shopping and errands.

3
4 2. There is appropriated \$2,500,000 from the General Fund to
5 the Department of Human Services for the purposes of the Senior
6 Transportation Grant Program, as established pursuant to section 1
7 of this act. Any unexpended funds from this appropriation shall
8 revert to the General Fund 180 days following the submission of the
9 report by the Department of Human Services pursuant to subsection
10 d. of section 1 of this act.

11
12 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire 180
13 days following the submission of the report by the Department of
14 Human Services pursuant to subsection d. of section 1 of this act.

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16
17 STATEMENT

18
19 This bill establishes the Senior Citizen Transportation Grant
20 Program in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of this
21 program is to provide municipalities with grant awards to support
22 the establishment or expansion of programs that provide
23 transportation services to senior citizens, without cost-sharing and
24 regardless of the senior citizen's income. The bill defines "senior
25 citizen" to mean a resident of the applicable municipality who is 55
26 years of age or older. "Transportation services" means the
27 availability of round-trip transportation from the senior citizen's
28 residence or other designated location, such as the municipality's
29 senior center, to a location, either specified by the municipality or
30 requested by the senior citizen, for purposes that may include
31 medical appointments, recreational activities, or shopping and
32 errands.

33 Under the bill, the department is required to develop an
34 application and process for municipalities to submit a request for
35 grant funds. The application is to include, at a minimum: (1) a
36 description of the municipality's existing transportation program for
37 senior citizens, including the number of senior citizens serviced
38 annually and the current fiscal year budget for senior citizen
39 transportation services, if applicable; (2) a requested grant amount
40 of \$25,000 or less; (3) an explanation of how the grant funds will be
41 utilized to support transportation services for senior citizens in the
42 municipality; and (4) the estimated number of senior citizens who
43 will be provided transportation services with the use of the grant
44 funds. The department is also required to establish and promote a
45 six-month period during which municipalities may submit
46 applications for the Senior Citizen Transportation Grant Program,
47 which period is to begin no more than 180 days after the effective
48 date of the bill.

1 The bill authorizes the department to determine the: (1) grant
2 award amounts based upon information provided by the
3 municipality through the application process and the availability of
4 State appropriations; and (2) criteria for eligibility for grant awards,
5 provided that the use of the grant funds by the municipality are
6 within the scope of the program as provided for in the bill.

7 No later than 30 days following the closure of the six-month
8 application period, the department is to report to the Governor and
9 the Legislature a summary of the grant program, including a list of
10 municipalities that submitted an application for the grant, noting
11 any application that was denied and the reason for the denial, as
12 well as the amount and use of each awarded grant.

13 In order to implement the grant program, the bill appropriates
14 \$2.5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Human
15 Services. Any unexpended funds from this appropriation is to
16 revert to the General Fund 180 days following the submission of the
17 report by the Department of Human Services, as required under the
18 bill.