

SENATE, No. 3552

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Creates toll relief program; appropriates \$250 million to NJTA and \$250 million to SJTA.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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2

1 AN ACT creating a toll relief program and making an appropriation.

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

5

6 1. As used in P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as
7 this bill):

8 “Authorities” means the New Jersey Turnpike Authority
9 established by section 3 of P.L.1948, c.454 (C.27:23-3) and the
10 South Jersey Transportation Authority established by section 4 of
11 P.L.1991, c.252 (C.27:25A-4).

12 “Passenger automobile” has the same meaning as defined in
13 R.S.39:1-1.

14 “Qualifying account” means a private prepaid electronic toll
15 collection system account.

16 “Qualifying transaction” means a paid transponder-based toll
17 transaction incurred by a passenger automobile for travel on the
18 New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, or Atlantic City
19 Expressway. A “qualifying transaction” shall not include tolls paid
20 as a fine, penalty, administrative fee or other type of payment made
21 for a violation of a toll; and tolls paid as an administrative fee,
22 processing fee, or other payment for the purpose of establishing an
23 electronic toll collection system account, acquiring electronic toll
24 collection system equipment, or other administrative purpose.

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26 2. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or order to the
27 contrary, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the South Jersey
28 Transportation Authority shall each establish a toll relief program to
29 provide a qualifying account that records 35 or more qualifying
30 transactions per transponder for the calendar month with an account
31 credit equal to 50 percent of the amount paid in that calendar month
32 for the qualifying transactions per transponder.

33 b. The account credit shall be posted to the qualifying account no
34 later than one month after the credit is earned.

35 c. An electronic toll collection system transponder shall be
36 linked to a qualifying account.

37

38 3. The authorities shall prepare and submit quarterly reports
39 documenting credits issued under the toll relief programs to the
40 Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
41 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The report shall include supporting
42 documentation with auditable data to support the account credits
43 issued.

44

45 4. a. (1) There is appropriated \$250,000,000 from the General
46 Fund to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority to support the
47 provisions of account credits issued under the toll relief program

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1 established pursuant to P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature
2 as this bill).

3 (2) There is appropriated \$250,000,000 from the General Fund
4 to the South Jersey Transportation Authority to support the
5 provisions of account credits issued under the toll relief program
6 established pursuant to P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature
7 as this bill).

8 b. The authorities shall not use appropriated funds for
9 administration, contracted services, or expenses of the authority, or
10 any contractor or vendor thereof.

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12 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
13 after enactment, but the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the
14 South Jersey Transportation Authority may take anticipatory actions
15 necessary to implement the provisions of this act. This act shall
16 expire one year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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21 This bill requires the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the
22 South Jersey Transportation Authority (authorities) to each create a
23 toll relief program to provide a qualifying account that records 35
24 or more qualifying transactions per electronic toll collection system
25 (E-ZPass) transponder for the calendar month with an account
26 credit equal to 50 percent of the amount paid in that calendar month
27 for the qualifying transactions per transponder.

28 As defined in the bill, a qualifying account is a private prepaid
29 E-ZPass account. The account credit is required to be posted to the
30 qualifying account no later than one month after the credit is
31 earned.

32 The authorities are required to prepare and submit quarterly
33 reports to the Governor and Legislature documenting
34 reimbursements issued under the toll relief program.

35 The bill appropriates \$250 million to the NJTA and \$250 million
36 to the SJTA from the General Fund to support the provision of
37 account credits issued under the toll relief programs. The
38 authorities are prohibited from using appropriated funds for
39 administration, contracted services, or expenses of the authority, or
40 any contractor or vendor thereof.

41 The bill expires one year following the date of enactment.