

SENATE, No. 3875

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “NJpass Program” to provide discounted fares to eligible organizations; establishes “GO NJ Transit Card Program” to develop transit cards that can be used to purchase any NJT service.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning discounted New Jersey Transit Corporation
2 fares and supplementing P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et al.).
3

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

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

9 “Approved class” means a group of employees, clients, students,
10 or customers of an eligible organization.

11 “Corporation” means the New Jersey Transit Corporation,
12 established pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-4).

13 “Eligible organization” means any provider of a training program
14 including, but not limited to, a provider of a training program listed
15 on the Department of Labor and Workforce Development’s State
16 Eligible Training Provider List, an apprenticeship or pre-
17 apprenticeship program sponsor, a provider of an alternate route to
18 certification program approved by the State Board of Education, an
19 institution of higher education, a private occupational school, an
20 employer, a State or local government agency, and a public or
21 nonprofit social service provider in the State.

22 “GO NJ Transit Card Program” means the program established
23 pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
24 Legislature as this bill).

25 “New Jersey Transit Corporation service” or “corporation
26 service” means motorbus regular route service and rail passenger
27 service, including light rail service, operated by or under contract to
28 the New Jersey Transit Corporation.

29 “NJpass Program” means the program established pursuant to
30 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
31 as this bill).

32 “State Eligible Training Provider List” means the Statewide list
33 of eligible training providers maintained pursuant to section 14 of
34 P.L.2005, c.354 (C.34:15C-10.2).

35 “Transit card” means the “GO NJ Transit Card” established
36 pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
37 Legislature as this bill).
38

39 2. a. No later than one year after the effective date of
40 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
41 the New Jersey Transit Corporation shall establish and implement
42 the “NJpass Program.” The purpose of the NJpass Program shall be
43 to support workforce development and increase access to public
44 transportation in the State by providing discounted rates to
45 approved classes of eligible organizations when purchasing a ticket
46 or pass for a New Jersey Transit Corporation service.

47 b. To carry out the purposes of the NJpass Program, the
48 corporation shall contract with eligible organizations, that have

1 been approved by the corporation to participate in the NJpass
2 Program pursuant to subsection d. of this section, to provide
3 discounted rates to approved classes of the eligible organizations.
4 The amount of the discounted rate to be provided and the manner in
5 which the discounted rate is to be provided shall be determined by
6 the corporation during the process of entering into a contract with
7 an approved eligible organization pursuant to subsection d. of this
8 section.

9 c. The corporation shall establish eligibility criteria and develop
10 an application process for eligible organizations to apply to
11 participate in the NJpass Program. An eligible organization that
12 seeks to participate in the NJpass Program shall submit an
13 application to the corporation in a form and manner prescribed by
14 the corporation. In addition to any other information that the
15 corporation deems appropriate, the application shall require the
16 eligible organization to submit information demonstrating that the
17 organization meets the eligibility requirements to be established by
18 the corporation pursuant to this subsection.

19 d. The corporation may approve applications for the NJpass
20 Program on a rolling basis. Upon approval of an application, the
21 corporation and the eligible organization shall have the opportunity
22 to negotiate the terms and conditions of the contract to be entered
23 into pursuant to this subsection, including, but not limited to, the
24 amount of the discounted fares to be offered and the types of
25 corporation services to be accessed under the NJpass Program.
26 Following any negotiations necessary between the corporation and
27 the eligible organization, the corporation shall enter into a contract
28 with the eligible organization to provide discounted group rates to
29 the approved class of the eligible organization. The terms and
30 conditions of the contract shall include, at a minimum:

31 (1) the discounted rates to be offered to the approved class of the
32 eligible organization;

33 (2) specific information as to what the approved class of the
34 eligible organization will be;

35 (3) information concerning any limitations on times of use or
36 types of corporation services available to the approved class; and

37 (4) the amount of compensation or reimbursement required from
38 the eligible organization, if any, to cover the administrative costs of
39 the corporation.

40 e. A contract under the NJpass Program shall be valid upon the
41 approval of the corporation for a term of not more than two years,
42 except that the first contract with an eligible organization shall not
43 exceed 12 months. Prior to any renewal of a contract with an
44 eligible organization under the NJpass Program, the corporation
45 shall consider any corporation service expenditure increases
46 incurred by the corporation for the purpose of re-evaluating the
47 amount of compensation or reimbursement that may be required, if
48 any.

1 f. Information concerning the NJpass Program, including, but
2 not limited to, the eligibility criteria and application process
3 established pursuant to subsection c. of this section, shall be
4 published on the corporation's Internet website and updated as
5 necessary.

6 g. No later than two years after the effective date of
7 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
8 and annually thereafter, the corporation shall submit a report to the
9 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
10 19.1), the Legislature, on the effectiveness of the NJpass Program
11 in supporting workforce development and increasing access to
12 public transportation in the State. The report shall also specifically
13 include information on each contract with an eligible organization
14 that was entered into, or already in existence, during that year.

15 h. In establishing and implementing the NJpass Program, the
16 corporation shall consider efforts other states have taken to
17 establish and implement similar programs.

18

19 3. a. No later than one year after the effective date of
20 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
21 the corporation shall establish and implement the "GO NJ Transit
22 Card Program." The purpose of the GO NJ Transit Card Program
23 shall be to develop GO NJ Transit Cards and a system in which the
24 transit cards can be purchased and utilized to purchase a ticket or
25 pass for any New Jersey Transit Corporation service in the State.

26 b. An individual who purchases a transit card shall load money
27 onto the transit card, in an amount determined by the individual,
28 except that a minimum of \$10 shall be loaded on the transit card at
29 all times. Once money has been loaded onto the transit card, the
30 transit card can be used to purchase a ticket or pass for any
31 corporation service within the State. Money loaded onto the transit
32 card shall never expire.

33 c. In establishing the transit cards under the GO NJ Transit Card
34 Program, the corporation shall:

35 (1) develop and implement a fare capping system to ensure
36 individuals who utilize a transit card are paying the lowest
37 authorized fare for any period of travel, without having to pay the
38 full cost upfront; and

39 (2) provide discounted fares, in an amount to be determined by
40 the corporation, to transit card users, which are to be in addition to
41 any other discounted fares already provided by the corporation,
42 including, but not limited to, the discounted fares provided to any
43 senior citizen or person with a disability who receives reduced fares
44 for transportation provided by the corporation, or provided under
45 contract with the corporation, pursuant to P.L.1973, c.126
46 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.).

47 d. Information concerning the GO NJ Transit Card Program,
48 including, but not limited to, information on where the transit cards

1 can be purchased and the types of discounts that will be available to
2 transit card users shall be published on the corporation's Internet
3 website and updated as necessary.

4 e. No later than two years after the effective date of
5 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
6 and annually thereafter, the corporation shall submit a report to the
7 Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
8 19.1), the Legislature, on the effectiveness of the GO NJ Transit
9 Card Program in increasing access to public transportation in the
10 State.

11 f. In establishing and implementing the GO NJ Transit Card
12 Program, the corporation shall consider efforts other states have
13 taken to establish and implement similar programs.

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15 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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18 STATEMENT

19
20 This bill requires the New Jersey Transit Corporation
21 (corporation) to establish the "NJpass Program" and the "GO NJ
22 Transit Card Program."

23 The purpose of the NJpass Program is to support workforce
24 development and increase access to public transportation in the
25 State by providing discounted rates to approved classes of certain
26 eligible organizations when purchasing a ticket or pass for a New
27 Jersey Transit Corporation service (corporation service). Under the
28 program, the corporation would be required to contract with eligible
29 organizations that have been approved by the corporation to
30 participate in the NJpass Program to provide discounted rates to
31 approved classes of the eligible organizations.

32 The corporation would be required to establish eligibility criteria
33 and develop an application process for eligible organizations to
34 apply to participate in the NJpass Program. Upon approval of an
35 application, the corporation and the eligible organization will have
36 the opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of the contract
37 to be entered into, including, but not limited to, the amount of the
38 discounted fares to be offered and the types of corporation services
39 to be accessed under the NJpass Program. Following any
40 negotiations necessary between the corporation and the eligible
41 organization, the corporation will enter into a contract with the
42 eligible organization to provide discounted group rates to the
43 approved class of the eligible organization. The terms and
44 conditions of the contract are required to include, at a minimum: (1)
45 the discounted rates to be offered to the approved class of the
46 eligible organization; (2) specific information as to what the
47 approved class of the eligible organization will be; (3) information
48 concerning any limitations on times of use or types of corporation

1 services available to the approved class; and (4) the amount of
2 compensation or reimbursement required from the eligible
3 organization, if any, to cover the administrative costs of the
4 corporation. A contract under the NJpass Program will be valid
5 upon the approval of the corporation for a term of not more than
6 two years, except that the first contract with an eligible organization
7 cannot exceed 12 months.

8 The bill also requires the corporation to establish the “GO NJ
9 Transit Card Program.” The purpose of the GO NJ Transit Card
10 Program is to develop GO NJ Transit Cards (transit cards) and a
11 system in which the transit cards can be purchased and utilized to
12 purchase a ticket or pass for any corporation service in the State.
13 Under the program, transit cards would be available for purchase.
14 Individuals who purchase a transit card would be able to load
15 money onto the transit card and utilize the transit card to purchase a
16 ticket or pass for any corporation service within the State. Money
17 loaded onto a transit card never expires. In establishing the transit
18 cards under the GO NJ Transit Card Program, the corporation is
19 required to: (1) develop and implement a fare capping system to
20 ensure individuals who utilize a transit card are paying the lowest
21 authorized fare for any period of travel, without having to pay the
22 full cost upfront; and (2) provide discounted fares, in an amount to
23 be determined by the corporation, to transit card users, which are to
24 be in addition to any other discounted fares already provided by the
25 corporation, including, but not limited to, the discounted fares
26 provided to any senior citizen or person with a disability who
27 receives reduced fares for transportation provided by the
28 corporation, or provided under contract with the corporation.

29 The bill requires the corporation to publish information
30 concerning the NJpass Program and the GO NJ Transit Card
31 Program on its Internet website and update the information as
32 necessary. The bill also requires the corporation to submit reports
33 to the Governor and the Legislature on the effectiveness of each of
34 the programs established by the bill. In establishing and
35 implementing the programs, the corporation is required to consider
36 the efforts other states have taken to implement similar programs.