

# SENATE, No. 4085

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 27, 2023

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Stanfield**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires private bus operators that participate in NJT bus lease program, receive State funds, or are under contract with NJT to provide notice and hold public meetings for certain service changes.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/4/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning requirements for certain private bus operators  
2 and supplementing Title 27 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. Each private entity that operates motorbus regular route  
8 service, as that term is defined in section 3 of P.L.1979, c.150  
9 (C.27:25-3), or portions or functions thereof, and that also  
10 participates in the New Jersey Transit Corporation's bus lease  
11 program, is a recipient of State funds, regardless of whether those  
12 funds are received through the corporation or through another  
13 instrumentality of the State, or operates such service pursuant to a  
14 contract with the corporation shall:

15 (1) provide at least four months written notice to the New Jersey  
16 Motor Vehicle Commission and the New Jersey Transit Corporation  
17 prior to the substantial curtailment, as that term is defined in section  
18 8 of P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-8), of such service;

19 (2) provide at least three months written notice to the service's  
20 customers prior to the substantial curtailment of such service; and

21 (3) hold at least one public meeting in the affected area, as close  
22 as possible to the highest trafficked stop on the route, within 15  
23 days after providing notice to the service's customers pursuant to  
24 paragraph (2) of this subsection. Prior to holding the public  
25 meeting, the private entity shall provide written notice of the public  
26 meeting to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, the New  
27 Jersey Transit Corporation, as well as the State legislators  
28 representing any legislative district, the mayor and governing body  
29 of any municipality, and the board of county commissioners of any  
30 county that will be affected by the substantial curtailment of such  
31 service.

32 b. A private entity that is determined to be in violation of  
33 subsection a. of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty not to  
34 exceed \$10,000 for each violation, in addition to any penalties that  
35 may be available pursuant to law.

36 c. The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall adopt  
37 rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section and  
38 shall take any action necessary to ensure that private entities are in  
39 compliance with the provisions of subsection a. of this section.

40 d. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to  
41 prohibit the New Jersey Transit Corporation or any other  
42 instrumentality of the State from conditioning participation in any  
43 program, receipt of funds, or entry into a contractual agreement on  
44 notice and public meeting requirements that are more onerous than  
45 the requirements provided in this section.

46

47 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30

This bill establishes several requirements for a private entity that operates motorbus regulator route service, or portions or functions thereof, and that also participates in the New Jersey Transit Corporation's (NJ Transit) bus lease program, is a recipient of State funds, or operates the service pursuant to a contract with NJ Transit.

Specifically, these private entities would be required to: (1) provide at least four months written notice to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) and NJ Transit prior to the substantial curtailment of such service; (2) provide at least three months written notice to the service's customers prior to the substantial curtailment of such service; and (3) hold at least one public meeting in the affected area, as close as possible to the highest trafficked stop on the route, within 15 days after providing notice to the service's customers. Prior to holding the public meeting, the private entity is required to provide written notice of the public meeting to the commission, NJ Transit, as well as the State legislators representing any legislative district, the mayor and governing body of any municipality, and the board of county commissioners of any county that will be affected by the substantial curtailment of such service.

A private entity found to be in violation of the bill would be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation, which penalty is to be in addition to any other penalties that may be available pursuant to law.

The bill requires the commission to adopt rules and regulations to implement the bill and requires the commission to take any action necessary to ensure that private entities are in compliance with the bill's provisions.