

# SENATE, No. 361

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Senator RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 32 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “New Jersey Target Zero Commission.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/15/2024)

1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey Target Zero Commission”  
2 and supplementing Title 27 of the Revised Statutes

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

6  
7 1. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of  
8 Transportation, the “New Jersey Target Zero Commission.”

9 b. The commission shall consist of 13 members, as follows:

10 (1) the Commissioner of Transportation, ex officio, or the  
11 commissioner’s designee;

12 (2) the Superintendent of State Police, ex officio, or the  
13 superintendent’s designee;

14 (3) the Commissioner of Health, ex officio, or the  
15 commissioner’s designee;

16 (4) the Commissioner of Community Affairs, ex officio, or the  
17 commissioner’s designee;

18 (5) the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
19 Commission, ex officio, or the chief administrator’s designee;

20 (6) the Commissioner of Human Services, ex officio, or the  
21 commissioner’s designee;

22 (7) the Director of Highway Traffic Safety, ex officio, or the  
23 director’s designee;

24 (8) the Director of the Office of Environmental Justice in the  
25 Department of Environmental Protection, ex officio, or the  
26 director’s designee;

27 (9) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Transit  
28 Corporation, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

29 (10) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike  
30 Authority, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

31 (11) the Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Regional  
32 Planning Commission , ex officio, or the executive director’s  
33 designee;

34 (12) the Executive Director of the North Jersey Transportation  
35 Planning Authority, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;  
36 and

37 (13) the Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation  
38 Planning Organization, ex officio, or the executive director’s  
39 designee.

40 c. The commission shall hold its initial meeting as soon as  
41 practicable, but no later than 60 days after the effective date of  
42 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

43 The chairperson of the commission shall be the Commissioner of  
44 Transportation, and the commission shall meet no less than twice  
45 per year at such places and times as the chairperson may designate.

46 The commission shall hold a minimum of two annual public  
47 hearings. The chairperson may appoint a secretary who need not be  
48 a member of the commission.

1 d. The commission shall meet with key stakeholders, advocates,  
2 and experts, and shall consult with policy experts in the fields of  
3 bicycle and pedestrian safety, mobility, visual or cognitive  
4 impairments, and motor vehicle crashes for expertise and input.

5 e. The Department of Transportation shall provide professional,  
6 stenographic, and clerical staff to the commission, as may be  
7 necessary for the commission to carry out its duties. The  
8 commission shall also be entitled to call upon the services of any  
9 State, county, or municipal department, board, commission, or  
10 agency, as may be available to it for its purposes.

11

12 2. a. For the purposes of this section:

13 “Active transportation” means pedestrian mobility, such as  
14 walking and running, individual use of personal conveyances for  
15 mobility powered by human effort or electric motors, and personal  
16 conveyances that consider and address accommodations pursuant to  
17 the “Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990” (42 U.S.C. s.12101  
18 et seq.).

19 “Bicycle” means the same as the term is defined in section 2 of  
20 P.L.1975, c.328 (C.39:4-14.5).

21 “Pedestrian” shall include, but not be limited to: a pedestrian as  
22 defined in R.S.39:1-1; a person in a wheelchair or motorized  
23 wheelchair as defined in R.S.39:1-1; and a person employed by or  
24 who contracts with any public utility company in this State, a  
25 property maintenance worker, or any other person who is permitted  
26 by law to be upon the roadway and outside a motor vehicle for work  
27 or recreation and is upon a roadway and outside a motor vehicle for  
28 work or recreation.

29 “Personal conveyance” shall include:

30 (1) a bicycle as defined in this section;

31 (2) a low-speed electric bicycle as defined in R.S.39:1-1;

32 (3) a low-speed electric scooter as defined in R.S.39:1-1;

33 (4) a manual wheelchair;

34 (5) a motorized wheelchair as defined in R.S.39:1-1, or similar  
35 mobility assisting devices used by persons with physical  
36 disabilities, or by persons whose ambulatory mobility has been  
37 impaired by age or illness;

38 (6) an electric personal assistive mobility device as defined in  
39 section 1 of P.L.2001, c.430 (C.39:4-14.10);

40 (7) a motorized scooter as defined in R.S.39:1-1;

41 (8) a skateboard;

42 (9) a motorized skateboard as defined in R.S.39:1-1;

43 (10) roller skates as defined in section 1 of P.L.1997, c.411  
44 (C.39:4-10.5); and

45 (11) any other means used by a person for transportation.

46 “Safe system approach” means evaluating traffic safety and  
47 designing a transportation system with the goal of eliminating fatal  
48 and serious injuries for all road users by acknowledging that: traffic

1 deaths and serious injuries are unacceptable, humans make  
2 mistakes, humans are vulnerable, responsibility is shared, safety is  
3 proactive, and redundancy is crucial.

4 “Target zero strategies” means actionable strategies using the  
5 safe system approach and include, but are not limited to: (1)  
6 prioritizing roadway design and design of sidewalks; crosswalks;  
7 roadway shoulders; personal conveyance parking; access to public  
8 transit, schools, and parks; and intersections and corridors with  
9 paths, trails, and multiuse greenways; (2) focusing on speed  
10 management; (3) ensuring enforcement is equitable; and (4)  
11 utilizing impactful education strategies and inclusive community  
12 engagement.

13 b. The purpose and duties of the commission shall be to study,  
14 examine, and review all aspects of traffic safety with a particular  
15 focus on access, equity, and mobility for all road users using the  
16 safe system approach and to advise the Governor, the Legislature,  
17 and the Department of Transportation regarding policies, programs,  
18 research, and priorities to help achieve the goal of eliminating  
19 traffic fatalities and serious injuries. To fulfill this purpose and  
20 these duties, the commission shall:

21 (1) develop a comprehensive and coordinated action plan to help  
22 achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries  
23 on all public roadways in the State by 2040 through education and  
24 enforcement systems that analyze physical transportation designs  
25 with a focus on the equitable treatment of all transportation users;

26 (2) identify additional short-term and long-term data-driven  
27 strategies with measurable goals and target dates that could reduce  
28 traffic fatalities and serious injuries with the goal of eliminating all  
29 traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2040;

30 (3) adopt the action plan no later than the first day of the 12th  
31 month following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. )  
32 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), except that before  
33 adopting the action plan, the commission shall host a public hearing  
34 to receive public feedback concerning the proposed action plan,  
35 which proposed action plan shall be published on the commission’s  
36 Internet website no less than 72 hours before the public hearing;

37 (4) promote effective and transparent collection of traffic safety  
38 data and dissemination of such data via a publicly accessible data  
39 portal that includes, but is not limited to, the most dangerous  
40 intersections in the State, traffic crash data with information on  
41 non-fatal injuries and demographic data, and a high injury network  
42 that indicates the roadways, in the State, with the highest injury  
43 rates;

44 (5) encourage the elimination of road hazards by advancing  
45 active transportation and mass transit as safe and viable forms of  
46 transportation throughout the State for persons of all ages and  
47 abilities;

1 (6) develop the action plan to implement and promote the safe  
2 system approach, target zero strategies, and evidenced-based safety  
3 countermeasures to help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic  
4 fatalities and severe injuries among all road users by 2040;

5 (7) create and maintain an interactive Internet website to provide  
6 information about the commission, including: the membership of  
7 the commission; the commission's plans, progress reports, meeting  
8 notices, agendas, and minutes; educational materials about target  
9 zero; a link to the safety portal required pursuant to paragraph (4) of  
10 this subsection; and any other information the commission deems  
11 necessary;

12 (8) serve as an advisor to the Department of Transportation and  
13 other State agencies and transportation authorities with regard to  
14 roadway planning and transportation infrastructure planning;

15 (9) provide advice and assistance to county and municipal  
16 governments regarding the resources available to develop their own  
17 target zero plans; and

18 (10) report annually to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of  
19 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on the findings  
20 and activities of the commission, including the number of road  
21 traffic fatalities and serious. The commission shall submit the  
22 report before the third Sunday in November of each year, which is  
23 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

24  
25 3. The Department of Transportation shall promulgate such rules  
26 and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
27 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate  
28 the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
29 Legislature as this bill).

30  
31 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

35

36 This bill establishes the "New Jersey Target Zero Commission"  
37 (commission). The commission is to consist of 13 members as  
38 outlined in the bill.

39 The purpose and duties of the commission are to study, examine,  
40 and review all aspects of traffic safety with a particular focus on  
41 access, equity, and mobility for all road users using the safe system  
42 approach and to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and the  
43 Department of Transportation regarding policies, programs,  
44 research, and priorities to help achieve the goal of eliminating  
45 traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

46 Under the bill, the commission is required to take steps to  
47 achieve its purpose and duties, including:

- 1 (1) developing a comprehensive and coordinated action plan to  
2 help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious  
3 injuries on all public roadways in the State by 2040;
- 4 (2) identifying additional short-term and long-term data-driven  
5 strategies with measurable goals and target dates that could reduce  
6 traffic fatalities and serious injuries with the goal of eliminating all  
7 traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2040;
- 8 (3) adopting the action plan no later than the first day of the  
9 12th month following the effective date of the bill;
- 10 (4) promoting effective and transparent collection of traffic  
11 safety data and dissemination of such data via a publicly accessible  
12 data portal;
- 13 (5) encouraging the elimination of road hazards by advancing  
14 active transportation and mass transit as safe and viable forms of  
15 transportation throughout the State;
- 16 (6) developing the action plan to implement and promote the safe  
17 system approach, target zero strategies, and evidenced-based safety  
18 countermeasures;
- 19 (7) creating and maintaining an interactive Internet website to  
20 provide information about the commission;
- 21 (8) serving as an advisor to the Department of Transportation and  
22 other State agencies and transportation authorities;
- 23 (9) providing advice and assistance to county and municipal  
24 governments regarding the resources available to develop their own  
25 target zero plans; and
- 26 (10) reporting annually to the Governor and to the Legislature on  
27 the findings and activities of the commission.