

ASSEMBLY, No. 5600

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ELLEN J. PARK

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Sampson

SYNOPSIS

Concerns penalties for assault of motorbus and rail passenger service employees.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/15/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning the prevention of violence against motorbus
2 and rail passenger service employees and amending P.L.1979,
3 c.150 and P.L.2021, c.352.

4

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

7

8 1. Section 5 of P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-5) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 5. In addition to the powers and duties conferred upon it
11 elsewhere in this act, the corporation may do all acts necessary and
12 reasonably incident to carrying out the objectives of this act,
13 including but not in limitation thereof the following:

14 a. Sue and be sued;

15 b. Have an official seal and alter the same at pleasure;

16 c. Make and alter bylaws for its organization and internal
17 management and for the conduct of its affairs and business;

18 d. Maintain an office at such place or places within the State as
19 it may determine;

20 e. Adopt, amend and repeal such rules and regulations as it
21 may deem necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act, which
22 shall have the force and effect of law; it shall publish the same and
23 file them in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
24 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) with the Director of the Office
25 of Administrative Law;

26 f. Call to its assistance and avail itself of the service of such
27 employees of any federal, State, county or municipal department or
28 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for said
29 purpose;

30 g. Apply for, accept and expend money from any federal, State,
31 county or municipal agency or instrumentality and from any private
32 source as gifts, grants, or loans; comply with federal statutes, rules
33 and regulations, and qualify for and receive all forms of financial
34 assistance available under federal law to assure the continuance of,
35 or for the support or improvement of public transportation and as
36 may be necessary for that purpose to enter into agreements,
37 including federally required labor protective agreements;

38 h. Plan, design, construct, equip, operate, improve, maintain,
39 and, through the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority,
40 finance either directly or by contract with any public or private
41 entity, public transportation services, capital equipment and
42 facilities or any parts or functions thereof, and other transportation
43 projects, or any parts or functions thereof, which may be funded
44 under section 3 of the federal “Urban Mass Transportation Act of
45 1964”, Pub.L.88-365 [(49 U.S.C. s.1602)], or any successor or

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 additional federal act having substantially the same or similar
2 purposes or functions; the operation of the facilities of the
3 corporation, by the corporation or any public or private entity, may
4 include appropriate and reasonable limitations on competition in
5 order that maximum service may be provided most efficiently to the
6 public;

7 i. Apply for and accept, from appropriate regulatory bodies,
8 authority to operate public transportation services where necessary;

9 j. Purchase, lease as lessee, or otherwise acquire, own, hold,
10 improve, use and otherwise deal in and with real or personal
11 property, or any interest therein, from any public or private entity,
12 wherever situated;

13 k. Lease as lessor, sell or otherwise dispose of on terms which
14 the corporation may prescribe, real and personal property, including
15 tangible or intangible property and consumable goods, or any
16 interest therein, to any public or private entity, in the exercise of its
17 powers and the performance of its duties under this act. In order to
18 provide or encourage adequate and efficient public transportation
19 service, the corporation may lease or otherwise permit the use or
20 occupancy of property without cost or at a nominal rental;

21 l. Restrict the rights of persons to enter upon or construct any
22 works in or upon any property owned or leased by the corporation,
23 except under such terms as the corporation may prescribe; perform
24 or contract for the performance of all acts necessary for the
25 management, maintenance and repair of real or personal property
26 leased or otherwise used or occupied pursuant to this act; and
27 prohibit from using transportation services provided by the
28 corporation any person who assaults an employee of motorbus
29 service, including, but not limited to, an operator of a motorbus or
30 the operator's supervisor or any employee of a rail passenger
31 service, including light rail service, while clearly identifiable as
32 being engaged in the performance of the person's duties or because
33 of the person's status as an employee of a motorbus service or as an
34 employee of a rail passenger service, for a term to be determined by
35 the corporation not to exceed **【one】** five calendar **【year,】** years.
36 After having been barred from the corporation's transportation
37 services for three years pursuant to this subsection, a person may
38 petition, in a manner and process established by the corporation, for
39 relief to reduce or end the period of suspension for good cause
40 based on change in circumstances, substantial need for
41 transportation services provided by the corporation, or proof of
42 rehabilitation. **【unless】** However, if the person used a deadly
43 weapon during the commission of the assault **【in which case】** , the
44 corporation may prohibit the person **【may be prohibited】** from
45 accessing transportation services for life, provided that the person
46 has the right to appeal any determination made pursuant to this
47 subsection in a manner and process established by the corporation;

- 1 m. Establish one or more operating divisions as deemed
2 necessary;
- 3 n. Set and collect fares and determine levels of service for
4 service provided by the corporation either directly or by contract
5 including, but not limited to, such reduced fare programs as deemed
6 appropriate by the corporation; revenues derived from such service
7 may be collected by the corporation and shall be available to the
8 corporation for use in furtherance of any of the purposes of this act;
- 9 o. Set and collect rentals, fees, charges or other payments from
10 the lease, use, occupancy or disposition of properties owned or
11 leased by the corporation; such revenues shall be available to the
12 corporation for use in furtherance of any of the purposes of this act;
- 13 p. Deposit corporate revenues in interest bearing accounts or in
14 the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund established
15 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1977, c.281 (C.52:18A-90.4);
- 16 q. Delegate to subordinate officers of the corporation such
17 powers and duties as the corporation shall deem necessary and
18 proper to carry out the purposes of this act;
- 19 r. (1) Procure and enter into contracts for any type of
20 insurance and indemnify against loss or damage to property from
21 any cause, including loss of use and occupancy, against death or
22 injury of any person, against employees' liability, against any act of
23 any member, officer, employee or servant of the corporation,
24 whether part-time, full-time, compensated or noncompensated, in
25 the performance of the duties of his office or employment or any
26 other insurable risk. In addition, the corporation may carry its own
27 liability insurance and may also establish and utilize a wholly-
28 owned insurance subsidiary or captive provided the subsidiary or
29 captive is domiciled in the United States in a state which is
30 accredited by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners
31 and which licenses and regulates wholly-owned insurance
32 subsidiaries or captives; and
- 33 (2) Pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
34 corporation's chief of procurement is authorized to reach an
35 agreement to defend and indemnify a person against claims, causes
36 of action, demands, costs or judgments against that person arising
37 as a direct result of that person's contract with the corporation, upon
38 the terms and limitations the chief deems reasonable and
39 appropriate. An agreement to defend and indemnify pursuant to
40 this subsection shall not bar, reduce, limit or affect any remedies
41 which the corporation may have to enforce the corporation's
42 agreement or to assert a claim for damages to which the corporation
43 may be entitled arising out of the person's failure to perform the
44 agreement, or for the recovery of funds expended for the defense of
45 a person if the defense was undertaken in response to a claim or
46 cause of action brought against the person which is proven to have
47 arisen from gross negligence, willful misconduct, fraud, intentional
48 tort, bad faith, or criminal conduct. No one other than the person

1 who is party to the agreement with the corporation may enforce any
2 agreement for defense or indemnification between that person and
3 the corporation;

4 s. Promote the use of public transportation services, coordinate
5 ticket sales and passenger information and sell, lease or otherwise
6 contract for advertising in or on the equipment or facilities of the
7 corporation;

8 t. Adopt and maintain employee benefit programs for
9 employees of the corporation including, but not limited to, pension,
10 deferred compensation, medical disability, and death benefits, and
11 which programs may utilize insurance contracts, trust funds, and
12 any other appropriate means of providing the stipulated benefits,
13 and may involve new plans or the continuation of plans previously
14 established by entities acquired by the corporation;

15 u. Own, control, vote, and exercise any and all other rights
16 incidental to the ownership of any equity, membership interest, or
17 any shares of the capital stock of any incorporated entity acquired,
18 formed, incorporated, or established by law by the corporation
19 pursuant to the powers granted by this act. Any such corporate
20 entity may be utilized in order to enable the corporation to
21 participate with other private or public entities in any transaction,
22 memorandum of understanding, undertaking, or arrangement that
23 the corporation would have the power to conduct by itself, whether
24 or not such participation involves sharing or delegation of control
25 with or to other public or private entities regarding the ownership,
26 operation, control, and management of services, equipment, or
27 facilities. For purposes of this subsection, "corporate entity" means
28 any business entity, including but not limited to, any corporation,
29 limited liability company, joint venture, limited partnership, general
30 partnership, association of any kind, or collaborative arrangement
31 that may be jointly owned by the corporation and any other public
32 or private entities that provide public transportation services;

33 v. Enter into any and all agreements or contracts, execute any
34 and all instruments, and do and perform any and all acts or things
35 necessary, convenient or desirable for the purposes of the
36 corporation, or to carry out any power expressly or implicitly given
37 in this act;

38 w. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17 of P.L.1979,
39 c.150 (C.27:25-17) or any other law to the contrary, (1) issue
40 operating grant anticipation notes which shall be secured and retired
41 from operating assistance grants authorized under section 9 of the
42 federal "Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964", Pub.L.88-365
43 **[(49 U.S.C. s.1602)]**, or any successor or additional federal act
44 having substantially the same or similar purposes or functions and
45 (2) issue capital grant anticipation notes which shall be secured and
46 retired from capital assistance grants authorized under section 3 or
47 section 9 of the federal "Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964",
48 Pub.L.88-365 **[(49 U.S.C. s.1602)]**, or any successor or additional

1 federal act having substantially the same or similar purposes or
2 functions. As used in this subsection, "operating grant anticipation
3 notes" or "capital grant anticipation notes" (hereinafter referred to
4 as "notes") means credit obligations issued in anticipation of these
5 grants. All grant anticipation notes shall be authorized by a
6 resolution or resolutions of the corporation, and may be issued in
7 one or more series and shall bear the date, or dates, bear interest at
8 the rate or rates of interest per annum, be in the denomination or
9 denominations, be in the form, carry the conversion or registration
10 privileges, have the rank or priority, be executed in such manner as
11 the resolution or resolutions require. The notes may be sold at
12 public or private sale at the price or prices and in the manner that
13 the corporation determines. The notes of the corporation, the sale or
14 transfer thereof, and the income derived therefrom by the
15 purchasers of the notes, shall, at all times, be free from taxation for
16 State or local purposes, under any law of the State or any political
17 subdivision thereof. Notes may be issued under the provisions of
18 P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et **【seq】** al.) without obtaining the
19 consent of any department, division, commission, board, bureau or
20 agency of the State, and without any other proceedings, conditions,
21 or things which are specifically required by P.L.1979, c.150
22 (C.27:25-1 et **【seq】** al.). The notes issued pursuant to P.L.1979,
23 c.150 (C.27:25-1 et **【seq】** al.) shall not in any way create or
24 constitute any indebtedness, liability or obligation of the State or of
25 any political subdivision thereof or of the corporation, except as
26 provided herein.

27 The grant anticipation notes shall be payable solely from (1) note
28 proceeds, to the extent not disbursed to the corporation, (2) grant
29 payments if, as, and when received from the federal government,
30 and (3) investment earnings on note proceeds, to the extent not
31 disbursed to the corporation. Each note shall contain on its face a
32 statement to the effect that the corporation is obligated to pay the
33 principal thereof or the interest thereon only from these grants to
34 the corporation and from the proceeds of the notes and investment
35 earnings on the proceeds of the notes, to the extent not disbursed to
36 the corporation, and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing
37 power of the State or of any political subdivision thereof or of the
38 corporation is pledged to the payment of the principal and interest
39 on these notes. Neither the members of the corporation's board nor
40 any person executing the transactions are personally liable on those
41 notes nor are they otherwise liable for their actions. Subject to any
42 agreement with the debtholders, the corporation may invest moneys
43 of the corporation not required for immediate use, including
44 proceeds from the sale of any notes, in such obligations, securities
45 and other investments as the corporation shall deem prudent;

46 x. Enter into agreements with a public or private entity or
47 consortia thereof to provide for the development of demonstration
48 projects through the use of public-private partnerships pursuant to

1 sections 1 through 9 of P.L.1997, c.136 (C.27:1D-1 through
2 C.27:1D-9);

3 y. Enter into agreements with a public or private entity or
4 consortia thereof to provide for the development of projects through
5 the use of public-private partnerships. All building construction
6 projects under a public-private partnership agreement entered into
7 pursuant to this subsection shall contain a project labor agreement,
8 unless the federal government or a court of competent jurisdiction
9 determines that requiring such an agreement would violate federal
10 law or regulation, or including such an agreement would preclude
11 the corporation from receiving federal funding for the project.
12 Project labor agreements shall be subject to the provisions of
13 P.L.2002, c.44 (C.52:38-1 et seq.); and

14 z. To employ and retain legal counsel at the corporation's
15 discretion, including choosing representation by the Attorney
16 General.

17 (cf: P.L.2021, c.352, s.2)

18

19 2. Section 4 of P.L.2021, c.352 (C.27:25-5.29) is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 4. Any entity that provides rail passenger service, including
22 light rail service, is hereby authorized to prohibit from using
23 transportation services provided by the entity any person who
24 assaults an employee of the rail passenger service while clearly
25 identifiable as being engaged in the performance of the person's
26 duties or because of the person's status as an employee of the rail
27 passenger service, for a term to be determined by the entity not to
28 exceed **[one]** five calendar **[year,]** years. After having been barred
29 from the entity's transportation services for three years pursuant to
30 this section, a person may petition, in a manner and process
31 established by the entity, for relief to reduce or end the period of
32 suspension for good cause based on change in circumstances,
33 substantial need for transportation services provided by the entity,
34 or proof of rehabilitation. **[unless]** However, if the person used a
35 deadly weapon during the commission of the assault **[in which**
36 **case]** , the entity may prohibit the person **[may be prohibited]** from
37 accessing transportation services for life, provided that the person
38 has the right to appeal any determination made pursuant to this
39 section in a manner and process established by the entity.

40 (cf: P.L.2021, c.352, s.4)

41

42 3. Section 5 of P.L.2021, c.352 (C.48:4-2.26) is amended to
43 read as follows:

44 5. a. An autobus company may, at its discretion, prohibit from
45 using transportation services provided or operated by the autobus
46 company any person who assaults an operator of an autobus or the
47 operator's supervisor while clearly identifiable as being engaged in
48 the performance of the person's duties or because of the person's

1 status as an operator of an autobus or as the operator's supervisor,
2 for a term to be determined by the owner or operator of the autobus
3 not to exceed **【one】** five calendar **【year,】** years. After having been
4 barred from the autobus company's transportation services for three
5 years pursuant to this subsection, a person may petition, in a
6 manner and process established by the autobus company, for relief
7 to reduce or end the period of suspension for good cause based on
8 change in circumstances, substantial need for transportation
9 services provided or operated by the autobus company, or proof of
10 rehabilitation. **【unless】** However, if the person used a deadly
11 weapon during the commission of the assault **【in which case】** an
12 autobus company may prohibit the person **【may be prohibited】**
13 from accessing transportation services for life, provided that the
14 person has the right to appeal any determination made pursuant to
15 this subsection in a manner and process established by the autobus
16 company.

17 b. An autobus company shall equip each autobus with a
18 working radio or other communication system that allows the
19 operator of the autobus to alert the autobus company or appropriate
20 law enforcement agencies when the operator is in distress.

21 c. An autobus company shall designate a chief security officer
22 or other manager to serve as the primary contact with the chief of
23 police in any town served by the autobus company and with New
24 Jersey Transit police. The designated primary contact shall provide
25 24-hour contact information to each police department in
26 jurisdictions served by the autobus company.

27 d. An autobus company shall identify a program or programs to
28 assist and support operators of autobuses that have been a victim of
29 assault and shall annually provide contact and other information
30 about such program to all bus operators employed by the autobus
31 company.

32 e. An autobus company shall periodically provide or engage a
33 qualified professional to provide training to autobus operators
34 which shall include training in techniques to de-escalate situations
35 to avoid violence.

36 f. As used in this section, "autobus company" means an entity
37 that operates an autobus providing transportation services to
38 members of the public.

39 (cf: P.L.2021, c.352, s.5)

40

41 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

42

43

44 STATEMENT

45

46 This bill concerns penalties for assault of motorbus and
47 passenger rail service employees. Specifically, the bill amends
48 current law to allow the New Jersey Transit Corporation

1 (corporation), an entity that provides rail passenger service (entity),
2 and an autobus company to prohibit from using transportation
3 services provided by the corporation, an entity, or an autobus
4 company any person who assaults an employee of the corporation,
5 entity, or an autobus company for up to five calendar years.
6 However, the bill permits any such person, after having been barred
7 from the corporation's, entity's, or autobus company's
8 transportation services, to petition the corporation, entity, or
9 autobus company for relief to reduce or end the period of
10 suspension for good cause based on change in circumstances,
11 substantial need for the transportation service, or proof of
12 rehabilitation.