

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 5600

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

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District 37 (Bergen)

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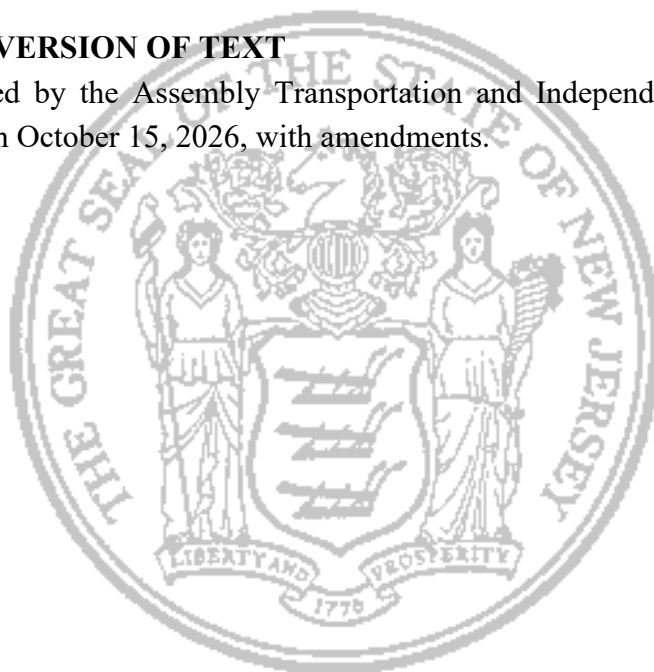
Assemblyman Sampson

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee on October 15, 2026, with amendments.



(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 ^{1,1} but not in limitation thereof ^{1,1} 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 ^{1,1} ” ¹ **[,]** Pub.L.88-365 **[(49 U.S.C. s.1602)]**, or any

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted October 15, 2026.

1 successor or additional federal act having substantially the same or
2 similar 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 ¹:

29 (1)¹ assaults an employee of motorbus service ¹[, including₂ but
30 not limited to₂ an operator of a motorbus or the operator's
31 supervisor or any employee of a] or¹ rail passenger service,
32 including light rail service, while ¹the employee is¹ clearly
33 identifiable as being engaged in the performance of the ¹[person's]
34 employee's¹ duties or because of the ¹[person's] employee's¹
35 status as an employee of a motorbus service or as an employee of a
36 rail passenger service, for a term to be determined by the
37 corporation not to exceed [one] ¹[five] one¹ calendar [year,]
38 ¹[years. After having been barred from the corporation's
39 transportation services for three years pursuant to this subsection,
40 a] year;

41 (2) is convicted of an assault of an employee of motorbus
42 service or rail passenger service, including light rail service, while
43 the employee was clearly identifiable as being engaged in the
44 performance of the employee's duties or because of the employee's
45 status as an employee of a motorbus service or as an employee of a
46 rail passenger service, for a term to be determined by the
47 corporation not to exceed five years. Upon completing three years

1 of an administrative suspension authorized by this paragraph, the¹
2 person may petition, in a manner and process established by the
3 corporation, for relief to reduce or end the period of suspension for
4 good cause based on change in circumstances, substantial need for
5 transportation services provided by the corporation, or proof of
6 rehabilitation. [unless] ¹[However, if the person] ; or

7 (3)¹ used a deadly weapon during the commission of ¹[the] an¹
8 assault [in which case] ¹of an employee of motorbus service or rail
9 passenger service, including light rail service, while the employee
10 was clearly identifiable as being engaged in the performance of the
11 employee's duties or because of the employee's status as an
12 employee of a motorbus service or as an employee of a rail
13 passenger service, in which case¹ , the corporation may prohibit the
14 person [may be prohibited] from accessing transportation services
15 ¹provided by the corporation¹ for life, provided that the person has
16 the right to appeal any determination made pursuant to this
17 ¹[subsection] paragraph¹ in a manner and process established by
18 the corporation ¹.

19 As used in this subsection:

20 "Assault" means the same as that term is described in
21 N.J.S.2C:12-1.

22 "Employee" includes, but is not limited to, all frontline
23 employees who interact directly with passengers or the public,
24 including, but not limited to, operating, supervisory, passenger
25 service, and safety and security personnel¹;

26 m. Establish one or more operating divisions as deemed
27 necessary;

28 n. Set and collect fares and determine levels of service for
29 service provided by the corporation either directly or by contract
30 including, but not limited to, such reduced fare programs as deemed
31 appropriate by the corporation; revenues derived from such service
32 may be collected by the corporation and shall be available to the
33 corporation for use in furtherance of any of the purposes of this act;

34 o. Set and collect rentals, fees, charges or other payments from
35 the lease, use, occupancy or disposition of properties owned or
36 leased by the corporation; such revenues shall be available to the
37 corporation for use in furtherance of any of the purposes of this act;

38 p. Deposit corporate revenues in interest bearing accounts or in
39 the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund established
40 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1977, c.281 (C.52:18A-90.4);

41 q. Delegate to subordinate officers of the corporation such
42 powers and duties as the corporation shall deem necessary and
43 proper to carry out the purposes of this act;

44 r. (1) Procure and enter into contracts for any type of insurance
45 and indemnify against loss or damage to property from any cause,
46 including loss of use and occupancy, against death or injury of any
47 person, against employees' liability, against any act of any member,

1 officer, employee or servant of the corporation, whether part-time,
2 full-time, compensated or noncompensated, in the performance of
3 the duties of his office or employment or any other insurable risk.
4 In addition, the corporation may carry its own liability insurance
5 and may also establish and utilize a wholly-owned insurance
6 subsidiary or captive provided the subsidiary or captive is
7 domiciled in the United States in a state which is accredited by the
8 National Association of Insurance Commissioners and which
9 licenses and regulates wholly-owned insurance subsidiaries or
10 captives; and

11 (2) Pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
12 corporation's chief of procurement is authorized to reach an
13 agreement to defend and indemnify a person against claims, causes
14 of action, demands, costs or judgments against that person arising
15 as a direct result of that person's contract with the corporation, upon
16 the terms and limitations the chief deems reasonable and
17 appropriate. An agreement to defend and indemnify pursuant to
18 this subsection shall not bar, reduce, limit or affect any remedies
19 which the corporation may have to enforce the corporation's
20 agreement or to assert a claim for damages to which the corporation
21 may be entitled arising out of the person's failure to perform the
22 agreement, or for the recovery of funds expended for the defense of
23 a person if the defense was undertaken in response to a claim or
24 cause of action brought against the person which is proven to have
25 arisen from gross negligence, willful misconduct, fraud, intentional
26 tort, bad faith, or criminal conduct. No one other than the person
27 who is party to the agreement with the corporation may enforce any
28 agreement for defense or indemnification between that person and
29 the corporation;

30 s. Promote the use of public transportation services, coordinate
31 ticket sales and passenger information and sell, lease or otherwise
32 contract for advertising in or on the equipment or facilities of the
33 corporation;

34 t. Adopt and maintain employee benefit programs for
35 employees of the corporation including, but not limited to, pension,
36 deferred compensation, medical disability, and death benefits, and
37 which programs may utilize insurance contracts, trust funds, and
38 any other appropriate means of providing the stipulated benefits,
39 and may involve new plans or the continuation of plans previously
40 established by entities acquired by the corporation;

41 u. Own, control, vote, and exercise any and all other rights
42 incidental to the ownership of any equity, membership interest, or
43 any shares of the capital stock of any incorporated entity acquired,
44 formed, incorporated, or established by law by the corporation
45 pursuant to the powers granted by this act. Any such corporate
46 entity may be utilized in order to enable the corporation to
47 participate with other private or public entities in any transaction,
48 memorandum of understanding, undertaking, or arrangement that

1 the corporation would have the power to conduct by itself, whether
2 or not such participation involves sharing or delegation of control
3 with or to other public or private entities regarding the ownership,
4 operation, control, and management of services, equipment, or
5 facilities. For purposes of this subsection, "corporate entity" means
6 any business entity, including but not limited to, any corporation,
7 limited liability company, joint venture, limited partnership, general
8 partnership, association of any kind, or collaborative arrangement
9 that may be jointly owned by the corporation and any other public
10 or private entities that provide public transportation services;

11 v. Enter into any and all agreements or contracts, execute any
12 and all instruments, and do and perform any and all acts or things
13 necessary, convenient or desirable for the purposes of the
14 corporation, or to carry out any power expressly or implicitly given
15 in this act;

16 w. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 17 of P.L.1979,
17 c.150 (C.27:25-17) or any other law to the contrary, (1) issue
18 operating grant anticipation notes which shall be secured and retired
19 from operating assistance grants authorized under section 9 of the
20 federal "Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964" ^{1,1} " ¹ **["**, ¹ **"]**
21 Pub.L.88-365 **[(49 U.S.C. s.1602)]**, or any successor or additional
22 federal act having substantially the same or similar purposes or
23 functions and (2) issue capital grant anticipation notes which shall
24 be secured and retired from capital assistance grants authorized
25 under section 3 or section 9 of the federal "Urban Mass
26 Transportation Act of 1964" ^{1,1} " ¹ **["**, ¹ **"]** Pub.L.88-365 **[(49 U.S.C.**
27 **s.1602)]**, or any successor or additional federal act having
28 substantially the same or similar purposes or functions. As used in
29 this subsection, "operating grant anticipation notes" or "capital
30 grant anticipation notes" (hereinafter referred to as "notes") means
31 credit obligations issued in anticipation of these grants. All grant
32 anticipation notes shall be authorized by a resolution or resolutions
33 of the corporation, and may be issued in one or more series and
34 shall bear the date, or dates, bear interest at the rate or rates of
35 interest per annum, be in the denomination or denominations, be in
36 the form, carry the conversion or registration privileges, have the
37 rank or priority, be executed in such manner as the resolution or
38 resolutions require. The notes may be sold at public or private sale
39 at the price or prices and in the manner that the corporation
40 determines. The notes of the corporation, the sale or transfer
41 thereof, and the income derived therefrom by the purchasers of the
42 notes, shall, at all times, be free from taxation for State or local
43 purposes, under any law of the State or any political subdivision
44 thereof. Notes may be issued under the provisions of P.L.1979,
45 c.150 (C.27:25-1 et **[seq]** al.) without obtaining the consent of any
46 department, division, commission, board, bureau or agency of the
47 State, and without any other proceedings, conditions, or things
48 which are specifically required by P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1 et

1 【seq】 al.). The notes issued pursuant to P.L.1979, c.150 (C.27:25-1
2 et 【seq】 al.) shall not in any way create or constitute any
3 indebtedness, liability or obligation of the State or of any political
4 subdivision thereof or of the corporation, except as provided herein.

5 The grant anticipation notes shall be payable solely from (1) note
6 proceeds, to the extent not disbursed to the corporation, (2) grant
7 payments if, as, and when received from the federal government,
8 and (3) investment earnings on note proceeds, to the extent not
9 disbursed to the corporation. Each note shall contain on its face a
10 statement to the effect that the corporation is obligated to pay the
11 principal thereof or the interest thereon only from these grants to
12 the corporation and from the proceeds of the notes and investment
13 earnings on the proceeds of the notes, to the extent not disbursed to
14 the corporation, and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing
15 power of the State or of any political subdivision thereof or of the
16 corporation is pledged to the payment of the principal and interest
17 on these notes. Neither the members of the corporation's board nor
18 any person executing the transactions are personally liable on those
19 notes nor are they otherwise liable for their actions. Subject to any
20 agreement with the debtholders, the corporation may invest moneys
21 of the corporation not required for immediate use, including
22 proceeds from the sale of any notes, in such obligations, securities
23 and other investments as the corporation shall deem prudent;

24 x. Enter into agreements with a public or private entity or
25 consortia thereof to provide for the development of demonstration
26 projects through the use of public-private partnerships pursuant to
27 sections 1 through 9 of P.L.1997, c.136 (C.27:1D-1 through
28 C.27:1D-9);

29 y. Enter into agreements with a public or private entity or
30 consortia thereof to provide for the development of projects through
31 the use of public-private partnerships. All building construction
32 projects under a public-private partnership agreement entered into
33 pursuant to this subsection shall contain a project labor agreement,
34 unless the federal government or a court of competent jurisdiction
35 determines that requiring such an agreement would violate federal
36 law or regulation, or including such an agreement would preclude
37 the corporation from receiving federal funding for the project.
38 Project labor agreements shall be subject to the provisions of
39 P.L.2002, c.44 (C.52:38-1 et seq.); and

40 z. To employ and retain legal counsel at the corporation's
41 discretion, including choosing representation by the Attorney
42 General.

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

44

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

47 4. ¹a. As used in this section:

1 “Assault” means the same as that term is described in
2 N.J.S.2C:12-1.

3 “Employee” includes, but is not limited to, all frontline
4 employees who interact directly with passengers or the public,
5 including, but not limited to, operating, supervisory, passenger
6 service, and safety and security personnel.

7 b.¹ Any entity that provides rail passenger service, including
8 light rail service, is hereby authorized to prohibit from using
9 transportation services provided by the entity any person who ¹:

10 (1)¹ assaults an employee of the rail passenger service while ¹the
11 employee is¹ clearly identifiable as being engaged in the
12 performance of the ¹【person's】 employee's¹ duties or because of
13 the ¹【person's】 employee's¹ status as an employee of the rail
14 passenger service, for a term to be determined by the entity not to
15 exceed 【one】 ¹【five】 one¹ calendar 【year,】 ¹【years. After having
16 been barred from the entity's transportation services for three years
17 pursuant to this section, a】 year;

18 (2) is convicted of an assault of an employee of the rail
19 passenger service while the employee was clearly identifiable as
20 being engaged in the performance of the employee's duties or
21 because of the employee's status as an employee of the rail
22 passenger service, for a term to be determined by the entity not to
23 exceed five years. Upon completing three years of an
24 administrative suspension authorized by this paragraph, the¹ person
25 may petition, in a manner and process established by the entity, for
26 relief to reduce or end the period of suspension for good cause
27 based on change in circumstances, substantial need for
28 transportation services provided by the entity, or proof of
29 rehabilitation. 【unless】 ¹【However, if the person】 ; or

30 (3)¹ used a deadly weapon during the commission of ¹【the】 an¹
31 assault 【in which case】 ¹of an employee of the rail passenger
32 service while the employee was clearly identifiable as being
33 engaged in the performance of the employee's duties or because of
34 the employee's status as an employee of the rail passenger service,
35 in which case¹ , the entity may prohibit the person 【may be
36 prohibited】 from accessing ¹the entity's¹ transportation services for
37 life, provided that the person has the right to appeal any
38 determination made pursuant to this ¹【section】 paragraph¹ in a
39 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 ¹:

1 (1)¹ assaults ¹an operator of an autobus or the operator's
2 supervisor an employee of the autobus company¹ while ¹the
3 employee is¹ clearly identifiable as being engaged in the
4 performance of the ¹person's employee's¹ duties or because of
5 the ¹person's employee's¹ status as an ¹operator employee¹ of
6 ¹an the¹ autobus ¹or as the operator's supervisor, company,¹ for
7 a term to be determined by the owner or operator of the autobus not
8 to exceed one ¹five one¹ calendar year, ¹years. After
9 having been barred from the autobus company's transportation
10 services for three years pursuant to this subsection, a year;

11 (2) is convicted of an assault of an employee of an autobus
12 company while the employee was clearly identifiable as being
13 engaged in the performance of the employee's duties or because of
14 the employee's status as an employee of the autobus company, for a
15 term to be determined by the autobus company not to exceed five
16 years. Upon completing three years of an administrative suspension
17 authorized by this paragraph, the¹ person may petition, in a manner
18 and process established by the autobus company, for relief to reduce
19 or end the period of suspension for good cause based on change in
20 circumstances, substantial need for transportation services provided
21 or operated by the autobus company, or proof of rehabilitation.
22 Unless ¹However, if the person ; or

23 (3)¹ used a deadly weapon during the commission of ¹the an¹
24 assault in which case ¹an of an employee of an autobus
25 company while the employee was clearly identifiable as being
26 engaged in the performance of the employee's duties or because of
27 the employee's status as an employee of the autobus company, in
28 which case the¹ autobus company may prohibit the person may be
29 prohibited from accessing ¹the autobus company's¹ transportation
30 services for life, provided that the person has the right to appeal any
31 determination made pursuant to this ¹subsection paragraph¹ in a
32 manner and process established by the autobus company.

33 ¹As used in this subsection:

34 "Assault" means the same as that term is described in
35 N.J.S.2C:12-1.

36 "Employee" includes, but is not limited to, all frontline
37 employees who interact with passengers or the public, including,
38 but not limited to, operating, supervisory, passenger service, and
39 safety and security personnel.¹

40 b. An autobus company shall equip each autobus with a
41 working radio or other communication system that allows the
42 operator of the autobus to alert the autobus company or appropriate
43 law enforcement agencies when the operator is in distress.

44 c. An autobus company shall designate a chief security officer
45 or other manager to serve as the primary contact with the chief of
46 police in any town served by the autobus company and with New

1 Jersey Transit police. The designated primary contact shall provide
2 24-hour contact information to each police department in
3 jurisdictions served by the autobus company.

4 d. An autobus company shall identify a program or programs to
5 assist and support operators of autobuses that have been a victim of
6 assault and shall annually provide contact and other information
7 about such program to all bus operators employed by the autobus
8 company.

9 e. An autobus company shall periodically provide or engage a
10 qualified professional to provide training to autobus operators
11 which shall include training in techniques to de-escalate situations
12 to avoid violence.

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

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

17

18 4. This act shall take effect immediately.