

SENATE, No. 4711

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes additional penalties for crimes and offenses committed in or near designated transit facilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT concerning additional penalties for certain offenses
2 committed on or near designated transit facilities and amending
3 and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. (New section) As used in this act:

9 “Designated transit facility” means a passenger rail station, train
10 station, bus terminal, bus rapid transit station, light rail station,
11 ferry terminal, or other major transportation facility designated
12 pursuant to section 3 of this act.

13 “Transit-related activity” means activity occurring on, at, or in
14 connection with the operation, use, or provision of public
15 transportation services, including activity involving a transit
16 passenger, transit employee, transit vehicle, transit property, transit
17 equipment, or transit service.

18 “Transit safety zone” means the area located on or within 500
19 feet of the boundary of a designated transit facility.

20

21 2. (New section) a. In addition to any penalty provided by law,
22 a person who commits a crime enumerated in subsection b. of this
23 section if committed in a transit safety zone shall be subject to the
24 following:

25 (1) a person convicted of a qualifying offense that constitutes a
26 crime of the first or second degree shall be subject to an additional
27 fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$25,000.

28 (2) a person convicted of a qualifying offense that constitutes a
29 crime of the third degree shall be subject to an additional fine of not
30 less than \$2,500 and not more than \$10,000.

31 (3) a person convicted of a qualifying offense that constitutes a
32 crime of the fourth degree shall be subject to an additional fine of
33 not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000.

34 (4) person convicted of a qualifying offense that constitutes a
35 disorderly persons offense or petty disorderly persons offense shall
36 be subject to an additional fine of not less than \$500 and not more
37 than \$1,000.

38 b. The additional penalty pursuant to this section shall be
39 imposed on a person who commits one of the following crimes or
40 offenses within a transit safety zone and in connection with a
41 designated transit facility or transit-related activity:

42 (1) assault or aggravated assault in violation of N.J.S.2C:12-1;

43 (2) terroristic threats in violation of N.J.S.2C:12-3;

44 (3) lewdness in violation of N.J.S.2C:14-4;

45 (4) robbery in violation of N.J.S.2C:15-1;

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.

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- 1 (5) criminal mischief in violation of N.J.S.2C:17-3;
- 2 (6) burglary in violation of N.J.S.2C:18-2;
- 3 (7) criminal trespass in violation of N.J.S.2C:18-3;
- 4 (8) theft as set forth in chapter 20 of Title 2C of the New Jersey
- 5 Statutes;
- 6 (9) shoplifting in violation of N.J.S.2C:20-11;
- 7 (10) obstruction of the administration of law or other
- 8 governmental function in violation of N.J.S.2C:29-1;
- 9 (11) resisting arrest or eluding in violation of N.J.S.2C:29-2;
- 10 (12) disorderly conduct in violation of N.J.S.2C:33-2;
- 11 (13) harassment in violation of N.J.S.2C:33-4;
- 12 (14) manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing, or possessing or
- 13 having under control with intent to manufacture, distribute, or
- 14 dispense, a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance
- 15 analog in violation of N.J.S.2C:35-5;
- 16 (15) unlawful possession or use of a controlled dangerous
- 17 substance or controlled substance analog in violation of
- 18 N.J.S.2C:35-10;
- 19 (16) possession or use of drug paraphernalia in violation of
- 20 N.J.S.2C:36-2, when applicable;
- 21 (17) possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose in
- 22 violation of N.J.S.2C:39-4;
- 23 (18) unlawful possession of a weapon in violation of
- 24 N.J.S.2C:39-5;
- 25 (19) possession of a weapon while committing a controlled
- 26 dangerous substance offense in violation of section 1 of P.L.1998,
- 27 c.26 (C.2C:39-4.1);
- 28 (20) possession of a weapon by a person prohibited from
- 29 possessing a weapon in violation of section 6 of P.L.1979, c.179
- 30 (C.2C:39-7); and
- 31 (21) any other crime or offense designated by the Commissioner
- 32 of Transportation pursuant to rules and regulations adopted
- 33 pursuant to section 5 of this act, when the Attorney General
- 34 determines that the offense presents a substantial threat to the safety
- 35 of persons using or working at a designated transit facility.
- 36 c. The additional penalty imposed pursuant to this section shall
- 37 be in addition to, and shall not replace, any fine, term of
- 38 imprisonment, period of probation, community service, assessment,
- 39 or other penalty authorized or imposed pursuant to the underlying
- 40 offense.
- 41 d. The court may waive or reduce the additional fine imposed
- 42 pursuant to this section upon a finding on the record that imposition
- 43 of the minimum additional fine would result in a substantial
- 44 injustice.
- 45
- 46 3. (New section) a. The Department of Transportation shall
- 47 designate as “designated transit facilities” for the purposes of this
- 48 act the transit facilities identified below by their names as of the

1 effective date of this act, notwithstanding any subsequent change in
2 the name of a transit facility:

- 3 (1) Newark Penn Station;
4 (2) Hoboken Terminal;
5 (3) Secaucus Junction;
6 (4) Trenton Transit Center;
7 (5) Metropark Station;
8 (6) Newark Broad Street Station;
9 (7) Elizabeth Station;
10 (8) New Brunswick Station;
11 (9) Princeton Junction Station;
12 (10) Hamilton Station;
13 (11) Jersey Avenue Station;
14 (12) Rahway Station;
15 (13) Edison Station;
16 (14) Somerville Station;
17 (15) Morristown Station;
18 (16) Dover Station;
19 (17) Atlantic City Rail Terminal;
20 (18) Journal Square Transportation Center;
21 (19) Exchange Place Station;
22 (20) Grove Street Station;
23 (21) Hoboken PATH Station; and
24 (22) any other transit facility designated pursuant to subsection
25 b. of this section.

26 b. The Commissioner of Transportation, in consultation with the
27 Executive Director of NJ Transit and the Attorney General, may
28 designate additional transit facilities as designated transit facilities
29 for the purposes of this act based upon passenger volume, number
30 of transit lines or services, transfer activity, geographic location,
31 documented public safety concerns, or other factors relevant to the
32 safety and security of transit passengers and employees.

33 c. The commissioner shall publish and maintain on the
34 Department of Transportation's Internet website an official list of
35 designated transit facilities and an official map identifying the
36 boundaries of each facility and its corresponding 500-foot transit
37 safety zone.

38 d. The commissioner shall periodically review the list of
39 designated transit facilities and may add or remove a facility based
40 upon the criteria established pursuant to subsection b. of this
41 section.

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43 4. Section 7 of P.L.2022, c.131 (C.2C:58-4.6) is amended to
44 read as follows:

45 7. Places where the carrying of a firearm or destructive device is
46 prohibited.

47 a. Except as otherwise provided in this section and in the case of
48 a brief, incidental entry onto property, which shall be deemed a de

- 1 minimis infraction within the contemplation of N.J.S.2C:2-11, it
2 shall be a crime of the third degree for any person, other than a
3 person lawfully carrying a firearm within the authorized scope of an
4 exemption set forth in N.J.S.2C:39-6, to knowingly carry a firearm
5 as defined in subsection f. of N.J.S.2C:39-1 and a crime of the
6 second degree to knowingly possess a destructive device as defined
7 in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:39-1 in any of the following places,
8 including in or upon any part of the buildings, grounds, or parking
9 area of:
- 10 (1) a place owned, leased, or under the control of State, county
11 or municipal government used for the purpose of government
12 administration, including but not limited to police stations;
- 13 (2) a courthouse, courtroom, or any other premises used to
14 conduct judicial or court administrative proceedings or functions;
- 15 (3) a State, county, or municipal correctional or juvenile justice
16 facility, jail and any other place maintained by or for a
17 governmental entity for the detention of criminal suspects or
18 offenders;
- 19 (4) a State-contracted half-way house;
- 20 (5) a location being used as a polling place during the conduct
21 of an election and places used for the storage or tabulation of
22 ballots;
- 23 (6) within 100 feet of a place where a public gathering,
24 demonstration or event is held for which a government permit is
25 required, during the conduct of such gathering, demonstration or
26 event;
- 27 (7) a school, college, university or other educational institution,
28 and on any school bus;
- 29 (8) a child care facility, including a day care center;
- 30 (9) a nursery school, pre-school, zoo, or summer camp;
- 31 (10) a park, beach, recreation facility or area or playground
32 owned or controlled by a State, county or local government unit, or
33 any part of such a place, which is designated as a gun-free zone by
34 the governing authority based on considerations of public safety;
- 35 (11) youth sports events, as defined in N.J.S.5:17-1, during and
36 immediately preceding and following the conduct of the event,
37 except that this provision shall not apply to participants of a youth
38 sports event which is a firearm shooting competition to which
39 paragraph (3) of subsection b. of section 14 of P.L.1979, c.179
40 (C.2C:58-6.1) applies;
- 41 (12) a publicly owned or leased library or museum;
- 42 (13) a shelter for the homeless, emergency shelter for the
43 homeless, basic center shelter program, shelter for homeless or
44 runaway youth, children's shelter, child care shelter, shelter for
45 victims of domestic violence, or any shelter licensed by or under the
46 control of the Juvenile Justice Commission or the Department of
47 Children and Families;

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1 (14) a community residence for persons with developmental
2 disabilities, head injuries, or terminal illnesses, or any other
3 residential setting licensed by the Department of Human Services or
4 Department of Health;

5 (15) a bar or restaurant where alcohol is served, and any other
6 site or facility where alcohol is sold for consumption on the
7 premises;

8 (16) a Class 5 Cannabis retailer or medical cannabis dispensary,
9 including any consumption areas licensed or permitted by the
10 Cannabis Regulatory Commission established pursuant to section
11 31 of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-24);

12 (17) a privately or publicly owned and operated entertainment
13 facility within this State, including but not limited to a theater,
14 stadium, museum, arena, racetrack or other place where
15 performances, concerts, exhibits, games or contests are held;

16 (18) a casino and related facilities, including but not limited to
17 appurtenant hotels, retail premises, restaurant and bar facilities, and
18 entertainment and recreational venues located within the casino
19 property;

20 (19) a plant or operation that produces, converts, distributes or
21 stores energy or converts one form of energy to another;

22 (20) an airport, designated transit facility as defined in section 1
23 of P.L. _____, or public transportation hub;

24 (21) a health care facility, including but not limited to a general
25 hospital, special hospital, psychiatric hospital, public health center,
26 diagnostic center, treatment center, rehabilitation center, extended
27 care facility, skilled nursing home, nursing home, intermediate care
28 facility, tuberculosis hospital, chronic disease hospital, maternity
29 hospital, outpatient clinic, dispensary, assisted living center, home
30 health care agency, residential treatment facility, residential health
31 care facility, medical office, or ambulatory care facility;

32 (22) a facility licensed or regulated by the Department of
33 Human Services, Department of Children and Families, or
34 Department of Health, other than a health care facility, that provides
35 addiction or mental health treatment or support services;

36 (23) a public location being used for making motion picture or
37 television images for theatrical, commercial or educational
38 purposes, during the time such location is being used for that
39 purpose;

40 (24) private property, including but not limited to residential,
41 commercial, industrial, agricultural, institutional or undeveloped
42 property, unless the owner has provided express consent or has
43 posted a sign indicating that it is permissible to carry on the
44 premises a concealed handgun with a valid and lawfully issued
45 permit under N.J.S.2C:58-4, provided that nothing in this paragraph
46 shall be construed to affect the authority to keep or carry a firearm
47 established under subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:39-6; and

1 (25) any other place in which the carrying of a firearm is
2 prohibited by statute or rule or regulation promulgated by a federal
3 or State agency.

4 b. (1) A person, other than a person lawfully carrying a firearm
5 within the authorized scope of an exemption set forth in subsection
6 a., c., or l. of N.J.S.2C:39-6, who is otherwise authorized under the
7 law to carry or transport a firearm shall not do so while in a vehicle
8 in New Jersey, unless the handgun is unloaded and contained in a
9 closed and securely fastened case, gunbox, or locked unloaded in
10 the trunk of the vehicle.

11 (2) A holder of a valid and lawfully issued permit to carry a
12 handgun shall not leave a handgun outside of their immediate
13 possession or control within a parked vehicle, unless the handgun is
14 unloaded and contained in a closed and securely fastened case, or
15 gunbox, and is not visible from outside of the vehicle, or is locked
16 unloaded in the trunk or storage area of the vehicle.

17 A violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection is a crime
18 of the fourth degree.

19 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections a. and b. of this
20 section, the holder of a valid and lawfully issued permit to carry
21 under N.J.S.2C:58-4 who is otherwise prohibited under this section
22 from carrying a concealed firearm into the parking area of a
23 prohibited location specified in subsection a. of this section shall be
24 permitted to:

25 (1) transport a concealed handgun or ammunition within a
26 vehicle into or out of the parking area, provided that the handgun is
27 unloaded and contained in a closed and securely fastened case,
28 gunbox, or locked unloaded in the trunk or storage area of the
29 vehicle;

30 (2) store a handgun or ammunition within a locked lock box and
31 out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area;

32 (3) transport a concealed handgun in the immediate area
33 surrounding their vehicle within a prohibited parking lot area only
34 for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving the handgun within a
35 locked lock box in the vehicle's trunk or other place inside the
36 vehicle that is out of plain view; and

37 (4) transport a concealed handgun between a vehicle parked
38 within a prohibited parking lot area and a place other than a
39 prohibited place enumerated in subsection a. of this section,
40 provided that the person immediately leaves the parking lot area
41 and does not enter into or on the grounds of the prohibited place
42 with the handgun.

43 d. The holder of a valid and lawfully issued permit to carry
44 under N.J.S.2C:58-4 shall not be in violation of subsection a. of this
45 section while the holder is traveling along a public right-of-way that
46 touches or crosses any of the places enumerated in subsection a. of
47 this section if the concealed handgun is carried on their person in
48 accordance with the provisions of this act or is being transported in

1 a vehicle by the permit holder in accordance with all other
2 applicable provisions of law.

3 e. (1) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the
4 holder of a valid and lawfully issued permit under N.J.S.2C:58-4
5 who is lawfully authorized to provide security at a place
6 enumerated in subsection a. of this section from carrying a firearm,
7 openly or concealed, provided that the authorization is set forth in
8 writing, and only to the extent permitted by the entity responsible
9 for security at the place in question.

10 (2) Unless otherwise required or prohibited by law, the owner or
11 entity in control of any place enumerated in subsection a. of this
12 section or owner or entity responsible for providing security may
13 allow or prohibit retired law enforcement officers who are
14 authorized to possess and carry a handgun pursuant to subsection l.
15 of N.J.S.2C:39-6 or qualified retired law enforcement officers
16 within the meaning of the federal "Law Enforcement Officers
17 Safety Act of 2004," Pub.L. 108-277 to carry a concealed handgun
18 on the premises of such place.

19 f. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an
20 employee of an armored car company who is the holder of a valid
21 and lawfully issued permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to
22 N.J.S.2C:58-4 who is contractually authorized to provide services
23 for a client at a place enumerated in subsection a. of this section
24 from carrying a firearm, openly, in the regular course of
25 employment.

26 g. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the carrying or
27 transporting of a firearm in accordance with subsections e. and f. of
28 N.J.S.2C:39-6 or where it is otherwise expressly authorized by law.
29 (cf: P.L.2022, c.131, s.7)

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31 5. The Commissioner of Transportation, in accordance with the
32 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
33 seq.), may adopt rules and issue directives as necessary to
34 implement the provisions of this act and may take any anticipatory
35 administrative action necessary to effectuate the purposes of this
36 act.

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38 6. This act shall take effect on the seventh month next following
39 the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

43

44 This bill establishes Transit Safety Zones around designated
45 major transit facilities in New Jersey and establishes additional
46 penalties for certain criminal offenses committed within those zones
47 and in connection with a designated transit facility or transit-related

1 activity. The bill defines a Transit Safety Zone as the area located
2 on or within 500 feet of a designated transit facility.

3 The bill designates major transportation facilities, including
4 Newark Penn Station, Hoboken Terminal, Secaucus Junction,
5 Trenton Transit Center, Metropark Station, Newark Broad Street
6 Station, Elizabeth Station, New Brunswick Station, Princeton
7 Junction Station, Hamilton Station, Atlantic City Rail Terminal,
8 Journal Square Transportation Center, Exchange Place Station, and
9 other specified transit facilities as designated transit facilities. The
10 Commissioner of Transportation may designate additional transit
11 facilities based on factors including passenger volume, transit
12 services, transfer activity, geographic location, and documented
13 public safety concerns.

14 Under the bill, certain drug, weapons, assault, robbery, burglary,
15 theft, shoplifting, criminal mischief, terroristic threats, disorderly
16 conduct, lewdness, harassment, trespass, obstruction, and resisting
17 arrest or eluding offenses committed within a Transit Safety Zone
18 constitute qualifying offenses.

19 A person convicted of an enumerated offense within a Transit
20 Safety Zone would be subject to an additional penalty in addition to
21 the penalties imposed under current law. The additional fine would
22 range from \$500 to \$25,000, depending on the degree of the
23 offense. The bill permits a court to waive or reduce the additional
24 fine upon finding that imposing the minimum fine would result in a
25 substantial injustice.

26 The bill directs the Commissioner of Transportation to maintain
27 an official list and map of designated transit facilities and their
28 corresponding 500-foot Transit Safety Zones and authorizes the
29 commissioner to adopt rules and directives necessary to implement
30 the bill.

31 This bill also amends current law concerning places where the
32 possession of a firearm or destructive device is prohibited to include
33 designated transit facilities, in addition to airports and
34 transportation hubs currently covered under the law.