SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3520

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 1, 2023

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3520.

As amended and reported, this bill requires public transportation employees to complete a training course on how to handle and respond to suspected human trafficking.

Under the bill, the New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJT), in consultation with the Commission on Human Trafficking (commission), is required to develop and provide a one-time training course for public transportation employees on how to handle and respond to suspected human trafficking activities. Alternatively, the NJT, in consultation with the commission, is required to approve a substantially similar one-time training course provided by a recognized nonprofit association with demonstrated experience in providing course offerings to public transportation employees. The NJT, in consultation with the commission and the approved nonprofit course provider, if any, is required to establish which employees are required to attend the one-time training course as a condition of their employment, review the training course at least every two years, and modify the training course as needed.

Under the bill, the NJT is responsible for ensuring that all required employees attend the one-time training course as specified within the bill. Additionally, the NJT is required to make available to public transportation employees the training materials for the one-time training course.

The bill also provides that any human trafficking training courses are required to include, at a minimum, a demonstration of and information regarding known signs and signals that may be used or communicated by victims of human trafficking seeking assistance or may be observed by individuals in public spaces.

The committee amended the bill to provide that any human trafficking training courses required pursuant to this bill, are required to include, at a minimum, a demonstration of and information regarding known signs and signals that may be used or communicated by victims of human trafficking seeking assistance or may be observed

by individuals in public spaces. The committee amendments also clarify when public transportation employees are required to attend the one-time training course and clarify that the NJT is to make training materials available to public transportation employees, rather than public transportation workers.