

SENATE, No. 164

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of "New Jersey Council on Access and Mobility."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Transportation Committee with technical review.



1 AN ACT authorizing the creation of the “New Jersey Council on
2 Access and Mobility” and supplementing Title 27 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of
9 Transportation, the “New Jersey Council on Access and Mobility.”

10 b. The council shall consist of 17 members, as follows:

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

13 (2) the Commissioner of Human Services, ex officio, or the
14 commissioner’s designee;

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

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

19 (5) the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, ex
20 officio, or the commissioner’s designee;

21 (6) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Transit
22 Corporation, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

23 (7) the Director of the Office of Disability Services in the
24 Department of Human Services, ex officio, or the director’s
25 designee;

26 (8) the Director of the Division of Aging Services in the
27 Department of Human Services, ex officio, or the director’s
28 designee;

29 (9) the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities in
30 the Department of Human Services, ex officio, or the director’s
31 designee;

32 (10) the State Treasurer, ex officio, or the State Treasurer’s
33 designee;

34 (11) the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or
35 Developmental Disabilities and their Families, ex officio, or the
36 ombudsman’s designee; and

37 (12) six public members, who have a demonstrated expertise in
38 the coordination of transportation services or independent living
39 services for persons with disabilities or senior citizens, of which:

40 (a) one of the public members shall be a representative of
41 Disability Rights New Jersey;

42 (b) one of the public members shall be a representative of The
43 Arc of New Jersey;

44 (c) one of the public members shall be a representative of the
45 New Jersey Statewide Independent Living Council;

46 (d) one of the public members shall be a representative of the
47 New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities;

1 (e) one of the public members shall be a representative of the
2 Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers, the State
3 University of New Jersey; and

4 (f) one of the public members shall be a representative of the
5 New Jersey Council on Special Transportation.

6 Of the six public members appointed to the council, three shall
7 be appointed by the President of the Senate and three shall be
8 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

9 c. Each public member of the council shall serve for a term of
10 three years, except that, of the members first appointed, two shall
11 serve for a term of one year, two shall serve for a term of two years,
12 and two shall serve for a term of three years. Each member shall
13 serve for the term of appointment until the member's successor is
14 appointed and qualified. A public member who has completed a
15 term of membership may be reappointed to the council. Vacancies
16 in the council membership shall be filled in the same manner as the
17 original appointments were made.

18 d. The members of the council shall be appointed within 60
19 days after the effective date of this act, and the council shall hold its
20 initial organizational meeting as soon as practicable, but no later
21 than 30 days, after the appointment of a majority of its members.
22 The Commissioner of Transportation, or a designee, shall serve as
23 chairperson of the council, and the council shall meet, no less than
24 annually, at such places and times as the chairperson may designate.
25 The chairperson may appoint a secretary who need not be a member
26 of the council.

27 e. Members of the council shall serve without compensation,
28 but may be reimbursed for travel and other necessary expenses
29 incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limits of
30 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the council for its
31 purposes.

32 f. The Department of Transportation shall provide
33 professional, stenographic, and clerical staff to the council, as may
34 be necessary for the council to carry out its duties. The council
35 shall also be entitled to call upon the services of any State, county,
36 or municipal department, board, commission, or agency, as may be
37 available to it for its purposes.

38
39 2. The purpose and duties of the council shall be to, no less
40 than annually:

41 a. study the transportation services provided to persons with
42 disabilities and senior citizens by the New Jersey Transit
43 Corporation, State departments and agencies, counties, and
44 municipalities;

45 b. analyze all available federal funding programs that may be
46 used for mobility management of, and to provide transportation
47 services to, persons with disabilities and senior citizens, and the
48 ability of the State to qualify for those funds;

- 1 c. inventory existing State and federal transportation funding
- 2 sources used for transportation services within the various
- 3 departments and agencies in the State to study ways to improve
- 4 transportation services and programs;
- 5 d. coordinate the provision of transportation services across all
- 6 agencies that have an interest in the mobility of persons with
- 7 disabilities and senior citizens;
- 8 e. make recommendations for legislative or executive action to
- 9 maximize the State's acquisition of federal funding and the
- 10 coordination of transportation services for persons with disabilities
- 11 and senior citizens; and
- 12 f. coordinate activities with the federal Coordinating Council
- 13 on Access and Mobility.
- 14
- 15 3. This act shall take effect immediately.