

ASSEMBLY, No. 1523

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Creates “Congestion Pricing Cost Relief Commission.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)

1 **AN ACT** creating a “Congestion Pricing Relief Commission.”

2

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

5

6 1. a. There is created a “Congestion Pricing Cost Relief
7 Commission” to consist of eight members as follows:

8 (1) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike
9 Authority, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

10 (2) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Transit
11 Corporation, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

12 (3) two members of the public appointed by the President of the
13 Senate, of whom no more than one shall be of the same political
14 party;

15 (4) two members of the public appointed by the Speaker of the
16 General Assembly, of whom no more than one shall be of the same
17 political party; and

18 (5) two members of the public appointed by the Governor, of
19 whom no more than one shall be of the same political party.

20 b. The members of the public appointed to the commission
21 shall have a professional background in the field of transportation.
22 The commission shall organize and hold its initial organizational
23 meeting as soon after the appointment of all of its public members
24 as is practicable. Vacancies in the membership of the commission
25 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were
26 made. Members of the commission shall serve without
27 compensation except that public members may be reimbursed for
28 actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties and
29 within the limits of funds available to the commission. The
30 commission may meet and hold hearings open to the public at a
31 place or places it designates within the State.

32 c. The Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike
33 Authority shall serve as chair of the commission. A
34 recommendation of the commission shall be approved upon
35 receiving a majority vote of the full membership of the commission.
36 All designees of ex officio members of the commission may
37 lawfully vote and otherwise act on behalf of the members for whom
38 they constitute the designee.

39 d. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority shall provide staff
40 support to the commission, including the appointment of a secretary
41 by the chair of the commission. Additionally, the commission shall
42 be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the services of
43 employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board,
44 bureau, commission, or agency as the commission may require and
45 as may be available to the commission for its purposes.

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47 2. It shall be the duty of the commission to study and make
48 recommendations concerning the legal, financial, and administrative

1 feasibility of providing a reimbursement or other type of credit to
2 New Jersey residents and businesses subject to a toll as part of a
3 congestion pricing plan for entering the central business district
4 within a city of a bordering state during certain times and days of
5 the week. The commission shall include, but not be limited to, in
6 its study, the feasibility of:

7 a. the lead agency of the New Jersey E-ZPass Group operating
8 an electronic toll collection system to provide a credit to those New
9 Jersey motor vehicle owners or operators subject to a toll for
10 entering the central business district within a city of a bordering
11 state; and

12 b. the New Jersey Transit Corporation to provide reduced rail
13 and bus fares to customers entering the central business district
14 within a city of a bordering state at the time a toll is collected.

15
16 3. The commission shall issue an initial report of its findings
17 and recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
18 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature within 90 days
19 after the implementation of a congestion pricing plan that requires a
20 toll to enter the central business district within a city of a state
21 bordering New Jersey, and shall issue a subsequent report annually
22 for a period of 10 years thereafter. The initial and subsequent
23 reports shall include the commission's recommendations for
24 legislation to be considered for adoption by the Legislature.

25
26 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
27 first day of the 10th year following the submission by the
28 commission of its initial report to the Governor and the Legislature
29 pursuant to section 3 of this act.

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32 STATEMENT

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34 This bill establishes a "Congestion Pricing Cost Relief
35 Commission" (commission) to consist of eight members as follows:

36 (1) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike
37 Authority (authority), ex officio, or the executive director's
38 designee;

39 (2) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Transit
40 Corporation (corporation), ex officio, or the executive director's
41 designee;

42 (3) two members of the public appointed by the President of the
43 Senate, of whom no more than one is to be of the same political
44 party;

45 (4) two members of the public appointed by the Speaker of the
46 General Assembly, of whom no more than one is to be of the same
47 political party; and

1 (5) two members of the public appointed by the Governor, of
2 whom no more than one is to be of the same political party.

3 The public members of the commission are to have a professional
4 background in the field of transportation. The Executive Director
5 of the authority is to serve as chair of the commission.

6 The commission is to study and make recommendations
7 concerning the legal, financial, and administrative feasibility of
8 providing a reimbursement or other type of credit to New Jersey
9 residents and businesses subject to a toll as part of a congestion
10 pricing plan for entering the central business district within a city of
11 a bordering state during certain times and days of the week. The
12 commission is to include, but not be limited to, in its study, the
13 feasibility of:

14 (1) the lead agency of the New Jersey E-ZPass Group operating
15 an electronic toll collection system to provide a credit to those New
16 Jersey motor vehicle owners or operators subject to a toll for
17 entering the central business district within a city of a bordering
18 state; and

19 (2) the New Jersey Transit Corporation to provide reduced rail
20 and bus fares to customers entering the central business district
21 within a city of a bordering state at the time a toll is collected.

22 The commission is to issue an initial report of its findings and
23 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within 90
24 days after the implementation of a congestion pricing plan that
25 requires a toll to enter the central business district within a city of a
26 state bordering New Jersey, and issue a subsequent report annually
27 for a period of 10 years thereafter. The reports are to include the
28 commission's recommendations for legislation to be considered for
29 adoption by the Legislature.