

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5334

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Conaway, Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle and  
Assemblyman Benson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DOT and NJT to study and implement transportation mobility and accessibility improvements for persons with autism and developmental disabilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/23/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning transportation mobility and accessibility for  
2 persons with autism and developmental disabilities and  
3 supplementing Title 27 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Department of Transportation, in conjunction with  
9 the New Jersey Transit Corporation and the Department of Human  
10 Services shall conduct a holistic review of current infrastructure  
11 design practices for new and rehabilitated public highways and  
12 public transportation projects, as those terms are defined pursuant to  
13 section 3 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-3). Upon completion of the  
14 review, the department shall adopt new and revised design practices  
15 that implement design elements and result in infrastructure  
16 improvement projects that promote the ability of individuals  
17 diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and developmental  
18 disabilities to travel independently.

19 b. The Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the  
20 New Jersey Transit Corporation and the Department of Human  
21 Services shall conduct a study of nationwide best practices, that  
22 identifies ways to operate public roadway facilities, public  
23 transportation services, and any mobility programs operated or  
24 funded under the Department of Human Services in a manner that  
25 makes transportation services and mobility programs more  
26 accessible for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder  
27 and developmental disabilities.

28 c. The Department of Transportation shall encourage regional  
29 and local entities that apply for funding through the local aid  
30 program, pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1984, c.73 (C.27:1B-25), to  
31 adopt comparable design policies and best practices that are  
32 consistent with the measures adopted at the State level pursuant to  
33 subsection a. and subsection b. of this section.

34  
35 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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38 STATEMENT

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40 This bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT), the  
41 New Jersey Transit Corporation (NJT) and the Department of  
42 Human Services (DHS) to conduct a holistic review of current  
43 infrastructure design practices for public highways and public  
44 transportation projects. Upon completion of the review, new and  
45 revised design practices are to be adopted that will result in projects  
46 that promote the ability of individuals diagnosed with autism  
47 spectrum disorder and developmental disabilities to travel  
48 independently.

1 DOT, NJT, and DHS are also to conduct a study of nationwide  
2 best practices that identifies ways to operate public roadway  
3 facilities, public transportation services, and mobility programs  
4 operated or funded under the DHS in a manner that makes  
5 transportation services and mobility programs more accessible for  
6 individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and  
7 developmental disabilities  
8 The DOT is required to encourage regional and local entities that  
9 apply for funding through the local aid program to adopt  
10 infrastructure design practices and best practices that are consistent  
11 with State practices.