

P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 64, *approved August 12, 2020*
Assembly, No. 2456 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning motor bus and rail passenger discounted fare
2 program eligibility and amending P.L.1973, c.126 and P.L.1987,
3 c.99.

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

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-65) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. For the purposes of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.),
11 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Access Link service" means the paratransit service implemented
13 by the New Jersey Transit Corporation for the purposes of
14 complying with the "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,"
15 Pub.L.101-336 (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et seq.).

16 "Carrier" means any individual, copartnership, association,
17 corporation, joint stock company, public agency, trustee, or receiver
18 operating motor buses or rail passenger service on established
19 routes within this State or between points in this State and points in
20 adjacent states.

21 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Transportation;
22 provided, however, that the commissioner may delegate any of the
23 commissioner's powers or duties under P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-
24 64 et seq.) to any subordinate division, agency, or employee of the
25 Department of Transportation or to the New Jersey Transit
26 Corporation.

27 "Disabled veteran" means "disabled veteran" as defined in
28 N.J.S.11A:5-1.

29 "Motor bus" means "autobus" as defined in R.S.48:4-1, and
30 includes those autobuses, commonly called jitneys, as defined in
31 R.S.48:16-23.

32 "Offpeak times" means the hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and
33 from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. during the weekdays, and all day on
34 Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

35 "Person with disabilities" means any individual who, by reason
36 of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other permanent
37 or temporary incapacity or disability, is unable without special
38 facilities or special planning or design to utilize mass transportation
39 facilities and services as effectively as persons who are not so
40 affected. A "person with disabilities" shall include a person
41 determined by the New Jersey Transit Corporation to be eligible for
42 its Access Link service.

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

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ATR committee amendments adopted June 8, 2020.

1 "Senior citizen" means any individual 62 years of age or over.
2 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.107)

3
4 2. Section 4 of P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-67) is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 4. In establishing this program, the commissioner shall, after
7 consulting with the Commissioner of Community Affairs, the
8 **'[Deputy Commissioner] Director'** of the Division of Aging
9 Services in the Department of Human Services, and the Board of
10 Public Utilities, establish uniform procedures for:

11 a. Determining the eligibility of persons to receive the reduced
12 fares provided pursuant to P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.),
13 which shall include those persons determined by the New Jersey
14 Transit Corporation to be eligible for its Access Link service;

15 b. Making reduced fares available to eligible persons; and

16 c. Auditing and accounting to insure that no carrier receives
17 payments in excess of the value of services actually rendered to
18 senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and disabled veterans
19 pursuant to P.L.1973, c.126 (C.27:1A-64 et seq.).
20 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.109)

21
22 3. Section 2 of P.L.1987, c.99 (C.27:1A-74) is amended to read
23 as follows:

24 2. The Commissioner of Transportation shall, after consulting
25 with other relevant departments and agencies, adopt reasonable
26 regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of P.L.1987, c.99
27 (C.27:1A-73 et seq.) pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
28 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). The regulations shall
29 include a procedure by which the commissioner shall:

30 a. issue an identification card **'[to a travel attendant]'**, upon
31 certification of a physician or upon certification of another person
32 as prescribed by the commissioner, that a person with disabilities
33 requires the assistance of a travel attendant in order to use public
34 transportation; and

35 b. automatically issue an identification card to a person
36 determined by the New Jersey Transit Corporation, after the
37 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
38 Legislature as this bill), to be eligible for its Access Link service at
39 the time of that determination. For a person determined eligible for
40 Access Link service prior to the effective date of
41 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
42 the commissioner shall issue an identification card within 60 days
43 after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
44 Legislature as this bill) or **'[**, if upon request from an eligible
45 person,]' immediately upon request ¹of the eligible person,
46 whichever shall be earlier¹.

47 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.114)

48
49 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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2
3 Provides that users of Access Link paratransit service are
4 automatically eligible for and enrolled in motor bus and rail
5 passenger discounted fare program.