

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 255

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 18, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Commemorates 50th anniversary of Amtrak.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** commemorating the 50th anniversary
2 of Amtrak.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, In the mid-20th century, the United States began
5 experiencing major changes in the transportation industry with the
6 rise of federally subsidized air travel and highway systems shifting
7 passenger travel away from heavily regulated private intercity
8 passenger rail; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Passenger rail travel via private carriers fell from 107,000
10 passenger service route miles in 1958 to 49,000 passenger service
11 route miles in 1970, leading to lost revenue and contributing to the
12 discontinuation of much intercity passenger rail service; and
13 **WHEREAS**, As private carriers steadily discontinued service, most
14 notably, the filing of the Penn Central Railroad to discontinue 34 of
15 its passenger routes in 1970, it became clear that passenger service
16 was no longer viable as a private enterprise, and in order to preserve
17 passenger rail service, the United States Congress passed the “Rail
18 Passenger Service Act of 1970” creating the National Railroad
19 Passenger Corporation, also known as Amtrak, to assume control of
20 much of the privately operated intercity passenger rail service; and
21 **WHEREAS**, The first Amtrak operated passenger train departed New
22 York City for Philadelphia on May 1, 1971 and Amtrak initially
23 operated rail service in 43 states; and
24 **WHEREAS**, As Amtrak brought stability to the passenger route
25 network, private carriers continued to struggle, and following the
26 Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976,
27 Amtrak began to own and operate notable rail rights of way and
28 acquired the bulk of the Northeast Corridor; and
29 **WHEREAS**, In furtherance of its original goal to provide fast and
30 comfortable transportation, Amtrak has continuously invested in
31 increased efficiency, including self-serve ticketing machines and
32 eTickets; fuel efficient, electric, and bi-level train cars; various
33 updates to the locomotives such as high speed trains that can now
34 reach speeds of 200 miles per hour; various updates to
35 infrastructure such as track, signaling systems, and stations; an
36 updated Safety Management System (SMS); and various additions
37 to customer experience such as meals, entertainment, and wireless
38 internet access; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Amtrak continues to expand service to new destinations
40 across the country, currently owning six stations in New Jersey,
41 making the State a vital part of Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor,
42 connecting major cities from Boston to the District of Columbia;
43 and
44 **WHEREAS**, Amtrak now has over 17,000 employees and operates a
45 railroad system that connects over 500 destinations in 46 states,
46 Washington D.C., and 3 Canadian Provinces; and

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