

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 44

## 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 JOHN F. MCKEON**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman B.DeCroce and Assemblyman Giblin**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges NJTA and Metropolitan Transportation Authority to enter into reciprocity agreement to provide E-ZPass discounts to residents of New York and NJ.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1   **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the New Jersey Turnpike  
2   Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to enter  
3   into a reciprocity agreement to provide discounts on toll rates for  
4   residents of New York and New Jersey who have accounts with  
5   the electronic toll collection system.  
6

7   **WHEREAS**, In 1990, seven toll facilities from the states of New York,  
8   New Jersey, and Pennsylvania formed a consortium known as the  
9   E-ZPass Interagency Group (IAG), which included representatives  
10   from the New Jersey Highway Authority, the New Jersey Turnpike  
11   Authority (NJTA), the New York State Thruway Authority, the  
12   Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, the Port Authority of New  
13   York and New Jersey, the South Jersey Transportation Authority,  
14   and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA); and  
15   **WHEREAS**, The IAG began as an effort to explore the potential  
16   regional application of an electronic toll collection system, to be  
17   commonly known as E-ZPass; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, The E-ZPass system allows a motorist traveling on a  
19   participating toll facility to pay tolls automatically, by placing a  
20   small electronic tag on a windshield of a car that, as the car passes  
21   through a toll lane equipped with a “reader,” transmits customer  
22   account information and payment electronically to the appropriate  
23   toll agency without using cash or presenting a toll ticket; and  
24   **WHEREAS**, These seven agencies represented almost 40 percent of all  
25   U.S. toll transactions and nearly 70 percent of all U.S. toll revenue;  
26   and  
27   **WHEREAS**, Today the E-ZPass system is the largest interoperable toll  
28   collection system in the country, consisting of toll agencies in 16  
29   states, servicing more than 18 million accounts and 30 million E-  
30   ZPass tags, and being responsible for the collection of over \$8  
31   billion dollars in electronic toll revenues; and  
32   **WHEREAS**, The IAG’s goal was to implement a regionally compatible  
33   electronic toll collection system that would not only satisfy the  
34   divergent toll collection and traffic management needs of the  
35   participating agencies but would also provide regional mobility and  
36   convenience to their customers; and  
37   **WHEREAS**, To encourage use of the E-ZPass system, many  
38   participating toll facilities in New Jersey and New York advertise a  
39   discount from the cash toll rate for E-ZPass account holders, yet it  
40   is often not publicly advertised at the toll facilities that the  
41   respective toll agencies only provide those discounts to customers  
42   with E-ZPass accounts maintained by the toll agency with  
43   jurisdiction over the respective toll facility; and  
44   **WHEREAS**, According to AAA Northeast, between 2012 and 2016,  
45   there were more than 92 million transactions in which the MTA  
46   charged E-ZPass accounts that were established outside of New  
47   York the cash toll rate, instead of the E-ZPass discount rate, at

1 MTA toll facilities, with 70 million of those transactions coming  
2 from New Jersey E-ZPass account holders; and  
3 **WHEREAS**, According to AAA Northeast, a number of other IAG toll  
4 agencies engage in similar practices of charging a higher cash toll  
5 rate to out-of-state E-ZPass account holders, including the NJTA,  
6 which charges out-of-state E-ZPass account holders the higher cash  
7 toll rate during off-peak hours; and  
8 **WHEREAS**, With the interconnectedness of the citizens and economies  
9 of the State of New York and the State of New Jersey, it is in the  
10 best interest of the citizens of both New York and New Jersey that  
11 the NJTA and the MTA enter into a reciprocity agreement that  
12 provides E-ZPass discounts to residents of both states; now,  
13 therefore,

14  
15 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
16 Jersey:

17  
18 1. This House respectfully urges the New Jersey Turnpike  
19 Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to enter  
20 into a reciprocity agreement that provides discounts on toll rates to  
21 customers with accounts with the electronic toll collection system,  
22 commonly known as E-ZPass, that are applicable to residents of  
23 both the State of New York and the State of New Jersey.

24  
25 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
26 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the  
27 Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Governor of the State of  
28 New York, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike  
29 Authority, and President of the Metropolitan Transportation  
30 Authority.

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33 STATEMENT  
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35 This resolution urges the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA)  
36 and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to enter into a  
37 reciprocity agreement that provides discounts on toll rates to  
38 customers with accounts with the electronic toll collection system,  
39 commonly known as E-ZPass, that are applicable to residents of both  
40 the State of New York and the State of New Jersey.