

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 28

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Constitutes special committee of Senate entitled “Senate Select Committee on New Jersey Transit.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** constituting a special committee of the
 2 Senate entitled the “Senate Select Committee on New Jersey
 3 Transit.”

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, In recent years, the New Jersey Transit Corporation (“NJ
 6 Transit”), and thereby its passengers, have been plagued with
 7 service cancellations and delays, mechanical breakdowns, train
 8 derailments, safety violations, loss of critical personnel, inadequate
 9 staffing, apparent lack of long-term planning, and reportedly poor
 10 managerial decisions; and

11 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s public transportation system, including the
 12 rail, light rail, and bus passenger services operated by or under
 13 contract with NJ Transit, is critical to the State’s economic
 14 prosperity; and

15 **WHEREAS**, NJ Transit’s failures have hindered the State’s economic
 16 growth, stalled the expansion of its tax base, damaged the State’s
 17 housing market, and diminished the overall quality of life for New
 18 Jersey residents; and

19 **WHEREAS**, For the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, the Legislature
 20 appropriated \$760 million to NJ Transit to support its capital
 21 program and \$668 million to NJ Transit to subsidize its operations,
 22 making it the fourth consecutive fiscal year that NJ Transit has
 23 received over \$1 billion in State financial assistance; and

24 **WHEREAS**, The State can no longer tolerate the continued failure to
 25 correct the deficiencies at NJ Transit and to restore NJ Transit to its
 26 once prominent position as a world-class transit agency; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Toward the end of the 218th legislative session, the Senate
 28 established the Senate Select Committee on New Jersey Transit
 29 with the purpose of fixing NJ Transit and it is imperative that the
 30 committee’s work continue in the 219th legislative session; and

31 **WHEREAS**, It is therefore necessary and altogether fitting and proper
 32 for the Senate, through an appropriate committee, to examine the
 33 breadth of NJ Transit’s ineffectiveness and the reasons for
 34 NJ Transit’s repeated failures and to develop a plan to rehabilitate
 35 the agency; now, therefore,

36
 37 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

38
 39 1. There is constituted a special committee of the Senate
 40 entitled the “Senate Select Committee on New Jersey Transit,”
 41 comprised of eight members of the Senate. The eight members
 42 shall be appointed by the Senate President, not more than five of
 43 whom shall be of the same political party. There shall be a chair
 44 and vice-chair of the special committee appointed by the Senate
 45 President from among the members appointed to the committee.

46
 47 2. The Senate Select Committee on New Jersey Transit, for the
 48 purpose of fixing the New Jersey Transit Corporation, may examine

1 all aspects of the finances, operations, and management of the New
2 Jersey Transit Corporation and the corporation's ability to provide
3 safe and reliable public transportation services.

4
5 3. a. The Senate Select Committee on New Jersey Transit
6 shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself of the
7 services of the employees of the State of New Jersey, any political
8 subdivision of the State, and any agency thereof, as may be required
9 and as may be available for that purpose, and to employ any other
10 services as may be deemed necessary, in order to perform the duties
11 provided herein, and within the limits of funds appropriated or
12 otherwise made available for that purpose.

13 b. The Senate Select Committee on New Jersey Transit, upon
14 the written approval of the Senate President, shall be entitled to call
15 to its assistance, employ, and avail itself of the services of one or
16 more special counsel retained to assist the committee.

17
18 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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21 STATEMENT

22
23 This resolution establishes a special committee of the Senate
24 entitled the "Senate Select Committee on New Jersey Transit"
25 (committee). The committee is authorized, for the purpose of
26 legislatively fixing the New Jersey Transit Corporation, to examine
27 all aspects of the finances, operations, and management of the
28 corporation and the corporation's ability to provide safe and reliable
29 public transportation services.