

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 40

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA
District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

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

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the New Jersey Turnpike Authority
2 and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to enter into a
3 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 Senate of the State of New Jersey:*
16

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

23
24 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
25 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor
26 of the State of New Jersey, the Governor of the State of New York,
27 the Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, and
28 Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan
29 Transportation Authority.

30
31

32 **STATEMENT**

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