

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 41

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

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

SYNOPSIS

Urges Metropolitan Transportation Authority to provide E-ZPass discounts to residents of NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging the Metropolitan Transportation
2 Authority to provide discounts on toll rates for New Jersey
3 residents who have accounts with the electronic toll collection
4 system.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, In 1987, several toll agencies from New York, New Jersey,
7 and Pennsylvania began to explore the potential for regional
8 application of emerging electronic toll collection technology, now
9 commonly known as E-ZPass, which would allow a motorist to pay
10 tolls automatically as a car passes through an appropriate toll lane,
11 without using cash or presenting a toll ticket; and
12 **WHEREAS**, In 1990, the toll agencies joined to form a consortium
13 known as the E-ZPass Interagency Group (IAG), which included
14 representatives from the New Jersey Highway Authority, the former
15 operator of the Garden State Parkway, the New Jersey Turnpike
16 Authority, the New York State Thruway Authority, the
17 Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, the Port Authority of New
18 York and New Jersey, the South Jersey Transportation Authority,
19 and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA); and
20 **WHEREAS**, These seven agencies represented almost 40 percent of all
21 U.S. toll transactions and nearly 70 percent of all U.S. toll revenue;
22 and
23 **WHEREAS**, Today the E-ZPass system is the largest interoperable toll
24 collection system in the country, consisting of toll agencies in 16
25 states, servicing more than 18 million accounts and more than 30
26 million E-ZPass tags, and being responsible for the collection of
27 over \$8 billion dollars in electronic toll revenues annually; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The IAG's goal was to implement a regionally compatible
29 electronic toll collection system that would not only satisfy the
30 divergent toll collection and traffic management needs of the
31 participating agencies but would also provide regional mobility and
32 convenience to its customers; and
33 **WHEREAS**, The toll agencies created the E-Zpass system with the
34 promise of reducing traffic congestion and cutting pollution at
35 discounted rates for E-Zpass account holders, yet part of that
36 promise has been broken for millions of drivers with E-Zpass
37 accounts who use the toll facilities operated by the MTA; and
38 **WHEREAS**, Although every toll facility operated by the MTA in New
39 York advertises a cash toll rate and a discount for E-Zpass account
40 holders, it is not advertised at the MTA toll facilities that the MTA
41 only provides those discounts to customers with E-ZPass accounts
42 maintained by New York agencies; and
43 **WHEREAS**, According to AAA Northeast, between 2012 and 2016,
44 there were more than 92 million transactions in which E-ZPass
45 accounts that were established outside of New York were charged
46 the cash toll rate on MTA toll facilities, with 70 million of those
47 transactions coming from New Jersey E-ZPass account holders; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, Although the MTA is an authority of the State of New
2 York with toll facilities entirely within the State of New York, tens
3 of millions of E-ZPass transactions occur at the New York toll
4 facilities, including transactions by New Jersey residents who use
5 the toll facilities to get to work, school, family, and other important
6 points of interest in New York; and
7 **WHEREAS**, With the interconnectedness of the citizens, workforce, and
8 economy of the State of New York with the State of New Jersey, it
9 is appropriate for MTA to provide E-ZPass discounts to residents of
10 the State of New Jersey, now, therefore,

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

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14 1. This House urges the Metropolitan Transportation Authority
15 to apply discounts on toll rates for customers with accounts with the
16 electronic toll collection system, commonly known as E-ZPass, to
17 residents of the State of New Jersey, who have E-Z Pass accounts.

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19 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
20 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Governor
21 of the State of New Jersey, the Governor of the State of New York,
22 and the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan
23 Transportation Authority.

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STATEMENT

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28 This resolution urges the Metropolitan Transportation Authority
29 (MTA) to provide discounts on toll rates for New Jersey residents who
30 have accounts with the electronic toll collection system, commonly
31 known as E-ZPass.