

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 361

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

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Co-Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Establishes “New Jersey Target Zero Commission.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate Transportation Committee.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/18/2024)

1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey Target Zero Commission”
2 and supplementing Title 27 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of
8 Transportation, the “New Jersey Target Zero Commission.”

9 b. The commission shall consist of 13 members, as follows:

10 (1) the Commissioner of Transportation, ex officio, or the
11 commissioner’s designee;

12 (2) the Superintendent of State Police, ex officio, or the
13 superintendent’s designee;

14 (3) the Commissioner of Health, ex officio, or the commissioner’s
15 designee;

16 (4) the Commissioner of Community Affairs, ex officio, or the
17 commissioner’s designee;

18 (5) the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
19 Commission, ex officio, or the chief administrator’s designee;

20 (6) the Commissioner of Human Services, ex officio, or the
21 commissioner’s designee;

22 (7) the Director of Highway Traffic Safety, ex officio, or the
23 director’s designee;

24 (8) the Director of the Office of Environmental Justice in the
25 Department of Environmental Protection, ex officio, or the director’s
26 designee;

27 (9) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Transit Corporation,
28 ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

29 (10) the Executive Director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority,
30 ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

31 (11) the Executive Director of the Delaware Valley Regional
32 Planning Commission, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;

33 (12) the Executive Director of the North Jersey Transportation
34 Planning Authority, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee;
35 and

36 (13) the Executive Director of the South Jersey Transportation
37 Planning Organization, ex officio, or the executive director’s designee.

38 c. The commission shall hold its initial meeting as soon as
39 practicable, but no later than 60 days after the effective date of P.L. ,

40 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The
41 chairperson of the commission shall be the Commissioner of
42 Transportation, and the commission shall meet no less than twice per
43 year at such places and times as the chairperson may designate. The
44 commission shall hold a minimum of two annual public hearings. The
45 chairperson may appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the
46 commission.

47 d. The commission shall meet with key stakeholders, advocates,
48 and experts, and shall consult with policy experts in the fields of

1 bicycle and pedestrian safety, mobility, visual or cognitive
2 impairments, and motor vehicle crashes for expertise and input.

3 e. The Department of Transportation shall provide professional,
4 stenographic, and clerical staff to the commission, as may be necessary
5 for the commission to carry out its duties. The commission shall also
6 be entitled to call upon the services of any State, county, or municipal
7 department, board, commission, or agency, as may be available to it
8 for its purposes.

9

10 2. a. For the purposes of this section:

11 “Active transportation” means pedestrian mobility, such as
12 walking and running, individual use of personal conveyances for
13 mobility powered by human effort or electric motors, and personal
14 conveyances that consider and address accommodations pursuant to
15 the “Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990” (42 U.S.C. s.12101 et
16 seq.).

17 “Bicycle” means the same as the term is defined in section 2 of
18 P.L.1975, c.328 (C.39:4-14.5).

19 “Pedestrian” shall include, but not be limited to: a pedestrian as
20 defined in R.S.39:1-1; a person in a wheelchair or motorized
21 wheelchair as defined in R.S.39:1-1; and a person employed by or who
22 contracts with any public utility company in this State, a property
23 maintenance worker, or any other person who is permitted by law to
24 be upon the roadway and outside a motor vehicle for work or
25 recreation and is upon a roadway and outside a motor vehicle for work
26 or recreation.

27 “Personal conveyance” shall include:

- 28 (1) a bicycle as defined in this section;
- 29 (2) a low-speed electric bicycle as defined in R.S.39:1-1;
- 30 (3) a low-speed electric scooter as defined in R.S.39:1-1;
- 31 (4) a manual wheelchair;
- 32 (5) a motorized wheelchair as defined in R.S.39:1-1, or similar
33 mobility assisting devices used by persons with physical disabilities, or
34 by persons whose ambulatory mobility has been impaired by age or
35 illness;
- 36 (6) an electric personal assistive mobility device as defined in
37 section 1 of P.L.2001, c.430 (C.39:4-14.10);
- 38 (7) a motorized scooter as defined in R.S.39:1-1;
- 39 (8) a skateboard;
- 40 (9) a motorized skateboard as defined in R.S.39:1-1;
- 41 (10) roller skates as defined in section 1 of P.L.1997, c.411
42 (C.39:4-10.5); and
- 43 (11) any other means used by a person for transportation.

44 “Safe system approach” means evaluating traffic safety and
45 designing a transportation system with the goal of eliminating fatal and
46 serious injuries for all road users by acknowledging that: traffic deaths
47 and serious injuries are unacceptable, humans make mistakes, humans

1 are vulnerable, responsibility is shared, safety is proactive, and
2 redundancy is crucial.

3 “Target zero strategies” means actionable strategies using the safe
4 system approach and include, but are not limited to: (1) prioritizing
5 roadway design and design of sidewalks; crosswalks; roadway
6 shoulders; personal conveyance parking; access to public transit,
7 schools, and parks; and intersections and corridors with paths, trails,
8 and multiuse greenways; (2) focusing on speed management; (3)
9 ensuring enforcement is equitable; and (4) utilizing impactful
10 education strategies and inclusive community engagement.

11 b. The purpose and duties of the commission shall be to study,
12 examine, and review all aspects of traffic safety with a particular focus
13 on access, equity, and mobility for all road users using the safe system
14 approach and to advise the Governor, the Legislature, and the
15 Department of Transportation regarding policies, programs, research,
16 and priorities to help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities
17 and serious injuries. To fulfill this purpose and these duties, the
18 commission shall:

19 (1) develop a comprehensive and coordinated action plan to help
20 achieve the goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and serious injuries on
21 all public roadways in the State by 2040 through engineering,
22 education, and enforcement systems that analyze physical
23 transportation designs with a focus on the equitable treatment of all
24 transportation users;

25 (2) identify short-term and long-term data-driven strategies with
26 measurable goals and target dates to reduce traffic fatalities and
27 serious injuries with the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities and
28 serious injuries by 2040;

29 (3) adopt the action plan no later than the first day of the 12th
30 month following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
31 before the Legislature as this bill), except that before adopting the
32 action plan, the commission shall host a public hearing to receive
33 public feedback concerning the proposed action plan, which proposed
34 action plan shall be published on the commission’s Internet website no
35 less than 72 hours before the public hearing;

36 (4) promote effective and transparent collection of traffic safety
37 data and dissemination of such data via a publicly accessible data
38 portal that includes, but is not limited to, the most dangerous
39 intersections in the State, traffic crash data with information on non-
40 fatal injuries and demographic data, and a high injury network that
41 indicates the roadways, in the State, with the highest injury rates;

42 (5) encourage the elimination of road hazards by advancing active
43 transportation and mass transit as safe and viable forms of
44 transportation throughout the State for persons of all ages and abilities;

45 (6) provide recommendations for changes to State, county, and
46 municipal law to achieve the goal of eliminating all traffic fatalities
47 and serious injuries by 2040;

- 1 (7) develop the action plan to implement and promote the safe
2 system approach, target zero strategies, and evidenced-based safety
3 countermeasures to help achieve the goal of eliminating traffic
4 fatalities and severe injuries among all road users by 2040;
- 5 (8) create and maintain an interactive Internet website to provide
6 information about the commission, including: the membership of the
7 commission; the commission's plans, progress reports, meeting
8 notices, agendas, and minutes; educational materials about target zero;
9 a link to the safety portal required pursuant to paragraph (4) of this
10 subsection; and any other information the commission deems
11 necessary;
- 12 (9) serve as an advisor to the Department of Transportation and
13 other State agencies and transportation authorities with regard to
14 roadway planning and transportation infrastructure planning;
- 15 (10) provide advice and assistance to county and municipal
16 governments to develop their own target zero plans; and
- 17 (11) report annually to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of
18 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Legislature on the findings and
19 activities of the commission, including the number of road traffic
20 fatalities and serious injuries and the review of the implementation of
21 the action plans. The commission shall submit the report before the
22 third Sunday in November of each year, which is World Day of
23 Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.
- 24
- 25 3. The Department of Transportation shall promulgate such rules
26 and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
27 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate
28 the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
29 Legislature as this bill).
- 30
- 31 4. This act shall take effect immediately.