

S. 5670

A. 8267

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

S E N A T E - A S S E M B L Y

June 9, 2011

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IN SENATE -- Introduced by Sen. LITTLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

IN ASSEMBLY -- Introduced by M. of A. SAYWARD -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law and the transportation law, in relation to establishing the Corinth and Warren railroad authority and establishing the powers and duties of the town of Corinth, the county of Warren and other municipalities located along the railroad line

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Article 8 of the public authorities law is amended by  
2     adding a new title 28-D to read as follows:  
3                                   TITLE 28-D  
4                                   CORINTH AND WARREN RAILROAD  
5                                   AUTHORITY  
6     SECTION 2681.     SHORT TITLE.  
7                   2681-A. DEFINITIONS.  
8                   2681-B. CORINTH AND WARREN RAILROAD AUTHORITY.  
9                   2681-C. PURPOSES OF THE AUTHORITY.  
10                  2681-D. GENERAL POWERS OF THE AUTHORITY.  
11                  2681-E. SPECIAL POWERS OF THE AUTHORITY.  
12                  2681-F. COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF OTHER AGENCIES.  
13                  2681-G. EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION.  
14                  2681-H. ADVANCES ON BEHALF OF AUTHORITY; TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TO  
15                                  AUTHORITY; ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR AUTHORITY.  
16                  2681-I. NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
17                                  RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES; CIVIL SERVICE.  
18                  2681-J. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

LBD11659-02-1

2681-K. MONIES OF THE AUTHORITY.

2681-L. CONTRACTS.

2681-M. ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDIT.

2681-N. DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION.

2681-O. ACTION BY OR AGAINST THE AUTHORITY.

2681-P. TRACK, BRIDGE, SIGNAL, STATION AND OTHER FACILITY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

2681-Q. STATE, COUNTY, TOWN AND MUNICIPALITIES NOT LIABLE FOR OBLIGATIONS OF THE AUTHORITY.

2681-R. EFFECT OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS.

S 2681. SHORT TITLE. THIS TITLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE "CORINTH AND WARREN RAILROAD AUTHORITY ACT".

S 2681-A. DEFINITIONS. AS USED OR REFERRED TO IN THIS TITLE, UNLESS A DIFFERENT MEANING APPEARS FROM THE CONTEXT:

1. "AUTHORITY" SHALL MEAN THE CORPORATION CREATED BY SECTION TWENTY-SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE-B OF THIS TITLE.

2. "AUTHORITY FACILITIES" SHALL MEAN THE AUTHORITY'S RAILROAD FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS PURSUANT TO JOINT SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS.

3. "COMPTROLLER" SHALL MEAN THE STATE COMPTROLLER.

4. "CORINTH AND WARREN RAILROAD LINE" SHALL MEAN THE RAILROAD LINE GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS LOCATED BETWEEN MILE POST 94.96 IN NORTH CREEK IN THE TOWN OF JOHNSBURG AND COUNTY OF WARREN AND RUNNING APPROXIMATELY FIFTY-SIX MILES TO MILE POST 39.44 IN THE CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS IN THE COUNTY OF SARATOGA.

5. "COUNTY" SHALL MEAN THE COUNTY OF WARREN.

6. "EQUIPMENT" SHALL MEAN ROLLING STOCK, VEHICLES, MOTORS, BOILERS, ENGINES, WIRES, WAYS, CONDUITS AND MECHANISMS, MACHINERY, TOOLS, IMPLEMENTS, MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, INSTRUMENTS AND DEVICES OF EVERY NATURE WHATSOEVER USED OR USEFUL FOR RAILROAD AND RELATED TRANSPORTATION PURPOSES OR FOR THE GENERATION OR TRANSMISSION OF MOTIVE POWER INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALL POWER HOUSES, AND ALL APPARATUS AND ALL DEVICES FOR SIGNALING, COMMUNICATIONS AND VENTILATION AS MAY BE NECESSARY, CONVENIENT OR DESIRABLE FOR THE OPERATION OF A RAILROAD OR RELATED TRANSPORTATION FACILITY.

7. "JOINT SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS" SHALL MEAN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN OR AMONG THE AUTHORITY AND ANY COMMON CARRIER OR FREIGHT FORWARDER, THE STATE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, ANY OTHER STATE OR AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY THEREOF, ANY PUBLIC AUTHORITY OF THIS OR ANY OTHER STATE, OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR MUNICIPALITY OF THIS OR ANY OTHER STATE, RELATING TO PROPERTY, BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, FACILITIES, SERVICES, RATES, FARES, CLASSIFICATIONS, DIVISIONS, ALLOWANCES OR CHARGES, OR RULES OR REGULATIONS PERTAINING THERETO, FOR OR IN CONNECTION WITH OR INCIDENTAL TO TRANSPORTATION IN PART IN OR UPON RAILROAD FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN THE COUNTY OF WARREN OR COUNTY OF SARATOGA AND IN PART IN OR UPON RAILROAD FACILITIES LOCATED OUTSIDE SAID COUNTY OR TOWN.

8. "LEGISLATIVE BODY" OR "LEGISLATIVE BODIES" SHALL MEAN ANY OR ALL OF THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND THE TOWN OF CORINTH.

9. "MUNICIPALITY" SHALL MEAN ANY COUNTY, CITY, TOWN, VILLAGE, SCHOOL DISTRICT, IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, ANY OTHER SUCH INSTRUMENTALITY, INCLUDING AN AGENCY OR PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION OF THE STATE, OR ANY OF THE FOREGOING, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF.

10. "RAILROAD FACILITIES" SHALL MEAN RIGHT-OF-WAY AND RELATED TRACKAGE, RAILS, CARS, LOCOMOTIVES, OTHER ROLLING STOCK, SIGNAL, POWER, FUEL, COMMUNICATION AND VENTILATION SYSTEMS, POWER PLANTS, STATIONS, TERMINALS, PARKING LOTS, GARAGES, WAREHOUSES, STORAGE YARDS, INTERMODAL FACILITIES, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SHOPS, YARDS, EQUIPMENT AND PARTS,

1 OFFICES AND OTHER REAL ESTATE OR PERSONALTY USED OR HELD FOR OR INCI-  
2 DENTAL TO THE OPERATION, REHABILITATION OR IMPROVEMENT OF ANY RAILROAD  
3 OPERATING OR TO OPERATE BETWEEN POINTS WITHIN THE COUNTY OF WARREN AND  
4 THE COUNTY OF SARATOGA OR PURSUANT TO JOINT SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS,  
5 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND AREAS NOTWITH-  
6 STANDING THAT PORTIONS THEREOF MAY NOT BE DEVOTED TO ANY RAILROAD  
7 PURPOSE OTHER THAN THE PRODUCTION OF REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR THE COSTS  
8 AND EXPENSES OF ALL OR ANY FACILITIES OF THE AUTHORITY.

9 11. "REAL PROPERTY" SHALL MEAN LANDS, STRUCTURES, FRANCHISES AND  
10 INTERESTS IN LAND, WATERS, LANDS UNDER WATER, RIPARIAN RIGHTS AND AIR  
11 RIGHTS AND ANY AND ALL THINGS AND RIGHTS INCLUDED WITHIN SAID TERM AND  
12 INCLUDES NOT ONLY FEES SIMPLE ABSOLUTE BUT ALSO ANY AND ALL LESSER  
13 INTERESTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO EASEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, USES,  
14 LEASES, LICENSES AND ALL OTHER INCORPOREAL HEREDITAMENTS AND EVERY  
15 ESTATE, INTEREST OR RIGHT, LEGAL OR EQUITABLE, INCLUDING TERMS FOR YEARS  
16 AND LIENS THEREON BY WAY OF JUDGMENTS, MORTGAGES OR OTHERWISE.

17 12. "TOWN" SHALL MEAN THE TOWN OF CORINTH IN THE COUNTY OF SARATOGA.

18 S 2681-B. CORINTH AND WARREN RAILROAD AUTHORITY. 1. THERE IS HEREBY  
19 CREATED THE "CORINTH AND WARREN RAILROAD AUTHORITY" WHICH SHALL BE A  
20 BODY CORPORATE AND POLITIC CONSTITUTING A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION.

21 2. THE AUTHORITY SHALL CONTINUE FOR THIRTY YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVE  
22 DATE OF THIS TITLE, OR SO LONG AS IT SHALL HAVE BONDS OR OTHER OBLI-  
23 GATIONS OUTSTANDING OR UNTIL IT CAN NO LONGER SECURE OPERATIONS OF TRAIN  
24 SERVICES WHICH PROVIDE FREIGHT, PASSENGER AND TOURIST SERVICES WITHIN  
25 THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE OR UNTIL ITS EXISTENCE SHALL OTHERWISE BE TERMI-  
26 NATED BY LAW. UPON THE TERMINATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE AUTHORITY,  
27 ALL ITS RIGHTS AND PROPERTIES SHALL PASS TO AND BE VESTED IN THE COUNTY  
28 AND THE TOWN PURSUANT TO ANY AGREEMENTS AMONG THE COUNTY, THE TOWN AND  
29 THE AUTHORITY.

30 3. THE AUTHORITY SHALL ADOPT BY-LAWS GOVERNING ITS OPERATION AND KEEP  
31 A RECORD OF ITS RESOLUTIONS, TRANSACTIONS, FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS,  
32 WHICH RECORD SHALL BE A PUBLIC RECORD.

33 4. THE AUTHORITY SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING SIX MEMBERS:

34 (A) THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE COUNTY SHALL APPOINT THREE  
35 VOTING MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY WHO SHALL BE RESIDENTS OF SUCH COUNTY,  
36 UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COUNTY EXECUTIVE OR  
37 CHAIR OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY) OF THE COUNTY; AND

38 (B) THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN SHALL APPOINT THREE VOTING MEMBERS OF  
39 THE AUTHORITY WHO SHALL BE RESIDENTS OF SUCH TOWN, UPON THE RECOMMENDA-  
40 TION OF THE SUPERVISOR OF THE TOWN.

41 5. THE TERM OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE THREE  
42 YEARS. TWO OF THE INITIAL MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL SERVE A ONE  
43 YEAR TERM, TWO SHALL SERVE A TWO YEAR TERM AND TWO SHALL SERVE A THREE  
44 YEAR TERM.

45 6. ALL MEMBERS SHALL CONTINUE TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS  
46 ARE APPOINTED AND QUALIFIED. THE RESIGNATION OF ANY MEMBER SHALL BE  
47 FILED WITH THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY AND SHALL BE EFFECTIVE WHEN SO  
48 FILED. VACANCIES OCCURRING OTHERWISE THAN BY EXPIRATION OF TERM OF  
49 OFFICE SHALL BE FILLED FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM IN THE SAME MANNER AS  
50 PROVIDED FOR THE ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT.

51 7. THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY, AND OTHER NECESSARY  
52 OFFICERS SHALL BE NAMED BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL THE VOTING MEMBERS TO  
53 SERVE FOR SUCH PERIOD AS THE MEMBERS SHALL DECIDE. THE CHAIRPERSON SHALL  
54 PRESIDE OVER THE MEETINGS OF THE AUTHORITY AND SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS OF  
55 THE AUTHORITY TO COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY TO ASSIST THE  
56 AUTHORITY IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES.

1 8. ANY MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY MAY BE REMOVED BY RESOLUTION OF THE  
2 ENTITY WHICH APPOINTED SUCH MEMBER EITHER FOR CAUSE OR FOR NON-COMPLI-  
3 ANCE WITH MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO MEETING ATTENDANCE AND OTHER  
4 CRITERIA AS MAY BE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION OF SUCH ENTITY.

5 9. NO PERSON SHALL BE PRECLUDED FROM SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE  
6 AUTHORITY AS APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BODY OR THE TOWN BOARD  
7 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION BECAUSE SUCH MEMBER IS AN ELECTED OR APPOINTED  
8 OFFICIAL OF A MUNICIPALITY, EXCEPT THAT NO MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL  
9 VOTE ON ANY MATTER BEFORE THE AUTHORITY WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A  
10 PROPOSAL, APPLICATION OR VOTE BEFORE THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE HE OR SHE  
11 SERVES IN SUCH ELECTED OR APPOINTED CAPACITY.

12 10. THE MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL RECEIVE NO SALARY OR COMPEN-  
13 SATION FOR THEIR SERVICES, BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR AUTHORIZED, ACTUAL  
14 AND NECESSARY TRAVEL AND EXPENDITURES.

15 11. A MAJORITY OF THE WHOLE NUMBER OF VOTING MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY  
16 THEN IN OFFICE SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF ANY  
17 BUSINESS OR THE EXERCISE OF ANY POWER OF THE AUTHORITY. NOTWITHSTANDING  
18 ANY PROVISION OF STATUTE OR LAW TO THE CONTRARY AND EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE  
19 SPECIFIED IN THIS TITLE, FOR THE TRANSACTION OF ANY BUSINESS OR THE  
20 EXERCISE OF ANY POWER OF THE AUTHORITY, THE AUTHORITY SHALL HAVE POWER  
21 TO ACT BY A MAJORITY OF THE WHOLE NUMBER OF VOTING MEMBERS OF THE  
22 AUTHORITY.

23 12. THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE DEEMED A STATE AGENCY FOR PURPOSES OF  
24 SECTION SEVENTY-FOUR OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW, PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT  
25 NO NON-VOTING MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE DEEMED AN OFFICER OR  
26 EMPLOYEE OF A STATE AGENCY.

27 S 2681-C. PURPOSES OF THE AUTHORITY. 1. THE PURPOSES OF THE AUTHORITY  
28 SHALL BE THE ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, CONTINUANCE, FURTHER DEVELOP-  
29 MENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER SERVICES  
30 RELATED THERETO WITHIN THE COUNTIES OF WARREN AND SARATOGA AND THE  
31 PROMOTION OF TOURISM, FREIGHT AND PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION, IN ACCORD-  
32 ANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE. IT SHALL BE THE FURTHER PURPOSE  
33 OF THE AUTHORITY TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A UNIFIED RAILROAD TRANSPORTA-  
34 TION POLICY AND STRATEGY FOR SUCH COUNTY AND TOWN. WHEN ADMINISTERING,  
35 MANAGING, CONTINUING, DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING RAILROAD FACILITIES, OR  
36 FORMULATING STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND MAKING DECISIONS RELATED THERETO,  
37 THE AUTHORITY SHALL UNDERTAKE TO ENCOURAGE AND WORK TO CONTINUE AND  
38 CAUSE THE GROWTH OF THE OPERATION OF TOURISM TRAINS THAT PROVIDE AN  
39 ATTRACTION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR TOURISTS TO TAKE SCENIC TRAIN RIDES, SKI  
40 TRAINS TO NORTH CREEK, THOMAS THE TANK, POLAR EXPRESS OR SIMILAR SPECIAL  
41 EVENTS AND OTHERWISE CAUSE TRAIN OPERATIONS THAT NOT ONLY PROVIDE THE  
42 USUAL FREIGHT AND PASSENGER SERVICE, BUT ALSO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE  
43 TOURISM IN AND AMONG THE COMMUNITIES ALONG THE RAIL LINE.

44 2. IT IS HEREBY FOUND AND DECLARED THAT SUCH PURPOSES ARE IN ALL  
45 RESPECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE AND THE AUTHORITY  
46 SHALL BE REGARDED AS PERFORMING AN ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTION IN  
47 CARRYING OUT ITS PURPOSES AND IN EXERCISING THE POWERS GRANTED BY THIS  
48 TITLE.

49 S 2681-D. GENERAL POWERS OF THE AUTHORITY. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE LIMITED  
50 BY THIS TITLE, THE AUTHORITY SHALL HAVE POWER:

51 1. TO SUE AND BE SUED;

52 2. TO HAVE A SEAL AND ALTER THE SAME AT PLEASURE;

53 3. TO BORROW MONEY;

54 4. TO INVEST ANY FUNDS HELD IN RESERVE OR SINKING FUNDS, OR ANY MONIES  
55 NOT REQUIRED FOR IMMEDIATE USE OR DISBURSEMENT, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE  
56 AUTHORITY, IN OBLIGATIONS IN WHICH THE STATE COMPTROLLER MAY INVEST

1 PURSUANT TO SECTION NINETY-EIGHT OR NINETY-EIGHT-A OF THE STATE FINANCE  
2 LAW;

3 5. TO MAKE AND ALTER BY-LAWS FOR ITS ORGANIZATION AND INTERNAL MANAGE-  
4 MENT, AND RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE EXERCISE OF ITS POWERS AND  
5 THE FULFILLMENT OF ITS PURPOSES UNDER THIS TITLE;

6 6. TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS AND LEASES AND TO EXECUTE ALL INSTRUMENTS  
7 NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT;

8 7. TO ACQUIRE, HOLD AND DISPOSE OF REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE  
9 EXERCISE OF ITS POWERS FOR ITS CORPORATE PURPOSES;

10 8. THE AUTHORITY MAY, WHENEVER IT SHALL DETERMINE THAT IT IS NOT IN  
11 CONFLICT WITH THE INTERESTS OR PURPOSES OF THE AUTHORITY, RENT, LEASE OR  
12 GRANT EASEMENTS OR OTHER RIGHTS IN, ANY LAND OR PROPERTY OF THE AUTHORI-  
13 TY, INCLUDING THE GRANTING OF MUNICIPAL UTILITY EASEMENTS;

14 9. TO APPOINT SUCH OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES AS IT MAY REQUIRE FOR THE  
15 PERFORMANCE OF ITS DUTIES, AND TO FIX AND DETERMINE THEIR QUALIFICA-  
16 TIONS, DUTIES, AND COMPENSATION AND TO RETAIN OR EMPLOY COUNSEL, AUDI-  
17 TORS, ENGINEERS AND PRIVATE CONSULTANTS ON A CONTRACT BASIS OR OTHERWISE  
18 FOR RENDERING PROFESSIONAL OR TECHNICAL SERVICES AND ADVICE; SUCH COUN-  
19 SEL, AUDITORS, ENGINEERS, AND PRIVATE CONSULTANTS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOY-  
20 EES MAY NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY;

21 10. TO MAKE PLANS, SURVEYS, AND STUDIES NECESSARY, CONVENIENT OR  
22 DESIRABLE TO THE EFFECTUATION OF THE PURPOSES AND POWERS OF THE AUTHORI-  
23 TY AND TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS IN REGARD THERETO;

24 11. TO CONTRACT FOR AND ACCEPT ANY GIFTS OR GRANTS, SUBSIDIES OR LOANS  
25 OF FUNDS OR PROPERTY OR FINANCIAL OR OTHER AID IN ANY FORM FROM THE  
26 FEDERAL OR STATE GOVERNMENT OR ANY AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY THEREOF, OR  
27 FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, AND TO COMPLY, SUBJECT TO THE  
28 PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE, WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF;

29 12. TO DESIGNATE THE DEPOSITORIES OF ITS MONEY;

30 13. TO ESTABLISH ITS FISCAL YEAR; AND

31 14. TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT OR DESIRABLE TO CARRY OUT  
32 ITS PURPOSES AND EXERCISE THE POWERS EXPRESSLY GIVEN IN THIS TITLE.

33 S 2681-E. SPECIAL POWERS OF THE AUTHORITY. IN ORDER TO EFFECTUATE THE  
34 PURPOSES OF THIS TITLE: 1. THE AUTHORITY MAY ACQUIRE, BY PURCHASE, GIFT,  
35 GRANT, TRANSFER, CONTRACT OR LEASE, ANY RAILROAD FACILITY, WHOLLY OR  
36 PARTIALLY WITHIN THE COUNTY OR TOWN OR ANY PART THEREOF, OR THE USE  
37 THEREOF, AND MAY ENTER INTO ANY JOINT SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS AS PROVIDED  
38 IN THIS SECTION. ANY SUCH ACQUISITION OR JOINT SERVICE ARRANGEMENT SHALL  
39 BE AUTHORIZED ONLY BY RESOLUTION OF THE AUTHORITY APPROVED BY NOT LESS  
40 THAN A MAJORITY OF THE WHOLE NUMBER OF VOTING MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY.  
41 IN ADDITION TO AND NOT IN LIMITATION OF ANY OTHER POWER CONFERRED UPON  
42 THE AUTHORITY BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE, THE AUTHORITY IS HEREBY  
43 EMPOWERED AND AUTHORIZED IN RESPECT OF ANY PROPERTY AND ASSETS AT ANY  
44 TIME OWNED OR HELD BY, OR UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF, THE STATE, ANY  
45 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION THEREOF, OR ANY PRIVATE OR OTHER PUBLIC CONCERN,  
46 TO ACCEPT AND RECEIVE ANY SUCH INTEREST THEREIN AS IT MAY HAVE BEEN OR  
47 MAY HEREAFTER BE DESIGNATED BY THE STATE, ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION  
48 THEREOF, OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CONCERN, BY LAW OR OTHER LAWFUL  
49 MEANS TO RECEIVE, AND IN RESPECT THEREOF, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED  
50 BY THE DESIGNATING STATUTE OR CONTRACTUAL INSTRUMENT, IT SHALL HAVE AND  
51 EXERCISE ALL OF THE POWERS AND JURISDICTION HEREIN CONFERRED UPON IT IN  
52 RESPECT OF ANY OTHER PROPERTY, RIGHTS, ASSETS, FACILITIES AND PROJECTS  
53 IN ANY OTHER MANNER ACQUIRED OR FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE RECEIVED BY IT  
54 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE.

55 2. THE AUTHORITY MAY ON SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THE AUTHORITY MAY  
56 DETERMINE NECESSARY, CONVENIENT OR DESIRABLE ITSELF ESTABLISH,

1 CONSTRUCT, EFFECTUATE, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, RENOVATE, IMPROVE, EXTEND OR  
2 REPAIR ANY SUCH RAILROAD FACILITY, OR MAY PROVIDE FOR SUCH ESTABLISH-  
3 MENT, CONSTRUCTION, EFFECTUATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION,  
4 IMPROVEMENT, EXTENSION OR REPAIR BY CONTRACT, LEASE, OR OTHER ARRANGE-  
5 MENT ON SUCH TERMS AS THE AUTHORITY MAY DEEM NECESSARY, CONVENIENT OR  
6 DESIRABLE WITH ANY PERSON, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY COMMON  
7 CARRIER OR FREIGHT FORWARDER OR OTHER PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT FIRM, THE  
8 STATE, ANY AGENCY OR THE STATE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, ANY OTHER STATE  
9 OR AGENCY OR INSTRUMENTALITY THEREOF, ANY NON-PROFIT CORPORATION, ANY  
10 PUBLIC AUTHORITY OF THIS OR ANY OTHER STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION  
11 OR MUNICIPALITY OF THE STATE. IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION OF ANY  
12 SUCH RAILROAD FACILITY, THE AUTHORITY MAY ESTABLISH, CONSTRUCT, EFFECTU-  
13 ATE, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, RENOVATE, IMPROVE, EXTEND OR REPAIR OR MAY  
14 PROVIDE BY CONTRACT, LEASE OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT,  
15 CONSTRUCTION, EFFECTUATION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, IMPROVE-  
16 MENT, EXTENSION OR REPAIR OF ANY RELATED SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES IT  
17 DEEMS NECESSARY, CONVENIENT OR DESIRABLE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,  
18 THE TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE OF FREIGHT AND THE UNITED STATES MAIL,  
19 FEEDER AND CONNECTING TRANSPORTATION, PARKING AREAS, TRANSPORTATION  
20 CENTERS, STATIONS AND RELATED FACILITIES.

21 3. THE AUTHORITY MAY ESTABLISH, LEVY AND COLLECT OR CAUSE TO BE ESTAB-  
22 LISHED, LEVIED AND COLLECTED AND, IN THE CASE OF A JOINT SERVICE  
23 ARRANGEMENT, JOIN WITH OTHERS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT, LEVY AND COLLECTION  
24 OF SUCH FARES, TOLLS, RENTALS, RATES, CHARGES AND OTHER FEES AS IT MAY  
25 DEEM NECESSARY, CONVENIENT OR DESIRABLE FOR THE USE AND OPERATION OF ANY  
26 RAILROAD FACILITY AND RELATED SERVICES OPERATED BY THE AUTHORITY OR  
27 UNDER CONTRACT, LEASE OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT, INCLUDING JOINT SERVICE  
28 ARRANGEMENTS, WITH THE AUTHORITY.

29 4. THE AUTHORITY MAY ESTABLISH AND, IN THE CASE OF JOINT SERVICE  
30 ARRANGEMENTS, JOIN WITH OTHERS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH SCHEDULES  
31 AND STANDARDS OF OPERATIONS AND SUCH OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS INCLUD-  
32 ING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT AND  
33 SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC AS IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY, CONVENIENT OR DESIRABLE  
34 FOR THE USE AND OPERATION OF ANY RAILROAD FACILITY AND RELATED SERVICES  
35 OPERATED BY THE AUTHORITY OR UNDER CONTRACT, LEASE OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT,  
36 INCLUDING JOINT SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS, WITH THE AUTHORITY.

37 5. THE AUTHORITY MAY ACQUIRE, HOLD, OWN, LEASE, ESTABLISH, CONSTRUCT,  
38 EFFECTUATE, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, RENOVATE, IMPROVE, EXTEND OR REPAIR ANY  
39 OF ITS FACILITIES.

40 6. THE AUTHORITY, IN ITS OWN NAME, MAY APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE AND  
41 ACCEPT GRANTS OF PROPERTY, MONEY AND SERVICES AND OTHER ASSISTANCE  
42 OFFERED OR MADE AVAILABLE TO IT BY ANY PERSON, GOVERNMENT OR AGENCY  
43 WHICH IT MAY USE TO MEET CAPITAL OR OPERATING EXPENSES AND FOR ANY OTHER  
44 USE WITHIN THE SCOPE OF ITS POWERS, AND TO NEGOTIATE FOR THE SAME UPON  
45 SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THE AUTHORITY MAY DETERMINE TO BE NECES-  
46 SARY, CONVENIENT OR DESIRABLE.

47 7. THE AUTHORITY MAY DO ALL THINGS IT DEEMS NECESSARY, CONVENIENT OR  
48 DESIRABLE TO MANAGE, CONTROL AND DIRECT THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF  
49 RAILROAD FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT OR REAL PROPERTY OPERATED BY OR UNDER  
50 CONTRACT, LEASE OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT WITH THE AUTHORITY. EXCEPT AS HERE-  
51 INAFTER SPECIALLY PROVIDED, NO MUNICIPALITY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION,  
52 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A COUNTY, CITY, VILLAGE, TOWN OR SCHOOL OR  
53 OTHER DISTRICT SHALL HAVE JURISDICTION OVER ANY FACILITIES OF THE  
54 AUTHORITY OR ANY OF ITS ACTIVITIES OR OPERATIONS. THE LOCAL LAWS, RESOL-  
55 UTIONS, ORDINANCES, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF A MUNICIPALITY OR POLITICAL  
56 SUBDIVISION IN THE STATE CONFLICTING WITH THIS TITLE OR ANY RULE OR

1 REGULATION OF THE AUTHORITY, SHALL NOT BE APPLICABLE TO THE ACTIVITIES  
2 OR OPERATIONS OF THE AUTHORITY, OR THE FACILITIES OF THE AUTHORITY,  
3 EXCEPT SUCH FACILITIES THAT ARE DEVOTED TO PURPOSES OTHER THAN TRANSPOR-  
4 TATION PURPOSES. THE AUTHORITY MAY AGREE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANS-  
5 PORTATION FOR THE EXECUTION BY SUCH DEPARTMENT OF ANY GRADE CROSSING  
6 ELIMINATION PROJECT OR ANY GRADE CROSSING SEPARATION RECONSTRUCTION  
7 PROJECT ALONG ANY RAILROAD FACILITY OPERATED BY THE AUTHORITY OR UNDER  
8 CONTRACT, LEASE OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT WITH THE AUTHORITY. ANY SUCH  
9 PROJECT SHALL BE EXECUTED AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE TEN OF THE TRANSPORTA-  
10 TION LAW AND THE RAILROAD LAW, RESPECTIVELY, AND THE COSTS OF ANY SUCH  
11 PROJECT SHALL BE BORNE AS PROVIDED IN SUCH LAWS.

12 S 2681-F. COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF OTHER AGENCIES. 1. TO AVOID  
13 DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, THE AUTHORITY MAY  
14 MAKE USE OF EXISTING STUDIES, SURVEYS, PLANS, DATA AND OTHER MATERIALS  
15 IN THE POSSESSION OF ANY STATE AGENCY OR ANY MUNICIPALITY OR POLITICAL  
16 SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE. EACH SUCH AGENCY, MUNICIPALITY OR SUBDIVISION  
17 LOCATED IN OR SERVING SOME PORTION OF THE STATE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO  
18 MAKE THE SAME AVAILABLE TO THE AUTHORITY AND OTHERWISE TO ASSIST IT IN  
19 THE PERFORMANCE OF ITS FUNCTIONS. AT THE REQUEST OF THE AUTHORITY, EACH  
20 SUCH AGENCY, MUNICIPALITY OR SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN OR SERVING SOME  
21 PORTION OF THE STATE WHICH IS ENGAGED IN RAILROAD OR OTHER TRANSPORTA-  
22 TION ACTIVITIES OR IN LAND USE OR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, OR WHICH IS  
23 CHARGED WITH THE DUTY OF PROVIDING OR REGULATING ANY TRANSPORTATION  
24 FACILITY OR ANY OTHER PUBLIC FACILITY, IS FURTHER AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE  
25 THE AUTHORITY WITH INFORMATION REGARDING ITS PLANS AND PROGRAMS AFFECT-  
26 ING RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE PARTICIPATING COUNTIES SO THAT  
27 THE AUTHORITY MAY HAVE AVAILABLE TO IT CURRENT INFORMATION WITH RESPECT  
28 THERETO. THE OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL OF SUCH AGENCIES, MUNICIPALITIES OR  
29 SUBDIVISIONS, AND OF ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT OR AGENCY WHATEVER, MAY SERVE  
30 AT THE REQUEST OF THE AUTHORITY UPON SUCH ADVISORY COMMITTEES AS THE  
31 AUTHORITY SHALL DETERMINE TO CREATE AND SUCH OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL MAY  
32 SERVE UPON SUCH COMMITTEES WITHOUT FORFEITURE OF OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT  
33 AND WITH NO LOSS OR DIMINUTION IN THE COMPENSATION, STATUS, RIGHTS AND  
34 PRIVILEGES WHICH THEY OTHERWISE ENJOY.

35 2. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY CONTRARY PROVISION OF LAW, THE COUNTY, EVERY  
36 MUNICIPALITY LOCATED IN THE COUNTY AND THE TOWN ARE AUTHORIZED AND  
37 EMPOWERED TO CONSENT TO THE USE BY THE AUTHORITY OF ANY REAL OR PERSONAL  
38 PROPERTY OWNED BY ANY SUCH MUNICIPALITY AND NECESSARY, CONVENIENT OR  
39 DESIRABLE IN THE OPINION OF THE AUTHORITY FOR ANY OF THE FACILITIES OR  
40 PROJECTS AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS TITLE, INCLUDING SUCH REAL PROPERTY AS  
41 HAS ALREADY BEEN DEVOTED TO A PUBLIC USE, AND AS AN INCIDENT TO SUCH  
42 CONSENT, TO LEASE OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER AND CONVEY TO THE AUTHORITY ANY  
43 SUCH REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY UPON SUCH TERMS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY  
44 THE AUTHORITY AND ANY SUCH MUNICIPALITY. EVERY SUCH MUNICIPALITY ALSO IS  
45 AUTHORIZED AND EMPOWERED, AS AN INCIDENT TO SUCH CONSENT, TO VEST IN THE  
46 AUTHORITY THE CONTROL, POSSESSION, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, RENTS, CHARG-  
47 ES AND ANY AND ALL OTHER REVENUES OF ANY FACILITIES NOW OWNED BY ANY  
48 SUCH MUNICIPALITY, THE TITLE TO SUCH FACILITIES REMAINING IN SUCH MUNI-  
49 CIPALITY.

50 S 2681-G. EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION. 1. IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED THAT THE  
51 CREATION OF THE AUTHORITY AND THE CARRYING OUT OF ITS PURPOSES UNDER  
52 THIS TITLE ARE IN ALL RESPECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE  
53 STATE OF NEW YORK AND IS A PUBLIC PURPOSE. ACCORDINGLY, THE AUTHORITY  
54 SHALL BE REGARDED AS PERFORMING AN ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTION IN  
55 THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED UPON IT BY THIS TITLE, AND THE  
56 AUTHORITY SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PAY ANY FEES, TAXES, SPECIAL AD VALO-

1 REM LEVIES OR ASSESSMENTS OF ANY KIND, WHETHER STATE OR LOCAL, INCLUDING  
2 BUT NOT LIMITED TO FEES, TAXES, SPECIAL AD VALOREM LEVIES OR ASSESSMENTS  
3 ON REAL PROPERTY, FRANCHISE TAXES, SALES TAXES OR OTHER TAXES, UPON OR  
4 WITH RESPECT TO ANY PROPERTY OWNED BY IT OR UNDER ITS JURISDICTION,  
5 CONTROL OR SUPERVISION, OR UPON THE USES THEREOF, OR UPON OR WITH  
6 RESPECT TO ITS ACTIVITIES OR OPERATIONS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE POWERS  
7 CONFERRED UPON IT BY THIS TITLE, OR UPON OR WITH RESPECT TO ANY FARES,  
8 TOLLS, RENTALS, RATES, CHARGES, FEES, REVENUES OR OTHER INCOME RECEIVED  
9 BY THE AUTHORITY, EXCEPT THAT THE AUTHORITY SHALL PAY REAL PROPERTY  
10 TAXES, SPECIAL AD VALOREM LEVIES AND ASSESSMENTS ON THAT PART OF THE  
11 RAILROAD TRACKS AND PROPERTY OWNED BY THE COUNTY ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE  
12 OF THIS TITLE AND LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF SARATOGA, AND ON RAILROAD  
13 TRACKS AND PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN ON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
14 TITLE AND LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN.

15 2. NOTWITHSTANDING SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION, THE AUTHORITY OR  
16 ANY LESSEES OF THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PAY WATER AND SEWER  
17 FEES, WATER AND SEWER ASSESSMENTS OR WATER AND SEWER SPECIAL AD VALOREM  
18 LEVIES, EXCEPT THAT SUCH TAXING JURISDICTIONS WHERE THE AUTHORITY IS  
19 REQUIRED TO PAY REAL PROPERTY TAXES AND SPECIAL AD VALOREM LEVIES AND  
20 ASSESSMENTS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION.

21 3. THE AUTHORITY MAY PAY, OR MAY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH ANY MUNI-  
22 CIPALITY, INCLUDING SCHOOL DISTRICTS, TO PAY, A SUM OR SUMS ANNUALLY OR  
23 OTHERWISE OR TO PROVIDE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WITH RESPECT TO REAL PROP-  
24 erty OWNED BY THE AUTHORITY LOCATED WITHIN SUCH MUNICIPALITY.

25 S 2681-H. ADVANCES ON BEHALF OF AUTHORITY; TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TO  
26 AUTHORITY; ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY FOR AUTHORITY. 1. IN ADDITION TO ANY  
27 POWERS GRANTED TO IT BY LAW, THE COUNTY OR THE TOWN MAY BY RESOLUTION  
28 ADVANCE SUMS OF MONEY TO OR ON BEHALF OF THE AUTHORITY TO DEFRAY COSTS  
29 OR EXPENSES OF THE AUTHORITY TO BE INCURRED PRIOR TO THE FIRST ISSUANCE  
30 OF BONDS. SUBJECT TO THE RIGHTS OF ANY BONDHOLDERS, THE MONEYS SO APPRO-  
31 PRIATED MAY BE REPAID BY THE AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY OR THE TOWN AT SUCH  
32 TIME AND IN SUCH MANNER AS MAY BE AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE AUTHORITY AND  
33 THE COUNTY OR THE TOWN.

34 2. THE COUNTY OR THE TOWN OR ANY OTHER MUNICIPALITY ALONG THE CORINTH  
35 AND WARREN RAILROAD LINE MAY BY RESOLUTION GIVE, GRANT, SELL, CONVEY,  
36 LEND, OR LICENSE THE USE OF OR LEASE TO THE AUTHORITY ANY PROPERTY OR  
37 FACILITY WHICH IS USEFUL TO THE AUTHORITY IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT ITS  
38 POWERS UNDER THIS TITLE. ANY SUCH TRANSFER OF PROPERTY SHALL BE UPON  
39 SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS, SUBJECT TO THE RIGHTS OF ANY BONDHOLDERS, AS  
40 THE AUTHORITY AND THE COUNTY, THE TOWN OR THE MUNICIPALITY MAY AGREE.

41 3. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER LAW, GENERAL, SPECIAL,  
42 OR LOCAL, REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY THE AUTHORITY OR THE COUNTY OR THE  
43 TOWN FROM THE STATE MAY BE USED FOR ANY CORPORATE PURPOSE OF THE AUTHOR-  
44 ITY.

45 S 2681-I. NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM RIGHTS  
46 OF EMPLOYEES; CIVIL SERVICE. 1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF  
47 SECTION SEVENTY OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW, ANY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF A  
48 MUNICIPALITY TRANSFERRED TO THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH  
49 TRANSFER AND APPOINTMENT, WITHOUT FURTHER EXAMINATION, TO APPLICABLE  
50 OFFICES, POSITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE AUTHORITY. ANY SUCH OFFICERS  
51 OR EMPLOYEES SO TRANSFERRED TO THE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION,  
52 WHO ARE MEMBERS OF OR BENEFIT UNDER ANY EXISTING PENSION OR RETIREMENT  
53 FUND OR SYSTEM, SHALL CONTINUE TO HAVE ALL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, OBLI-  
54 GATIONS AND STATUS WITH RESPECT TO SUCH FUND OR SYSTEM AS ARE NOW  
55 PRESCRIBED BY LAW.



1 2. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS TITLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED (A) TO DIMINISH  
2 THE RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES PURSUANT TO A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT OR  
3 (B) TO AFFECT EXISTING LAW WITH RESPECT TO AN APPLICATION TO THE PUBLIC  
4 EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD SEEKING A DESIGNATION BY THE BOARD THAT  
5 CERTAIN PERSONS ARE MANAGERIAL OR CONFIDENTIAL.

6 S 2681-J. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. THE AUTHORITY SHALL ENSURE  
7 THAT ALL EMPLOYEES OR APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT ARE AFFORDED EQUAL  
8 OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION ON ANY BASIS PROHIBITED  
9 UNDER SUBDIVISION TWO OF SECTION FORTY-C OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAW.

10 S 2681-K. MONIES OF THE AUTHORITY. ALL MONIES OF THE AUTHORITY FROM  
11 WHATEVER SOURCE DERIVED SHALL BE PAID TO THE TREASURER OF THE AUTHORITY  
12 AND SHALL BE DEPOSITED FORTHWITH IN AN INTEREST-BEARING ACCOUNT IN A  
13 BANK OR BANKS DESIGNATED BY THE AUTHORITY. THE MONIES IN SUCH ACCOUNTS  
14 SHALL BE PAID OUT OR WITHDRAWN ON THE ORDER OF SUCH PERSON OR PERSONS AS  
15 THE AUTHORITY MAY AUTHORIZE TO MAKE SUCH REQUISITIONS. ALL DEPOSITS OF  
16 SUCH MONIES SHALL BE SECURED BY OBLIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OR OF  
17 THE STATE OR OF ANY MUNICIPALITY OF A MARKET VALUE EQUAL AT ALL TIMES TO  
18 THE AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT AND ALL BANKS AND TRUST COMPANIES ARE AUTHORIZED  
19 TO GIVE SUCH SECURITY FOR SUCH DEPOSITS. TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE,  
20 CONSISTENT WITH THE CASH REQUIREMENTS OF THE AUTHORITY, ALL SUCH MONIES  
21 SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN INTEREST-BEARING ACCOUNTS. ANY MONIES OF THE  
22 AUTHORITY NOT REQUIRED FOR IMMEDIATE USE OR DISBURSEMENT MAY, BE  
23 INVESTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION NINETY-EIGHT OR NINETY-EIGHT-A OF  
24 THE STATE FINANCE LAW.

25 S 2681-L. CONTRACTS. 1. ALL CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RECON-  
26 STRUCTION, REHABILITATION OR IMPROVEMENT OF BUILDINGS LET BY THE AUTHOR-  
27 ITY SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY OF  
28 THE LABOR LAW AND SHALL ALSO BE SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF LAW APPLI-  
29 CABLE TO CONTRACTS LET BY A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE  
30 PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE.

31 2. ALL CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION  
32 OR IMPROVEMENT OF BUILDINGS LET BY THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE IN CONFORMITY  
33 WITH THE APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF SECTION ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE OF THE  
34 STATE FINANCE LAW.

35 3. THE AUTHORITY MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, ASSIGN CONTRACTS FOR SUPER-  
36 VISION AND COORDINATION TO THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER FOR ANY SUBDIVISION OF  
37 WORK FOR WHICH THE AUTHORITY RECEIVES BIDS. ANY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT  
38 AWARDED BY THE AUTHORITY SHALL CONTAIN SUCH OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS  
39 AS THE AUTHORITY MAY DEEM DESIRABLE. THE AUTHORITY SHALL AWARD ANY  
40 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT INVOLVING AN EXPENDITURE OF MORE THAN THIRTY-FIVE  
41 THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE LOWEST BIDDER WHO, IN ITS OPINION, IS QUALIFIED  
42 TO PERFORM THE WORK REQUIRED AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE AND RELIABLE. THE  
43 AUTHORITY MAY, HOWEVER, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY  
44 IN A BID IF IT BELIEVES THAT THE PUBLIC INTEREST WILL BE PROMOTED THERE-  
45 BY. THE AUTHORITY MAY REJECT ANY BID, IF, IN ITS JUDGMENT, THE BUSINESS  
46 AND TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION, PLANT, RESOURCES, FINANCIAL STANDING, OR  
47 EXPERIENCE OF THE BIDDER JUSTIFIES SUCH REJECTION IN VIEW OF THE WORK TO  
48 BE PERFORMED.

49 4. FOR THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE FIFTEEN-A OF THE EXECUTIVE LAW ONLY,  
50 THE AUTHORITY SHALL BE DEEMED A STATE AGENCY AS THAT TERM IS USED IN  
51 SUCH ARTICLE, AND ALL CONTRACTS FOR PROCUREMENT, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION,  
52 SERVICES AND MATERIALS SHALL BE DEEMED STATE CONTRACTS WITHIN THE MEAN-  
53 ING OF THAT TERM AS SET FORTH IN SUCH ARTICLE.

54 S 2681-M. ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDIT. IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS  
55 OF SECTION FIVE OF ARTICLE TEN OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE ACCOUNTS OF THE  
56 AUTHORITY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE SUPERVISION OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AN

1 ANNUAL AUDIT SHALL BE PERFORMED BY AN INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC  
2 ACCOUNTANT. THE AUTHORITY SHALL ANNUALLY SUBMIT TO THE COUNTY LEGISLA-  
3 TURE, TOWN BOARD, GOVERNOR AND THE COMPTROLLER AND TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF  
4 THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ASSEMBLY WAYS  
5 AND MEANS COMMITTEE A DETAILED REPORT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF  
6 SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT HUNDRED OF THIS CHAPTER, AND A COPY OF SUCH REPORT  
7 SHALL BE FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AND THE CLERK OF  
8 THE TOWN BOARD.

9 S 2681-N. DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION. 1. THE AUTHORITY SHALL NOT  
10 EXECUTE ANY OF ITS POWERS EXCEPT AS NECESSARY TO COMMENCE ITS CORPORATE  
11 EXISTENCE, UNTIL IT HAS ELECTED TO MAKE THE PROVISION OF SECTION EIGH-  
12 TEEN OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW APPLICABLE TO ITS EMPLOYEES (AS SUCH  
13 TERM IS DEFINED IN SECTION EIGHTEEN OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW) PURSUANT  
14 TO SUBDIVISION TWO OF SUCH SECTION; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NOTHING  
15 CONTAINED WITHIN THIS SECTION SHALL BE DEEMED TO PERMIT THE AUTHORITY TO  
16 EXTEND THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION EIGHTEEN OF THE PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW  
17 UPON ANY INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.

18 2. NEITHER THE MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY, NOR THE COUNTY, THE TOWN, OR  
19 ANY MUNICIPALITY, OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE ACTING ON THE AUTHORITY'S BEHALF,  
20 WHILE ACTING WITHIN THE SCOPE OF HIS, HER OR ITS AUTHORITY, SHALL BE  
21 SUBJECT TO ANY PERSONAL LIABILITY RESULTING FROM THE CONSTRUCTION, MAIN-  
22 TENANCE OR OPERATION OF ANY OF THE PROPERTIES OF THE AUTHORITY OR FROM  
23 CARRYING OUT ANY OF THE POWERS EXPRESSLY GIVEN IN THIS TITLE; PROVIDED,  
24 HOWEVER, THAT THIS SHALL NOT BE HELD TO APPLY TO ANY INDEPENDENT  
25 CONTRACTOR.

26 S 2681-O. ACTION BY OR AGAINST THE AUTHORITY. 1. EXCEPT IN AN ACTION  
27 FOR WRONGFUL DEATH, NO ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING SHALL BE PROSECUTED  
28 OR MAINTAINED AGAINST THE AUTHORITY, ITS MEMBERS, OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES  
29 FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR DAMAGE TO REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY ALLEGED TO  
30 HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED BY REASON OF THE NEGLIGENCE, TORT OR WRONGFUL ACT OF  
31 THE AUTHORITY OR OF ANY MEMBER, OFFICER, AGENT OR EMPLOYEE THEREOF,  
32 UNLESS (A) NOTICE OF CLAIM SHALL HAVE BEEN MADE AND SERVED UPON THE  
33 AUTHORITY WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT SET BY AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION  
34 FIFTY-E OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, (B) IT SHALL APPEAR BY AND AS AN  
35 ALLEGATION IN THE COMPLAINT OR MOVING PAPERS THAT AT LEAST THIRTY DAYS  
36 HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE SERVICE OF SUCH NOTICE AND THAT ADJUSTMENT OR  
37 PAYMENT THEREOF HAS BEEN NEGLECTED OR REFUSED, AND (C) THE ACTION OR  
38 SPECIAL PROCEEDING SHALL BE COMMENCED WITHIN ONE YEAR AND NINETY DAYS  
39 AFTER THE HAPPENING OF THE EVENT UPON WHICH THE CLAIM IS BASED. AN  
40 ACTION AGAINST THE AUTHORITY FOR WRONGFUL DEATH SHALL BE COMMENCED IN  
41 ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICE OF CLAIM AND TIME LIMITATION PROVISIONS OF  
42 TITLE ELEVEN OF ARTICLE NINE OF THIS CHAPTER.

43 2. WHENEVER A NOTICE OF CLAIM IS SERVED UPON THE AUTHORITY, IT SHALL  
44 HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND AN EXAMINATION OF THE CLAIMANT RELATIVE TO THE  
45 OCCURRENCE AND EXTENT OF THE INJURIES OR DAMAGES FOR WHICH CLAIM IS  
46 MADE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION FIFTY-H OF THE GENER-  
47 AL MUNICIPAL LAW.

48 3. THE AUTHORITY SHALL HAVE POWER TO SETTLE OR ADJUST ALL CLAIMS IN  
49 FAVOR OF OR AGAINST THE AUTHORITY.

50 4. ANY ACTION OR PROCEEDING TO WHICH THE AUTHORITY OR THE PEOPLE OF  
51 THE STATE MAY BE PARTIES, IN WHICH ANY QUESTION ARISES AS TO THE VALIDI-  
52 TY OF THIS TITLE, SHALL BE PREFERRED OVER ALL OTHER CIVIL CAUSES OF  
53 ACTION OR CASES, EXCEPT ELECTION CAUSES OF ACTION OR CASES, IN ALL  
54 COURTS OF THE STATE AND SHALL BE HEARD AND DETERMINED IN PREFERENCE TO  
55 ALL OTHER CIVIL BUSINESS PENDING THEREIN EXCEPT ELECTION CAUSES, IRRE-  
56 SPECTIVE OF POSITION ON THE CALENDAR. THE SAME PREFERENCE SHALL BE

1 GRANTED UPON APPLICATION OF THE AUTHORITY OR ITS COUNSEL IN ANY ACTION  
2 OR PROCEEDING QUESTIONING THE VALIDITY OF THIS TITLE IN WHICH THE  
3 AUTHORITY MAY BE ALLOWED TO INTERVENE. THE VENUE OF ANY SUCH ACTION OR  
4 PROCEEDING SHALL BE LAID IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ANY OF THE PARTICIPAT-  
5 ING COUNTIES.

6 5. THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE PAID BY THE AUTHORITY UPON ANY JUDGMENT  
7 FOR WHICH IT IS LIABLE, SHALL BE THE RATE PRESCRIBED BY SECTION FIVE  
8 THOUSAND FOUR OF THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES.

9 6. ALL ACTIONS OR PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE AUTHORITY OF WHATEVER NATURE  
10 SHALL BE BROUGHT IN A SUPREME COURT IN THE COUNTY OR THE COUNTY OF SARA-  
11 TOGA.

12 S 2681-P. TRACK, BRIDGE, SIGNAL, STATION AND OTHER FACILITY OPERATION  
13 AND MAINTENANCE. THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND USE OF TRACK, BRIDGES,  
14 SIGNALS, FREIGHT STATIONS, PASSENGER STATIONS AND OTHER FACILITIES SHALL  
15 BE PUBLIC PURPOSES OF THE AUTHORITY, THE COUNTY AND THE TOWN. THE TOTAL  
16 COST TO THE AUTHORITY OF OPERATION, MAINTENANCE AND USE OF EACH TRACK,  
17 BRIDGE, SIGNAL, FREIGHT STATION, PASSENGER STATION AND OTHER FACILITY  
18 WITHIN THE COUNTY OR THE COUNTY OF SARATOGA AND SERVICED BY ONE OR MORE  
19 RAILROAD FACILITIES OF THE AUTHORITY OR CORPORATIONS, INCLUDING THE  
20 BUILDINGS, APPURTENANCES, PLATFORMS, LANDS AND APPROACHES INCIDENTAL OR  
21 ADJACENT THERETO, SHALL BE BORNE BY THE AUTHORITY. PROVIDED, THAT, NO  
22 PROVISION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE DEEMED TO PROHIBIT THE AUTHORITY FROM  
23 DELEGATING OR ASSIGNING THE DUTIES ASSIGNED TO THE AUTHORITY PURSUANT TO  
24 THIS SECTION AND THE COSTS THEREOF TO A THIRD PARTY OPERATOR OR COMMON  
25 CARRIER WHICH IS LICENSED, CLEARED OR OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED TO USE THE  
26 TRACK, BRIDGE, SIGNAL, STATION AND/OR OTHER FACILITY OPERATED AND MAIN-  
27 TAINED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

28 S 2681-Q. STATE, COUNTY, TOWN AND MUNICIPALITIES NOT LIABLE FOR OBLI-  
29 GATIONS OF THE AUTHORITY. 1. NEITHER THE STATE, THE COUNTY, THE TOWN,  
30 NOR ANY MUNICIPALITY OR PUBLIC CORPORATION SHALL BE LIABLE ON ANY BOND,  
31 NOTE OR OTHER OBLIGATION OF THE AUTHORITY, AND SUCH BONDS, NOTES OR  
32 OTHER OBLIGATIONS SHALL NOT BE DEBTS OF THE STATE, THE COUNTY, THE TOWN,  
33 NOR ANY MUNICIPALITY OR PUBLIC CORPORATION, AND SUCH BONDS, NOTES OR  
34 OTHER OBLIGATIONS SHALL CONTAIN A STATEMENT TO SUCH EFFECT.

35 2. NOTHING IN THIS TITLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO OBLIGATE THE STATE IN  
36 ANY WAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE AUTHOR-  
37 ITY.

38 S 2681-R. EFFECT OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS. INSOFAR AS THE PROVISIONS  
39 OF THIS TITLE ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER ACT,  
40 GENERAL OR SPECIAL, OR OF A COUNTY CHARTER, ANY LOCAL LAW, ORDINANCE OR  
41 RESOLUTION OF A MUNICIPALITY, THE PROVISIONS OF THIS TITLE SHALL BE  
42 CONTROLLING. NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE HELD TO SUPPLE-  
43 MENT OR OTHERWISE EXPAND THE POWERS OR DUTIES OF THE AUTHORITY OTHERWISE  
44 SET FORTH IN THIS TITLE.

45 S 2. The second undesignated paragraph of paragraph (d) of subdivision  
46 4 of section 14-k of the transportation law, as amended by chapter 75 of  
47 the laws of 2000, is amended to read as follows:

48 The commissioner shall request the project sponsors to furnish such  
49 information in writing as may be necessary. For the purposes of this  
50 section, the Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Steuben southern tier  
51 extension railroad authority shall be an authorized project sponsor.  
52 FURTHERMORE, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE CORINTH AND WARREN  
53 RAILROAD AUTHORITY SHALL BE AN AUTHORIZED PROJECT SPONSOR.

54 S 3. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part  
55 of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to  
56 be invalid and after exhaustion of all further judicial review, the

1 judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof,  
2 but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, para-  
3 graph, section or part of this act directly involved in the controversy  
4 in which the judgment shall have been rendered.

5 S 4. This act shall take effect immediately.