STATE OF NEW YORK

10716

IN ASSEMBLY

March 27, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to toll violations; and in relation to establishing the New York and New Jersey toll and fees reduction task force

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "End the Toll Trap: Real Relief for Drivers Act".

§ 2. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds cashless tolling is essential for transportation operations, but the fees assessed by public authorities for toll violations disproportionately burdens motorists who incur violations without knowing or through circumstances beyond their control; including but not limited to E-ZPass malfunction and billing errors. The legislature further finds administrative costs incurred by public authorities for the collection of toll payments should be shifted solely to repeat toll evaders. It is therefore the purpose of this act to require such fees to be based on the collecting authority's actual cost of both processing and collecting fees from repeat offenders, provide increased transparency, and to coordinate with the state of New Jersey to identify efficiencies to reduce fees at bi-state crossings.

§ 3. Subdivision 12 of section 2985 of the public authorities law, as added by chapter 379 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as follows:

12. **(a)** "Electronic toll collection system" shall mean a system of collecting tolls or charges which is capable of charging an account holder the appropriate toll or charge by transmission of information from an electronic device on a motor vehicle to the toll lane, which information is used to charge the account the appropriate toll or charge. In adopting procedures for the preparation and mailing of a notice of liability, the public authority having jurisdiction over the toll facility shall adopt guidelines to ensure adequate and timely notice to all electronic toll collection system account holders to inform them when their accounts are delinquent. An owner who is an

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

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account holder under the electronic toll collection system shall not be found liable for a violation of this section unless such authority has first sent a notice of delinquency to such account holder and the account holder was in fact delinquent at the time of the violation.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule or regulation, no fee, charge, or assessment imposed by a public authority in connection with a notice of violation issued pursuant to this article, other than the underlying toll due, shall be assessed unless the owner has committed three or more toll violations within a ninety day period.

§ 4. Subdivision 5 of section 2985-a of the public authorities law, as added by section 2 of subpart B of part WW of chapter 56 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

5. **(a)** Any fee or administrative violation fee that is assessed on a notice of violation pursuant to subdivision four of this section shall be dismissed if the notice of violation was not sent within ninety days of the second toll bill, provided that any toll or tolls incurred remain due and payable and provided further that such dismissal shall not apply in the event that exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to technological failures, have delayed the timely mailing of the notice of violation and the public authority has posted notice of such circumstances prominently on its website within a reasonable time of becoming aware of such circumstances, which shall be adequate record of such circumstances.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule or regulation, no fee, charge, or assessment imposed by a public authority in connection with a notice of violation issued pursuant to this article, other than the underlying toll due, shall be assessed unless the owner has committed three or more toll violations within a ninety-day period. Any fee, charge or assessment authorized by this paragraph shall be established by the public authority, and shall be based upon the actual cost of processing and collecting all toll violations in the prior calendar year divided by the number of motorists who committed three or more toll violations within a ninety day period in the prior calendar year.

§ 5. Section 2800 of the public authorities law is amended by adding a new subdivision 2-a to read as follows:

2-a. Authorities which collect tolls. (a) Every public authority which collect tolls from motorists shall submit an annual report to the legislature. Such report shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) the number of violations of the toll collection monitoring system regulations that occurred in the past year;

(ii) the frequency of toll violations per individual;

(iii) total revenue collected in the past year from repeat violators pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision twelve of section twenty-nine hundred eighty-five of this article;

(iv) a year-to-year comparison of the number of toll violations and frequency of toll violations per individual for the past five years; and

(v) an explanation of the administrative costs of processing a toll and a toll violation.

(b) The first report shall be due one year after the effective date of this subdivision.

§ 6. New York and New Jersey toll and fees reduction task force.

1. There is established a task force to be known as the "New York and New Jersey Toll and Fees Reduction Task Force" to examine and evaluate the efficacy of current payment processing procedures and systems, and

to provide recommendations to increase efficacy and reduce tolls and administrative fees.

2. (a) The task force shall be comprised of 12 members, six of whom shall be appointed by the state of New York and six of whom shall be appointed by the state of New Jersey. Of the members appointed by the state of New York:

(i) Two shall be appointed by the governor;

(ii) One shall be appointed by the temporary president of the senate;

(iii) One shall be appointed by the senate minority leader;

(iv) One shall be appointed by the speaker of the assembly; and

(v) One shall be appointed by the assembly minority leader.

(b) Individuals appointed to the task force shall possess expertise in one or more of the following fields: transportation, tolling operation and enforcement, traffic engineering, procurement processes, information technology systems, public finance, and data analysis.

(c) The task force shall be co-chaired by one member appointed by each state, elected by the members appointed by each respective state.

(d) The task force shall meet no more than six months after the appointment of all members pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subdivision, at which meeting the co-chairs shall be elected, and shall meet once each month thereafter. Three members appointed by each state shall be sufficient to establish a quorum. A simple majority of those members voting on a question shall be sufficient for the conducting of business, except that the final report required by subdivision five of this section shall be approved for release by no fewer than seven votes in the affirmative.

(e) Members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in the work of the task force by the state of their appointment.

3. The task force shall:

(a) identify inefficiencies in the tolling process and methods for reduction in costs;

(b) consider and provide recommendations for an amnesty program to be implemented in New York or New Jersey;

(c) identify the impact of congestion pricing on motorists; and

(d) research and recommend methods for shifting the cost burden of toll violations away from occasional or inadvertent violators and onto intentional, repeat violators.

4. (a) The task force may establish advisory committees as it deems appropriate on matters relating to the task force's functions, powers, and duties. Such committees shall be chaired by a task force member, but may be composed of task force members as well as other individuals selected by the task force to provide expertise of interest specific to the charge of such committees.

(b) The task force may request that studies, surveys, or analyses relating to the task force's powers and duties be performed by any state department, commission, agency, or public authority, or by any department, commission, agency, or public authority within the state of New Jersey, to the extent permitted by New Jersey state law. All state departments, commissions, agencies, or public authorities shall provide information and advice in a timely manner and otherwise assist the task force with its work; provided, however, any information obtained pursuant to this paragraph shall be kept confidential and shall only be used by members of the task force in the course of their tasks and duties as a task force member.

5. The task force shall, no later than two years after the date of its first meeting, provide a final report to the governor, the legislature, and the governor and legislature of the state of New Jersey, of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations, including but not limited to any legislative proposals deemed necessary by the task force to implement the recommendations.

§ 7. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, sections four and six of this act shall take effect upon the enactment into law by the state of New Jersey of legislation having an identical effect with this act, but if the state of New Jersey shall have already enacted such legislation, this act shall take effect immediately; provided that the state of New Jersey shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the occurrence of the enactment of the legislation provided for in section one of this act in order that the commission may maintain an accurate and timely effective data base of the official text of the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effectuating the provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the public officers law. Any rights or remedies granted to an individual pursuant to this act prior to the expiration and repeal of this act shall not be affected by such expiration.