S T A T E  O F  N E W  Y O R K

1850

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N  A S S E M B L Y

January 12, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. NOLAN, MARKEY -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. COLTON, COOK, DINOWITZ, GLICK, PHEFFER, WRIGHT -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to establishing an advisory committee on fare policies of the metropolitan transportation authority

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

Section 1. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section 1269-e to read as follows:

S 1269-E. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FARE POLICIES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY. 1. THERE IS HEREBY CREATED THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY FARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON OPTIONS FOR FARES AND FARE POLICIES USING SYSTEMS OF AUTOMATED FARE COLLECTION ON THE FACILITIES OF THE OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES OF THE AUTHORITY. THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF TWELVE MEMBERS TO BE APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS: THREE SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, THREE SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, TWO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE TEMPORARY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND ONE BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE, TWO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND ONE BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY. SUCH COMMITTEE SHALL, TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF TRANSIT RIDERS, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, LABOR AND CIVIC GROUPS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE CONCERNED WITH TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES BUT SHALL BE REIMBURSED FOR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES. THE COMMITTEE SHALL SELECT A CHAIRPERSON FROM ITS MEMBERSHIP. THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AS OFTEN AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY AND SHALL EXPIRE ON THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER TWO THOUSAND TWELVE.

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

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2. THE AUTHORITY SHALL CONVENE THE COMMITTEE ON AT LEAST A QUARTERLY BASIS TO PRESENT TO THE COMMITTEE: (A) THE STATUS OF ITS EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT AND COMPLETE AUTOMATION OF FARE COLLECTION AT ITS OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES; (B) FARE POLICY OPTIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE AUTHORITY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: ELIMINATION OF MULTIPLE FARE ZONES, UNLIMITED-RIDE TIME-BASED TRANSIT PASSES, DISCOUNTS FOR RIDERS TRANSFERRING AMONG FACILITIES OF THE AUTHORITY, MULTIPLE-RIDE DISCOUNTS, PEAK AND OFF-PEAK FARE PRICING, AND BETTER INTEGRATION OF THE FACILITIES OF THE AUTHORITY'S OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES; (C) DATA ON (I) THE POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL IMPACT OF FARE POLICY OPTIONS ON LEVELS OF RIDERSHIP AND THE FINANCES OF THE OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES OF THE AUTHORITY AND ON THE AIR QUALITY, ECONOMY, AND PATTERNS OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC MOBILITY AND ACCIDENT RATES IN THE NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN REGION; (II) THE RESULTS OF ANY EFFORTS TO GAUGE PUBLIC OR RIDER RESPONSE TO FARE POLICY OPTIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO OPINION POLLS, PUBLIC FORUMS, AND FOCUS GROUPS; AND (III) PILOT FARE POLICY PROJECTS OR EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED BY THE AUTHORITY OR ITS OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES; (D) PLANS AND PROGRAMS TO DISTRIBUTE AND MARKET FARE MEDIA, INCLUDING TRANSIT PASSES; AND (E) SUCH OTHER INFORMATION AS THE AUTHORITY DEEMS RELEVANT TO THE COMMITTEE.

3. TO EFFECTUATE THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMITTEE MAY REQUEST FROM THE AUTHORITY, ITS OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES, THE OFFICE OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY INSPECTOR GENERAL AND THE STATE DEPARTMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND TRANSPORTATION SUCH COOPERATION AS WILL ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS HEREUNDER, AND THEY ARE AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO PROVIDE SAID COOPERATION, ASSISTANCE, SERVICE AND DATA. THE AUTHORITY SHALL RESPOND IN A REASONABLE AND TIMELY MANNER TO REQUESTS BY THE COMMITTEE TO: (A) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE PRESENTATIONS REQUIRED UNDER SUBDIVISION TWO OF THIS SECTION; (B) CONDUCT ANALYSES ON THE IMPACTS, RISKS AND BENEFITS OF FARE POLICY OPTIONS ON LEVELS OF RIDERSHIP AND THE FINANCES OF THE OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES OF THE AUTHORITY, AND ON THE AIR QUALITY, ECONOMY, AND PATTERNS OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC MOBILITY AND ACCIDENT RATES IN THE NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN REGION; AND (C) SUCH OTHER REQUESTS AS THE COMMITTEE DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

4. THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT IN WRITING TO ITS APPOINTING AUTHORITIES AND TO THE CHAIR AND BOARD OF THE AUTHORITY, AT LEAST ONCE ANNUALLY, ITS COMMENTS RELATED TO FARE POLICY OPTIONS FOR THE AUTHORITY. SUCH REPORTS MAY INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREFERRED FARE POLICY OPTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ABOUT EXISTING POLICIES OF THE AUTHORITY, AND WHETHER ANY ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENTAL SUBSIDIARIES ARE NEEDED TO SUPPORT ANY FARE POLICY OPTIONS. SUCH REPORTS SHALL BE MADE PUBLIC.

5. THE COMMITTEE MAY HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FORUMS IN EXERCISING ITS FUNCTIONS. THE AUTHORITY SHALL ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN HOLDING SUCH HEARINGS OR FORUMS.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.