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

5131

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N A S S E M B L Y

February 10, 2009

Introduced by M. of A. V. LOPEZ -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the transportation law, in relation to providing free transportation for elderly persons on certain public transportation systems and making an appropriation therefor

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

Section 1. Subdivision 1 of section 18-b of the transportation law, as amended by chapter 921 of the laws of 1983, is amended to read as follows:

1. Within the amounts made available therefor by appropriation, a statewide mass transportation operating assistance program is hereby established for the purpose of making payments toward the operating expenses of public transportation systems. For the purposes of this section, the term public transportation system shall mean any public benefit [corportion] CORPORATION constituting a transportation authority which provides or contracts for the provision of (under joint support arrangements) mass transportation services, or a subsidiary thereof, or any Indian tribe which provides or any county or city which provides or contracts for the provision of (pursuant to section one hundred nineteen-r of the general municipal law) mass transportation services or any person, firm or corporation performing intercity bus passenger service as defined in subdivision three of section fourteen-g of this article serving two or more counties within the state which is under contract with the commissioner pursuant to such section fourteen-g to provide mass transportation services. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, NO STATE APPROPRIATION FOR MASS TRANSPORTATION OPERATING ASSISTANCE SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE AND PAID TO A PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WHICH DOES NOT PROVIDE FREE TRANSPORTATION, WITHOUT TIME RESTRICTIONS, TO PASSENGERS WHO ARE SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR OVER.

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

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S 2. In the event that a public transportation system is unable to implement and effectuate the fare reduction as provided in section one of this act on or after the effective date of this act, the commissioner of transportation may grant a reasonable extension or extensions to such public transportation system in order to comply with such fare reduction provisions upon good cause shown by such public transportation system. Notwithstanding any contrary provision of law, no public transportation system shall be ineligible for operating assistance during such extension period.

S 3. (a) The sum of twenty-four million dollars ($24,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to the commissioner of transportation from any moneys in the state treasury in the general fund to the credit of the state purposes account not otherwise appropriated for services and expenses of such commissioner for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act. Such sum shall be payable on the audit and warrant of the state comptroller on vouchers certified or approved by the commissioner of transportation, or his or her duly designated representative in the manner provided by law. No expenditure shall be made from this appropriation until a certificate of approval of availability shall have been issued by the director of the budget and filed with the state comptroller and a copy filed with the chair of the senate finance committee and the chair of the assembly ways and means committee. Such certificate may be amended from time to time by the director of the budget and a copy of each such amendment shall be filed with the state comptroller, the chair of the senate finance committee and the chair of the assembly ways and means committee.

(b) The commissioner of transportation shall allocate the moneys hereby appropriated as follows:

Ten million dollars to public transportation systems in New York city.

Twelve million dollars to public transportation systems providing interstate bus service.

Two million dollars to public transportation systems providing local and inner city bus service.

S 4. This act shall take effect on the first of September next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.