

5278

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

May 3, 2011

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Introduced by Sen. CARLUCCI -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law, in relation to the election by certain counties to withdraw from the metropolitan commuter transportation district; and in relation to permitting the county of Putnam to make such election

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

1     Section 1. Section 1279-b of the public authorities law, as added by  
2 chapter 669 of the laws of 1986, the opening paragraph of subdivision 1,  
3 the opening paragraph of paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 and subdivisions  
4 3 and 5 as amended by chapter 670 of the laws of 1986, is amended to  
5 read as follows:  
6     S 1279-b. Transition--election to withdraw from the metropolitan  
7 commuter transportation district. 1. The counties of Dutchess, Orange,  
8 PUTNAM and Rockland shall have an option to withdraw from the metropol-  
9 itan commuter transportation district and have such withdrawal take  
10 effect on either: (a) [January] APRIL first, [nineteen hundred eighty-  
11 seven] TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN. If any such county plans to withdraw from  
12 the district on [January] APRIL first, [nineteen hundred eighty-seven]  
13 TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN, it shall (i) no later than seventy-five days  
14 after the effective date of this section, furnish the commissioner of  
15 transportation, and chairman of the authority and the other counties  
16 which have an option to withdraw, a resolution adopted by the county  
17 legislature providing notice of intent to withdraw, (ii) on or before  
18 [October] JANUARY first, [nineteen hundred eighty-six] TWO THOUSAND  
19 TWELVE, furnish to the commissioner of transportation, the chairman of  
20 the authority and other counties which have an option to withdraw, a  
21 resolution adopted by the county legislature providing for a public  
22 transportation plan. For the purposes of this section, a "public trans-  
23 portation plan" shall mean a plan that maintains adequate and continuous

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

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1 public transportation services from the withdrawing county to the city  
2 of New York or any terminus previously served, provides a reasonable  
3 level of rail passenger service, provides a schedule for implementing  
4 such service, protects the public investment in the rail transportation  
5 system and any other criteria deemed necessary by the commissioner of  
6 transportation. SUCH PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT  
7 BE LIMITED TO, AN AGREEMENT BY WHICH SUCH COUNTY SHALL BE ENTITLED TO  
8 LEASE THE FACILITIES AND SERVICES COMPRISING SUCH RAIL TRANSPORTATION  
9 SYSTEM AT FAIR MARKET VALUE AND UNDER SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS TO BE  
10 DETERMINED AS SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION SIX OF THIS SECTION. Prior to  
11 withdrawal pursuant to this paragraph or paragraph (b) of this subdivi-  
12 sion, a county must receive approval of its public transportation plan  
13 pursuant to paragraph (c) of this subdivision, (iii) on or before Decem-  
14 ber fifteenth, [nineteen hundred eighty-six] TWO THOUSAND TWELVE,  
15 furnish the commissioner of transportation, a copy of an agreement with  
16 the authority or an operator of rail passenger service for the provision  
17 of rail passenger service to and from such county and the city of New  
18 York or any terminus previously served. IF SUCH AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN  
19 CONCLUDED BY THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES, AND A PARTY HAS EXERCISED ITS  
20 RIGHTS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION SIX OF THIS SECTION, THE APPROVAL OF THE  
21 COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED AND THE AGREEMENT  
22 OR ORDER SET FORTH IN SUBDIVISION SIX OF THIS SECTION, SHALL DETERMINE  
23 THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH WITHDRAWAL.

24 If a county planning to withdraw on [January] APRIL first, [nineteen  
25 hundred eighty-seven] TWO THOUSAND THIRTEEN is unable to withdraw  
26 because it could not meet the requirements of this paragraph, it may  
27 elect to withdraw pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subdivision hereaft-  
28 er.

29 (b) January first, [nineteen hundred eighty-eight] TWO THOUSAND FOUR-  
30 TEEN or January first, [nineteen hundred eighty-nine] TWO THOUSAND  
31 FIFTEEN. If any such county plans to withdraw on either January first,  
32 [nineteen hundred eighty-eight] TWO THOUSAND FOURTEEN or January first,  
33 [nineteen hundred eighty-nine] TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN, it shall (i) no  
34 later than ninety days after the first of January of the year immedi-  
35 ately preceding the year in which such county plans to withdraw from the  
36 district, furnish the commissioner of transportation, the chairman of  
37 the authority and the other counties which have an option to withdraw, a  
38 resolution adopted by the county legislature providing notice of intent  
39 to withdraw from the district, (ii) no later than one hundred twenty  
40 days after the first of January of the year immediately preceding the  
41 year in which such county plans to withdraw from the district furnish to  
42 the commissioner of transportation, the chairman of the authority and  
43 the counties which have an option to withdraw a resolution adopted by  
44 the county legislature providing a public transportation plan as  
45 described in this section, (iii) on or before October first of the year  
46 immediately preceding the year in which such county plans to withdraw  
47 from the district, furnish to the commissioner a copy of an agreement  
48 with the authority or an operator of rail passenger service for the  
49 provision of rail passenger service to and from such county and the city  
50 of New York or any terminus previously served. IF SUCH AGREEMENT HAS  
51 NOT BEEN CONCLUDED BY THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES, AND A PARTY HAS EXERCISED  
52 ITS RIGHTS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION SIX OF THIS SECTION, THE APPROVAL OF  
53 THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED AND THE AGREE-  
54 MENT OR ORDER SET FORTH IN SUCH SUBDIVISION SIX SHALL DETERMINE THE  
55 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH WITHDRAWAL.

1 (c) No later than thirty days after receipt of the public transporta-  
2 tion plan the commissioner of transportation shall, in writing, either  
3 approve such plan as conforming with the requirements heretofore  
4 described or disapprove such plan as failing to meet such requirements  
5 and the reasons therefor. Disapproval of a plan shall not prohibit a  
6 county from resubmitting a public transportation plan and such resubmit-  
7 ted plan shall be approved or disapproved no later than fifteen days  
8 after receipt by the commissioner of transportation. The public trans-  
9 portation plan shall be subject to any state or federal public hearing  
10 requirements which the authority would be subject to if the authority  
11 made the changes proposed by such plan.

12 (d) Any such county which plans to withdraw from the district must  
13 meet the requirements of this section prior to the effective date of  
14 withdrawal, and no withdrawal for the purposes of this section shall  
15 take effect unless such county furnishes the resolutions and agreement  
16 prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

17 2. The authority and any subsidiary corporation of the authority shall  
18 enter into an agreement or agreements with a county that plans to with-  
19 draw from the district to transfer and assign to such county all author-  
20 ity and subsidiary railroad facilities and operations, rights and obli-  
21 gations, and contract rights and obligations, including operating  
22 contract rights and obligations, which are owned, operated, maintained  
23 or used directly or by contract or which are otherwise involved in the  
24 provision of railroad services to such counties. Such agreement shall  
25 provide, in the event a facility, operation, right or obligation is  
26 necessary and material to the provision of rail passenger service in the  
27 district or is not assignable under applicable bond covenants or  
28 contracts or the parties agree that it should not be assigned, that the  
29 authority or subsidiary thereof shall continue to hold and be responsi-  
30 ble for such facility, operation, right or obligation and that such  
31 county shall reimburse to the authority that portion of the cost to the  
32 authority or subsidiary of its retention of such facility, operation,  
33 right or obligation that is allocable [to] WITHIN such county. If the  
34 parties agree that the authority or subsidiary thereof shall operate the  
35 railroad facilities in a county after the effective date of such coun-  
36 ty's withdrawal, the agreement also shall provide for the terms and  
37 conditions of the operation of such service.

38 3. Within forty-five days of the effective date of this section, the  
39 authority and any subsidiary corporation of the authority shall provide  
40 to the counties of Dutchess, Orange, PUTNAM and Rockland a written  
41 statement, including cost estimates and the useful life, if any, of all  
42 of its facilities, operations, rights and obligations relating to the  
43 provision of rail service in such counties.

44 4. The authority and any subsidiary corporation of the authority is  
45 authorized to enter into an agreement or agreements with a county that  
46 plans to withdraw from the district, pursuant to which the authority or  
47 subsidiary thereof will provide technical assistance to such county  
48 prior to, during and after the withdrawal, with respect to the transfer  
49 of ownership, operation, maintenance and use of railroad facilities  
50 within such county. Such agreement may provide that the county reimburse  
51 the authority or its subsidiary for the cost to the authority and its  
52 subsidiary for the provision of such technical assistance.

53 5. The authority shall have no obligation to undertake or continue any  
54 project or part thereof in a current or future capital program plan  
55 which pertains to railroad facilities within or services to a county  
56 that withdraws from the district on or after such date of withdrawal nor

1 shall the authority enter into any contract for a project or part there-  
2 of which would increase liabilities pursuant to subdivision [six] SIX-A  
3 of this section in a county after such county notifies the authority of  
4 its intent to withdraw as provided in subdivision one of this section,  
5 provided, however, that if the authority has executed a contract for the  
6 effectuation of a project or part thereof in a capital program plan in  
7 such county, it shall be assigned to such county in accordance with  
8 subdivision two of this section, unless the parties agree that it shall  
9 not be assigned and that the authority or its subsidiary shall continue  
10 to be responsible therefor, in which event the county shall reimburse  
11 the authority or its subsidiary in accordance with the provisions of  
12 subdivision two of this section.

13 6. SHOULD THE COUNTIES OF DUTCHESS, ORANGE, PUTNAM OR ROCKLAND SEEK TO  
14 WITHDRAW FROM THE DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, ANY SUCH COUNTY AND  
15 THE AUTHORITY, AND/OR, IF APPROPRIATE ANY SUBSIDIARY CORPORATION OF THE  
16 AUTHORITY SHALL NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH ANY AGREEMENT REQUIRED BY THIS  
17 SECTION FOR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE DISTRICT. SUCH NEGOTIATIONS SHALL  
18 COMMENCE NOT LATER THAN FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
19 PLAN PREPARED BY ANY SUCH COUNTY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY SUCH COUNTY TO  
20 THE AUTHORITY, AND/OR, IF APPROPRIATE, A SUBSIDIARY AUTHORITY. IN NO  
21 EVENT SHALL A COUNTY BE REQUIRED TO NEGOTIATE WITH BOTH THE AUTHORITY  
22 AND A SUBSIDIARY AUTHORITY. THE NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED BY AND THE  
23 ACTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY OR SUBSIDIARY AUTHORITY SHALL BE BINDING. IF  
24 AFTER SIXTY DAYS FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS OR AT ANY  
25 TIME THEREAFTER THE AUTHORITY OR ANY SUBSIDIARY CORPORATION OF THE  
26 AUTHORITY AND A COUNTY ARE UNABLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT REQUIRED BY THIS  
27 SECTION FOR SUCH WITHDRAWAL, EITHER PARTY MAY MAKE APPLICATION TO A  
28 JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT PRESIDING IN THE COUNTIES OF DUTCHESS,  
29 ORANGE, PUTNAM OR ROCKLAND FOR APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL REFEREE. EACH  
30 PARTY SHALL SUBMIT TO THE JUSTICE A LIST CONTAINING THE NAMES AND QUALI-  
31 FICATIONS OF FIVE PERSONS TO SERVE AS SPECIAL REFEREE. THE JUSTICE SHALL  
32 SELECT ONE PERSON FROM AMONG THE NAMES SUBMITTED BY THE PARTIES TO SERVE  
33 AS SPECIAL REFEREE. THE SPECIAL REFEREE SHALL MEDIATE THE NEGOTIATIONS  
34 FOR WITHDRAWAL FOR A PERIOD OF NO LONGER THAN SIXTY DAYS. IF, AT THE END  
35 OF SAID SIXTY DAY PERIOD, THE PARTIES ARE NOT ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT,  
36 THE SPECIAL REFEREE SHALL, WITHIN THIRTY DAYS THEREAFTER, RECOMMEND THE  
37 TERMS OF THE WITHDRAWAL TO THE JUSTICE. THE JUSTICE SHALL REVIEW THE  
38 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REFEREE AND THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES THEREON  
39 AND SHALL ISSUE AN ORDER SETTING FORTH THE TERMS OF THE WITHDRAWAL.  
40 NOTWITHSTANDING THE ENTRY OF SUCH ORDER, A COUNTY SHALL HAVE FIFTEEN  
41 DAYS FROM THE ENTRY OF SUCH ORDER TO TERMINATE SUCH PROCEEDING. UPON THE  
42 TIMELY EXERCISE OF SUCH RIGHT TO TERMINATE, SUCH PROCEEDING SHALL BE  
43 DEEMED NULL AND VOID AND OF NO FURTHER EFFECT. IF A COUNTY HAS NOT EXER-  
44 CISED ITS RIGHT TO TERMINATE, SAID ORDER SHALL BE SUBJECT TO APPELLATE  
45 REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIVIL PRACTICE LAW AND RULES, PROVIDED  
46 THAT ANY APPEAL FROM THE ORDER SHALL BE GRANTED EXPEDITED STATUS.

47 6-A. Any county which withdraws from the district shall reimburse to  
48 the authority or its subsidiary, within the time period agreed to by the  
49 parties, any capital expenditures heretofore undertaken by the authority  
50 or its subsidiary for railroad facilities only within such county which  
51 were financed by commuter railroad revenue bonds issued by the metropol-  
52 itan transportation authority pursuant to section twelve hundred sixty-  
53 nine of this [article] TITLE and are assigned to such county in accord-  
54 ance with the provisions of subdivision two of this section.

55 [7.] 6-B. The obligations of a county that withdraws from the district  
56 to reimburse the authority and any subsidiary corporation of the author-

ity for the costs of operation, maintenance and use of passenger stations pursuant to section twelve hundred seventy-seven of this [article] TITLE, shall continue for any such costs incurred up to the effective date of the county's withdrawal from the district and for costs incurred thereafter that result from acts preceding such withdrawal, and the applicability of the payment provisions and procedures of such section twelve hundred seventy-seven to such county shall continue thereafter with respect to the aforesaid costs.

[8.] 7. In the event of a county's failure to make payment of any monies determined by the authority to be owed and due it or any subsidiary corporation of the authority pursuant to the terms of any agreement entered into pursuant to this section, the authority is authorized to recover such payments in the same manner as in section twelve hundred seventy-seven of this [article] TITLE and the state comptroller shall withhold and pay monies to the authority in accordance with the procedures set forth in that section.

8. THE AUTHORITY SHALL MAKE PAYMENT TO THE COUNTY THAT WITHDRAWS FOR THE DIFFERENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF SERVICES RECEIVED FROM THE AUTHORITY AND MONIES PAID BY THE COUNTY TO THE AUTHORITY, THIS PAYMENT SHALL BE EXTRAPOLATED OVER THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF WITHDRAWAL. IF THE AUTHORITY FAILS TO MAKE SUCH PAYMENT TO THE COUNTY, THE AMOUNT OWED SHALL BE WITHHELD BY THE STATE COMPTROLLER FROM THE AUTHORITY AND THE MONIES SHALL BE PAID TO THE COUNTY.

9. The term of office of any resident of a county that withdraws from the district under this section, as a member of the board of the authority, the Metro-North rail commuter council or the management advisory board, which is based upon residence in such county, shall terminate upon the county's withdrawal and the office shall be deemed vacant and filled in the manner provided by law.

10. The provisions of this section and all agreements undertaken in accordance herewith shall be subject to the rights of the holders of any outstanding bonds or notes issued by the authority.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.