

3773

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

February 14, 2013

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

AN ACT to amend the transportation law, the state finance law, the tax law and the public authorities law, in relation to programs that promote and protect the safety of truck drivers in New York state

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

1     Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as "Jason's Law".  
2     S 2. Legislative intent. The legislature finds and declares that there  
3     is a great need to provide truck drivers with safe places to rest while  
4     waiting for pending appointments or to comply with federal hours of  
5     service regulations. Federal law requires motor carrier operators to  
6     rest for a period of ten hours after driving for eleven consecutive  
7     hours. Federal law further prohibits motor carrier operators from driv-  
8     ing more than sixty hours over a seven day period. These requirements  
9     are only exacerbating the shortage of safe parking areas for motor  
10    carriers, forcing many drivers to park in desolate, poorly lit areas  
11    with little or no security. Many shippers and receivers of freight do  
12    not allow truckers into their facilities until just before their sched-  
13    uled appointment time and insist that they leave promptly once delivery  
14    is complete. It is imperative that the legislature address the current  
15    shortage of long-term parking for commercial motor vehicles to ensure  
16    the personal safety and security of those who transport goods and  
17    provide essential services for the people of the state of New York.  
18    S 3. The transportation law is amended by adding a new section 140-a  
19    to read as follows:  
20    S 140-A. MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY AND SECURITY REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM. 1.  
21    THE COMMISSIONER SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY AND  
22    SECURITY REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOANS TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS  
23    TO MAKE SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADES ON THEIR FACILITIES FOR THE  
24    PURPOSES DESIGNATED IN THIS SECTION. SUCH PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE INTEREST

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

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1 FREE LOANS TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR SUCH SAFETY AND SECURITY IMPROVE-  
2 MENT PROJECTS AS THE COMMISSIONER SHALL DEEM TO BE ELIGIBLE PURSUANT TO  
3 THIS SECTION.

4 2. STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF A LOAN MAY BE PROVIDED,  
5 SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION BY THE LEGISLATURE, TO RECIPIENTS FOR ELIGIBLE  
6 PROJECTS AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION. ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AWARDED  
7 SHALL BE PROVIDED FROM THE MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY AND SECURITY REVOLVING  
8 LOAN FUND ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION NINETY-NINE-U OF THE STATE  
9 FINANCE LAW.

10 3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS SHALL MEAN OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF PRIVATE REST  
11 AREAS, TRUCK STOPS, TRAVEL PLAZAS, AND ANY OTHER FACILITY WHICH PROVIDES  
12 MOTOR CARRIERS WITH A SAFE PLACE TO REST WHILE WAITING FOR SCHEDULED  
13 APPOINTMENTS AND/OR COMPLYING WITH FEDERAL HOURS OF SERVICE REGULATIONS.

14 4. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS SHALL INCLUDE: (A) THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION  
15 OF NEW SECURITY SYSTEMS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALARMS AND VIDEO  
16 SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT; (B) THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OR  
17 IMPROVED LIGHTING EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE ENHANCED VISIBILITY IN PARKING  
18 AREAS; (C) HIRING OR OTHERWISE MAINTAINING SECURITY GUARDS THAT PROVIDE  
19 REGULAR PATROLS OF THE ENTIRE FACILITY; (D) THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW  
20 PARKING FACILITIES; AND (E) UPGRADING AND IMPROVING EXISTING PARKING  
21 FACILITIES.

22 5. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE  
23 PURPOSE OF CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING ESTAB-  
24 LISHING: (A) AN APPLICATION PROCESS WHEREBY ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MAY  
25 APPLY FOR LOANS; (B) CRITERIA AND STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING AN APPLI-  
26 CANT'S ELIGIBILITY FOR A LOAN; (C) CRITERIA AND STANDARDS TO BE USED IN  
27 DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED TO EACH  
28 APPLICANT; AND (D) CRITERIA AND STANDARDS TO BE USED IN DETERMINING THE  
29 LOAN REPAYMENT PERIODS AND THE TERMS OF REPAYMENT AGREEMENTS.

30 6. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT APPLICANTS  
31 WHO HAVE RECEIVED TAX CREDITS PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION FORTY-SIX OF  
32 SECTION TWO HUNDRED TEN OF THE TAX LAW FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE MOTOR  
33 CARRIER SAFETY AND SECURITY REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM OFFERED UNDER THIS  
34 SECTION.

35 S 4. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-u to  
36 read as follows:

37 S 99-U. MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY AND SECURITY REVOLVING LOAN FUND. 1.  
38 THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED IN THE JOINT CUSTODY OF THE STATE COMP-  
39 TROLLER AND THE COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION AND FINANCE A SPECIAL FUND TO  
40 BE KNOWN AS THE MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY AND SECURITY REVOLVING LOAN FUND.

41 2. SUCH FUND SHALL CONSIST OF ALL MONIES APPROPRIATED FOR ITS PURPOSE,  
42 ALL MONIES TRANSFERRED TO SUCH FUND PURSUANT TO LAW AND ALL MONIES  
43 REQUIRED TO BE PAID INTO OR CREDITED TO THIS FUND, INCLUDING ALL MONIES  
44 RECEIVED BY THE FUND OR DONATED TO IT, AND PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL ON LOANS  
45 MADE FROM THE FUND.

46 3. MONIES OF THE FUND, WHEN ALLOCATED, SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE  
47 COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROVIDE LOANS PURSUANT TO SECTION ONE  
48 HUNDRED FORTY-A OF THE TRANSPORTATION LAW.

49 S 5. Section 210 of the tax law is amended by adding two new subdivi-  
50 sions 46 and 47 to read as follows:

51 46. CREDIT FOR PROVIDING A SAFE HARBOR FOR MOTOR CARRIERS. (A) FOR  
52 TAXABLE YEARS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO THOUSAND FOUR-  
53 TEEN, A QUALIFYING TAXPAYER SHALL BE ALLOWED A CREDIT AGAINST ANY TAX  
54 DUE UNDER THIS ARTICLE IN AN AMOUNT OF TWENTY PERCENT.

55 (B) (1) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, A "QUALIFYING TAXPAYER"  
56 ALLOWED A CREDIT SHALL MEAN A TAXPAYER ENGAGED IN THE SHIPPING AND/OR

1 RECEIVING OF ANY COMMODITIES VIA A MOTOR CARRIER, OR AN INDIVIDUAL,  
2 EITHER OF WHICH PROVIDES QUALIFYING MOTOR CARRIERS SERVICES AT THEIR  
3 FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE A SECURE AREA IN WHICH SUCH MOTOR CARRIERS MAY  
4 WAIT FOR PENDING APPOINTMENTS OR TO COMPLY WITH FEDERAL HOURS OF SERVICE  
5 REGULATIONS.

6 (2) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, A "QUALIFYING MOTOR CARRIER"  
7 SHALL MEAN A MOTOR CARRIER THAT IS NOT EMPLOYED BY THE TAXPAYER OR A  
8 COMPANY OR CORPORATION THAT IS AFFILIATED WITH THE TAXPAYER.

9 (C) QUALIFYING TAXPAYERS WHO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE SUCH CREDIT FOR  
10 PROVIDING SAFE HARBOR FOR MOTOR CARRIERS SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR INJURY  
11 OR DEATH TO ANY PERSON OR FOR ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE OCCURRING ON OR AT THE  
12 FACILITY PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH TAXPAYER SHALL NOT BE PROTECTED  
13 FROM LIABILITY CAUSED BY THE INTENTIONAL, WILLFUL, AND RECKLESS MISCON-  
14 DUCT OF SUCH TAXPAYER.

15 47. CREDIT FOR SECURITY UPGRADES AND PARKING IMPROVEMENTS AT REST  
16 AREAS. (A) FOR TAXABLE YEARS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JANUARY FIRST, TWO  
17 THOUSAND FOURTEEN, A QUALIFYING TAXPAYER SHALL BE ALLOWED A CREDIT  
18 AGAINST ANY TAX DUE UNDER THIS ARTICLE IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO FIFTY  
19 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE PURCHASE, INSTALLATION AND/OR  
20 MAINTENANCE OF A QUALIFYING PROJECT OR PROJECTS THAT ARE INTENDED TO  
21 IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF FACILITIES OPERATED BY QUALIFYING  
22 TAXPAYERS.

23 (B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION A "QUALIFYING TAXPAYER" SHALL  
24 MEAN OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF PRIVATE REST AREAS, TRUCK STOPS, TRAVEL  
25 PLAZAS AND ANY OTHER FACILITY WHICH PROVIDES MOTOR CARRIERS WITH A SAFE  
26 PLACE TO REST WHILE WAITING FOR SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS AND/OR COMPLYING  
27 WITH FEDERAL HOURS OF SERVICE REGULATIONS.

28 (C) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBDIVISION, A "QUALIFYING PROJECT" INCLUDES  
29 THE FOLLOWING:

30 (1) THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW SECURITY SYSTEMS, INCLUDING  
31 BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALARMS AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT;

32 (2) THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OR IMPROVED LIGHTING EQUIP-  
33 MENT TO PROVIDE ENHANCED VISIBILITY IN PARKING AREAS;

34 (3) HIRING OR OTHERWISE MAINTAINING SECURITY GUARDS THAT PROVIDE REGU-  
35 LAR PATROLS OF THE ENTIRE FACILITY;

36 (4) THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PARKING FACILITIES; AND

37 (5) UPGRADING AND IMPROVING EXISTING PARKING FACILITIES.

38 (D) NOTHING IN THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT TAXPAY-  
39 ERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING THROUGH THE MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY AND SECU-  
40 RITY REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FROM BEING ELIGIBLE FOR THE TAX CREDIT  
41 OFFERED IN THIS SECTION.

42 S 6. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section 389  
43 to read as follows:

44 S 389. "BULL PEN" DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM. 1. THE COMMISSIONER SHALL  
45 INITIATE A PROGRAM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL REST AREAS FOR  
46 COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVERS ALONG THE NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY.

47 2. IN PURSUING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH FACILITIES THE COMMISSIONER  
48 SHALL WORK IN CONSULTATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEW YORK TRUCKING  
49 INDUSTRY TO ASSESS POTENTIAL SITE OPTIONS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON ADAPTIVE  
50 REUSE AND/OR MODIFICATION OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL FACILI-  
51 TIES TO MAXIMIZE THE AVAILABILITY OF REST AREA SERVICES IN THE MOST COST  
52 EFFECTIVE MANNER POSSIBLE.

53 3. IN CONCERT WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED INVENTORYING AND PLANNING  
54 EFFORTS, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL INITIATE A DEMONSTRATION BULL PEN PILOT  
55 PROJECT WHICH SHALL TEST THE AFFORDABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF DEVELOP-  
56 ING DEDICATED PARKING FACILITIES AS A LOW COST OPTION FOR OFFERING SAFE

1 HARBOR FOR TRUCK DRIVERS IN NEW YORK STATE. SUCH FACILITIES SHALL BE  
2 EQUIPPED WITH FENCING, SECURITY CAMERAS, GATED ENTRANCES, ELECTRIC HOOK-  
3 UPS FOR POWERING APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT IN INDIVIDUAL TRUCK CABINS AND  
4 TRUCK DRIVER SLEEPER QUARTERS AND LIMITED LAVATORY ACCOMMODATIONS. IN  
5 PURSUING SUCH FACILITIES, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CONSIDER THE POTENTIAL  
6 FOR UTILIZING E-ZPASS TECHNOLOGY AS A MEANS FOR ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY  
7 AND SECURITY.

8 S 7. This act shall take effect immediately.