

STATE OF NEW YORK

1509--A

Cal. No. 280

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 12, 2021

Introduced by Sens. MAY, O'MARA -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the transportation law, in relation to the interagency coordinating committee on rural public transportation; and to amend the social services law, in relation to the transportation of eligible persons residing in a rural area

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

1 Section 1. Section 73-d of the transportation law, as amended by chap-
2 ter 562 of the laws of 1987, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 672 of
3 the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:
4 § 73-d. Interagency coordinating committee on rural public transporta-
5 tion. 1. There is hereby created a committee to be known as the "inter-
6 agency coordinating committee on rural public transportation", to be
7 comprised of nineteen members. The commissioner or his or her designee
8 shall serve as chairperson. Twelve of such members shall be the follow-
9 ing or his or her duly designated representative: the director of the
10 office for the aging; the commissioner of education; the commissioner of
11 labor; the commissioner of health; the commissioner of the office of
12 mental health; the commissioner of the office of addiction services and
13 supports; the commissioner of the office for people with developmental
14 disabilities; the commissioner of [~~social services; state advocate for~~
15 ~~the disabled~~] the office for temporary and disability assistance; the
16 executive director of the New York state justice center for the
17 protection of people with special needs; secretary of state; the commis-
18 sioner of agriculture and markets[~~; the director of the office of rural~~
19 ~~affairs~~] and the [~~director of the division for youth~~] commissioner of
20 the office of children and family services. Six additional members,
21 [~~all~~] five of whom shall be transportation providers or consumers

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

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1 representing rural counties and one of whom shall be a representative of
2 a labor union affiliated with rural public transportation systems
3 receiving mass transportation operating assistance pursuant to section
4 eighteen-b of this chapter, shall be appointed to serve a term of three
5 years as follows: two by the temporary president [~~pro-tempore~~] of the
6 senate, two by the speaker of the assembly, one by the minority leader
7 of the senate, and one by the minority leader of the assembly. Efforts
8 shall be made to provide a broad representation of consumers and provid-
9 ers of transportation services in rural counties when making such
10 appointments. Members of the committee shall receive no salary. Any
11 vacancies on the committee shall be filled in the manner provided for in
12 the initial appointment. Beginning January first, two thousand twenty-
13 two, the committee shall meet at least once every three months and,
14 beginning January first, two thousand twenty-four, the committee shall
15 meet at least once every four months.

16 The commissioner shall cause the department to provide staff assist-
17 ance necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the commit-
18 tee.

19 2. The committee shall:

20 a. identify programs and the annual amounts and sources of funds from
21 such programs that are eligible to be used to support a coordinated
22 public transportation service, and the annual amounts and sources of
23 such funds that are actually used for client transportation or for
24 transportation of persons in connection with agency-affiliated programs
25 or services; such data shall be provided on a county basis;

26 b. identify restrictions on existing programs that inhibit funds from
27 such programs being used to pay for a coordinated public transportation
28 service in rural counties;

29 c. recommend changes in state or local laws or regulations that would
30 improve the coordination of funds, facilities, vehicles or equipment and
31 other resources used for transportation at the local level;

32 d. upon request, compile and forward to the commissioner any data or
33 other information required by this section;

34 e. conduct a study, in consultation with the department, of the avail-
35 ability of public transportation services in rural counties. Such study
36 shall identify, examine and review the following: the efficiency, effec-
37 tiveness, quality and availability of public transportation services in
38 rural counties; the current and projected operating and capital costs,
39 revenues, subsidies, and ridership and service area data of each public
40 transportation system operating within rural counties; the barriers and
41 financial challenges to providing and operating public transportation
42 services in rural counties; and the demographics of the populations
43 which have, and those which lack, access to public transportation
44 services in rural counties. Such study shall include findings and recom-
45 mendations to expand the level and availability of public transportation
46 services in rural counties. On or before January first, two thousand
47 twenty-three, the committee shall deliver such study to the governor,
48 the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and
49 the chairs of the senate and assembly transportation committees; and

50 f. beginning June first, two thousand twenty-four and on the same date
51 in each succeeding year, submit an annual report to the governor, the
52 temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, and the
53 chairs of the senate and assembly transportation committees on the level
54 and availability of public transportation services in rural counties.

55 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.