STATE OF NEW YORK

9239

IN ASSEMBLY

February 22, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. SOLAGES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to direct the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to provide discounted monthly passes to college and career education students for the purpose of commuting to and from classes

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

Section 1. a. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority ("the Authority") shall extend the provisions of its Monthly Tickets for Schools program providing discounted monthly transportation passes to include students utilizing the Long Island Railroad and the Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company to commute to attend post-secondary education classes at qualified colleges, universities and career education schools. The extension of the program shall be known as the College and Career Education Partnership Program.

b. In order to qualify for the the College and Career Education Partnership Program, a college, university or career education school must:

(i) be accredited by the New York State Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education or accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association accepted as such by the regents of the state of New York;

(ii) make application to the Authority to be added to the list of colleges, universities and career education schools approved for the program; and

(iii) upon notification of Authority approval, provide access through its official website for full-time college and career education students attending the college, university or career education school to register through their website for the reduced fee passes.

c. A qualifying college may be a community college.

d. Any full-time student attending a qualifying college, university or career education school may purchase the reduced fare pass. A student in their final term prior to graduating from a qualifying college, univer-

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

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sity or career education school shall qualify to purchase the reduced fare pass, even if such student is not carrying a full-time course load.

e. Passes issued through the College and Career Education Partnership Program shall offer a minimum monthly discount of 25% off the full-price cost of a monthly pass for students.

f. The College and Career Education Partnership Program shall be implemented by the Authority prior to the commencement of the 2024-2025 school year and shall apply to that school year and all subsequent school years. The Authority shall not pay any costs or expenses related to the reduced fare program from its operating or capital budgets and may only implement the reduced fare program with funds appropriated to it by the State of New York for such purpose.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.