STATE OF NEW YORK

1708

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 13, 2023

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- 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 requiring a safety briefing of Metro-North commuter railroad passengers to be conducted at certain times

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

Section 1. The public authorities law is amended by adding a new section 1279-j to read as follows:

§ 1279-j. Safety briefing of passengers plan; implementation on Metro-North commuter railroad. The authority is hereby authorized and directed to implement a safety briefing of passengers plan not later than January first, two thousand twenty-five, for the benefit of persons utilizing transportation and other related services of the Metro-North commuter railroad. Such program shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for the following:

1. Before initial departure of each train carrying passengers, and periodically thereafter, at the discretion of the authority at stations where the greatest number of passengers board the train, the conductor, or the conductor's designee, shall immediately communicate live and/or by recorded, visual and/or audio images:

(a) Evacuation procedures;

(b) Location and means for opening the passenger entry doors and emergency exits;

(c) Location of first aid and survival equipment;

(d) Location and operation of fire extinguishers.

In the event of a disaster or emergency, the conductor, or the conductor's designee shall communicate the safety briefing message as often as necessary to ensure passenger safety.

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

LBD03430-01-3

2. The briefings required by subdivision one of this section may be delivered by means of an approved recording playback device that is audible to each passenger under normal noise levels.

3. The training of conductors, trainmen and other designated employees in emergency techniques and procedures, interoperable communications, handling and positioning of stricken commuters, and knowledge of procedures and equipment used during evacuation procedures.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.