

STATE OF NEW YORK

20

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 4, 2023

Introduced by Sens. GOUNARDES, CLEARE, GIANARIS, KAVANAGH, RAMOS -- 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 membership on the board of the metropolitan transportation authority

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

1 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 1263 of the
2 public authorities law, as amended by chapter 549 of the laws of 1994
3 and subparagraph 1 as amended by section 1 of part E of chapter 39 of
4 the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:
5 (a) (1) There is hereby created the "metropolitan transportation
6 authority." The authority shall be a body corporate and politic consti-
7 tuting a public benefit corporation. The authority shall consist of a
8 [~~chairman~~] chairperson, [~~sixteen~~] twenty other voting members, and [~~two~~]
9 three non-voting [~~and four alternate non-voting members~~], as described
10 in subparagraph two of this paragraph appointed by the governor by and
11 with the advice and consent of the senate. Any member appointed to a
12 term commencing on or after June thirtieth, two thousand nine shall have
13 experience in one or more of the following areas: transportation, public
14 administration, business management, finance, accounting, law, engineer-
15 ing, land use, urban and regional planning, management of large capital
16 projects, labor relations, or have experience in some other area of
17 activity central to the mission of the authority. Four of the [~~sixteen~~]
18 twenty voting members other than the [~~chairman~~] chairperson shall be
19 appointed on the written recommendation of the mayor of the city of New
20 York; one of the twenty voting members other than the chairperson shall
21 be appointed on the written recommendation of the New York city transit
22 authority advisory council; one of the twenty voting members other than
23 the chairperson shall be appointed on the written recommendation of the

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

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1 Metro-North rail commuter council; one of the twenty voting members
2 other than the chairperson shall be appointed on the written recommenda-
3 tion of the Long Island Rail Road commuter's council; one of the twenty
4 voting members other than the chairperson shall be appointed on the
5 written recommendation of the MTA New York city transit's paratransit
6 advisory committee's selection committee; and each of seven other voting
7 members other than the [~~chairman~~] chairperson shall be appointed after
8 selection from a written list of three recommendations from the chief
9 executive officer of the county in which the particular member is
10 required to reside pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision. Of
11 the members appointed on recommendation of the chief executive officer
12 of a county, one such member shall be, at the time of appointment, a
13 resident of the county of Nassau, one a resident of the county of
14 Suffolk, one a resident of the county of Westchester, one a resident of
15 the county of Dutchess, one a resident of the county of Orange, one a
16 resident of the county of Putnam and one a resident of the county of
17 Rockland, provided that the term of any member who is a resident of a
18 county that has withdrawn from the metropolitan commuter transportation
19 district pursuant to section twelve hundred seventy-nine-b of this title
20 shall terminate upon the effective date of such county's withdrawal from
21 such district. Of the five voting members, other than the [~~chairman~~]
22 chairperson, appointed by the governor without recommendation from any
23 other person, three shall be, at the time of appointment, residents of
24 the city of New York and two shall be, at the time of appointment, resi-
25 dents of such city or of any of the aforementioned counties in the
26 metropolitan commuter transportation district. Provided however,
27 notwithstanding the foregoing residency requirement, one of the five
28 voting members appointed by the governor without recommendation from any
29 other person, other than the [~~chairman~~] chairperson, may be the director
30 of the New York state division of the budget, and provided further that,
31 in the event of such appointment, the budget director's membership in
32 the authority shall be deemed ex-officio. The [~~chairman~~] chairperson and
33 each of the members shall be appointed for a term of six years, provided
34 however, that the [~~chairman~~] chairperson first appointed shall serve for
35 a term ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred eighty-one, provided that
36 thirty days after the effective date of the chapter of the laws of two
37 thousand nine which amended this subparagraph, the term of the [~~chair-~~
38 ~~man~~] chairperson shall expire; provided, further, that such [~~chairman~~]
39 chairperson may continue to discharge the duties of his or her office
40 until the position of [~~chairman~~] chairperson is filled by appointment by
41 the governor upon the advice and consent of the senate and the term of
42 such new [~~chairman~~] chairperson shall terminate June thirtieth, two
43 thousand fifteen. The [~~sixteen~~] twenty other members first appointed
44 shall serve for the following terms: The members from the counties of
45 Nassau and Westchester shall each serve for a term ending June thirti-
46 eth, nineteen hundred eighty-five; the members from the county of
47 Suffolk and from the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam and Rockland
48 shall each serve for a term ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred
49 ninety-two; two of the members appointed on recommendation of the mayor
50 of the city of New York shall each serve for a term ending June thirti-
51 eth, nineteen hundred eighty-four and, two shall each serve for a term
52 ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred eighty-one; two of the members
53 appointed by the governor without the recommendation of any other person
54 shall each serve for a term ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred
55 eighty-two, two shall each serve for a term ending June thirtieth, nine-
56 teen hundred eighty and one shall serve for a term ending June thirti-

1 eth, nineteen hundred eighty-five; the member appointed by the governor
2 on recommendation of the New York city transit authority advisory coun-
3 cil shall serve for a term ending June thirtieth, two thousand twenty-
4 seven; the member appointed by the governor on recommendation of the
5 Metro-North rail commuter council shall serve for a term ending June
6 thirtieth, two thousand twenty-seven; the member appointed by the gover-
7 nor on recommendation of the Long Island Rail Road commuter's council
8 shall serve for a term ending June thirtieth, two thousand twenty-seven;
9 and the member appointed by the governor on recommendation of the MTA
10 New York city transit's paratransit advisory committee selection commit-
11 tee's shall serve for a term ending June thirtieth, two thousand twen-
12 ty-seven. [~~The two non voting and four alternate non voting members~~
13 ~~shall serve until January first, two thousand one.~~] The members from the
14 counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam and Rockland shall cast one collec-
15 tive vote.

16 (2) There shall be [~~two~~] three non-voting members [~~and four alternate~~
17 ~~non-voting members~~] of the authority, as referred to in subparagraph one
18 of this paragraph.

19 The first non-voting member shall be [~~a regular mass transit user of~~
20 ~~the facilities of the authority and be recommended to the governor by~~
21 ~~the New York city transit authority advisory council. The first alter-~~
22 ~~enate non voting member shall be a regular mass transit user of the~~
23 ~~facilities of the authority and be recommended to the governor by the~~
24 ~~Metro-North commuter council. The second alternate non-voting member~~
25 ~~shall be a regular mass transit user of the facilities of the authority~~
26 ~~and be recommended to the governor by the Long Island Rail Road~~
27 ~~commuter's council.~~

28 ~~The second non-voting member shall be~~] recommended to the governor by
29 the labor organization representing the majority of employees of the
30 Long Island Rail Road. The [~~third alternate~~] second non-voting member
31 shall be recommended to the governor by the labor organization repres-
32 enting the majority of employees of the New York city transit authority.
33 The [~~fourth alternate~~] third non-voting member shall be recommended to
34 the governor by the labor organization representing the majority of
35 employees of the Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company. The [~~chairman~~]
36 chairperson of the authority, at his or her direction, may exclude
37 [~~such~~] any non-voting member [~~or alternate non voting member~~]
38 from attending any portion of a meeting of the authority or of any committee
39 established pursuant to paragraph (b) of subdivision four of this
40 section held for the purpose of discussing negotiations with labor
41 organizations.

42 [~~The non voting member and the two alternate non voting members~~
43 ~~representing the New York city transit authority advisory council,~~
44 ~~the Metro-North commuter council, and the Long Island Rail Road~~
45 ~~commuter's council shall serve eighteen month rotating terms, after~~
46 ~~which time an alternate non voting member shall become the non voting~~
47 ~~member and the rotation shall continue until each alternate member has~~
48 ~~served at least one eighteen month term as a non voting member. The~~
49 ~~other non voting member and alternate non voting members representing~~
50 ~~the New York city transit authority, Metro-North Commuter Railroad~~
51 ~~Company, and the Long Island Rail Road labor organizations shall serve~~
52 ~~eighteen month rotating terms, after which time an alternate non voting~~
53 ~~member shall become the non voting member and the rotation shall contin-~~
54 ~~ue until each alternate member has served at least one eighteen month~~
55 ~~term as a non-voting member. The transit authority and the commuter~~

~~1 railroads shall not be represented concurrently by the two non-voting
2 members during any such eighteen month period.]~~

3 § 2. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 1263 of the public
4 authorities law, as amended by section 2 of part E of chapter 39 of the
5 laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

6 (a) There is hereby created the "metropolitan transportation authori-
7 ty." The authority shall be a body corporate and politic constituting a
8 public benefit corporation. The authority shall consist of a [~~chairman~~
9 chairperson and [~~sixteen~~ twenty other members appointed by the governor
10 by and with the advice and consent of the senate. Any member appointed
11 to a term commencing on or after June thirtieth, two thousand nine shall
12 have experience in one or more of the following areas of expertise:
13 transportation, public administration, business management, finance,
14 accounting, law, engineering, land use, urban and regional planning,
15 management of large capital projects, labor relations, or have experi-
16 ence in some other area of activity central to the mission of the
17 authority. Four of the [~~sixteen~~ twenty members other than the [~~chair-~~
18 ~~man~~ chairperson shall be appointed on the written recommendation of the
19 mayor of the city of New York; one of the twenty voting members other
20 than the chairperson shall be appointed on the written recommendation of
21 the New York city transit authority advisory council; one of the twenty
22 voting members other than the chairperson shall be appointed on the
23 written recommendation of the Metro-North rail commuter council; one of
24 the twenty voting members other than the chairperson shall be appointed
25 on the written recommendation of the Long Island Rail Road commuter's
26 council; one of the twenty voting members other than the chairperson
27 shall be appointed on the written recommendation of the MTA New York
28 city transit's paratransit advisory committee's selection committee; and
29 each of seven other members other than the [~~chairman~~ chairperson shall
30 be appointed after selection from a written list of three recommenda-
31 tions from the chief executive officer of the county in which the
32 particular member is required to reside pursuant to the provisions of
33 this subdivision. Of the members appointed on recommendation of the
34 chief executive officer of a county, one such member shall be, at the
35 time of appointment, a resident of the county of Nassau; one a resident
36 of the county of Suffolk; one a resident of the county of Westchester;
37 and one a resident of the county of Dutchess, one a resident of the
38 county of Orange, one a resident of the county of Putnam and one a resi-
39 dent of the county of Rockland, provided that the term of any member who
40 is a resident of a county that has withdrawn from the metropolitan
41 commuter transportation district pursuant to section twelve hundred
42 seventy-nine-b of this title shall terminate upon the effective date of
43 such county's withdrawal from such district. Of the five members, other
44 than the [~~chairman~~ chairperson, appointed by the governor without
45 recommendation from any other person, three shall be, at the time of
46 appointment, residents of the city of New York and two shall be, at the
47 time of appointment, residents of such city or of any of the aforemen-
48 tioned counties in the metropolitan commuter transportation district.
49 Provided however, notwithstanding the foregoing residency requirement,
50 one of the five voting members appointed by the governor without recom-
51 mendation from any other person, other than the [~~chairman~~ chairperson,
52 may be the director of the New York state division of the budget, and
53 provided further that, in the event of such appointment, the budget
54 director's membership in the authority shall be deemed ex-officio. The
55 [~~chairman~~ chairperson and each of the members shall be appointed for a
56 term of six years, provided however, that the [~~chairman~~ chairperson

1 first appointed shall serve for a term ending June thirtieth, nineteen
2 hundred eighty-one, provided that thirty days after the effective date
3 of the chapter of the laws of two thousand nine which amended this para-
4 graph, the term of the [~~chairman~~] chairperson shall expire; provided,
5 further, that such [~~chairman~~] chairperson may continue to discharge the
6 duties of his or her office until the position of [~~chairman~~] chairperson
7 is filled by appointment by the governor upon the advice and consent of
8 the senate and the term of such new [~~chairman~~] chairperson shall termi-
9 nate June thirtieth, two thousand fifteen. The [~~sixteen~~] twenty other
10 members first appointed shall serve for the following terms: The members
11 from the counties of Nassau and Westchester shall each serve for a term
12 ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred eighty-five; the members from
13 the county of Suffolk and from the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam
14 and Rockland shall each serve for a term ending June thirtieth, nineteen
15 hundred ninety-two; two of the members appointed on recommendation of
16 the mayor of the city of New York shall each serve for a term ending
17 June thirtieth, nineteen hundred eighty-four and, two shall each serve
18 for a term ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred eighty-one; two of
19 the members appointed by the governor without the recommendation of any
20 other person shall each serve for a term ending June thirtieth, nineteen
21 hundred eighty-two, two shall each serve for a term ending June thirti-
22 eth, nineteen hundred eighty and one shall serve for a term ending June
23 thirtieth, nineteen hundred eighty-five; the member appointed by the
24 governor on recommendation of the New York city transit authority advi-
25 sory council shall serve for a term ending June thirtieth, two thousand
26 twenty-seven; the member appointed by the governor on recommendation of
27 the Metro-North rail commuter council shall serve for a term ending June
28 thirtieth, two thousand twenty-seven; the member appointed by the gover-
29 nor on recommendation of the Long Island Rail Road commuter's council
30 shall serve for a term ending June thirtieth, two thousand twenty-seven;
31 and the member appointed by the governor on recommendation of the MTA
32 New York city transit's paratransit advisory committee's selection
33 committee shall serve for a term ending June thirtieth, two thousand
34 twenty-seven. The members from the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam
35 and Rockland shall cast one collective vote.

36 § 3. Subdivision 2 of the section 1263 of the public authorities law,
37 as amended by chapter 55 of the laws of 1992, is amended to read as
38 follows:

39 2. The [~~chairman~~] chairperson and the first vice [~~chairman~~] chair-
40 person shall be paid a salary in the amount determined by the authority;
41 the other members shall not receive a salary or other compensation. Each
42 member, including the [~~chairman~~] chairperson and the first vice [~~chair-
43 man] chairperson, shall be entitled to reimbursement for actual and
44 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his or her official
45 duties.~~

46 § 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 1263 of the public
47 authorities law, as amended by chapter 506 of the laws of 2009, is
48 amended to read as follows:

49 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the [~~chair-~~
50 man] chairperson shall be the chief executive officer of the authority
51 and shall be responsible for the discharge of the executive and adminis-
52 trative functions and powers of the authority. The [~~chairman~~] chair-
53 person may appoint an executive director and such other officials and
54 employees as shall in his or her judgment be needed to discharge the
55 executive and administrative functions and powers of the authority.

1 § 5. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of section 1263 of the public
2 authorities law, as amended by section 1 of chapter 425 of the laws of
3 2018, is amended to read as follows:

4 (b) The [~~chairman~~] chairperson shall establish committees to assist
5 him or her in the performance of his or her duties and shall appoint
6 members of the authority to such committees. Among such committees,
7 there shall be a committee on operations of the New York city transit
8 authority, the Manhattan and Bronx surface transit operating authority
9 and the Staten Island rapid transit operating authority; a committee on
10 operations of the Long Island Rail Road and the metropolitan suburban
11 bus authority; a committee on operations of the Metro-North commuter
12 railroad; a committee on operations of the Triborough bridge and tunnel
13 authority; a committee on finance; a committee on capital program over-
14 sight; and a committee on safety. In addition to such appointed members,
15 each of the non-voting members referred to in subparagraph two of para-
16 graph (a) of subdivision one of this section shall serve on the commit-
17 tee on capital program oversight, the committee on finance, the commit-
18 tee on safety, the committee on operations of the Triborough bridge and
19 tunnel authority, and the operations committee relevant to the commuter
20 council that recommended such member. [~~The alternate non-voting members~~
21 ~~shall each serve on the respective operations committee relevant to the~~
22 ~~commuter council that recommended each member.~~] The committee on capital
23 program oversight and the committee on safety shall include not less
24 than three members, and shall include the chairpersons of the committee
25 on operations of the New York city transit authority, the Manhattan and
26 Bronx surface transit operating authority and the Staten Island rapid
27 transit operating authority, the committee on operations of the Long
28 Island Rail Road and the metropolitan suburban bus authority, and the
29 committee on operations of the Metro-North commuter railroad. The
30 committee on safety shall convene at least once annually and each
31 committee chairperson, that is a member of the committee on safety,
32 shall report to the committee on safety any and all initiatives,
33 concerns, improvements, or failures involving the safety of: (1) custom-
34 ers; (2) employees; and (3) the public at large, in relation to authori-
35 ty facilities and services. The capital program committee shall, with
36 respect to any approved or proposed capital program plans, (i) monitor
37 the current and future availability of funds to be utilized for such
38 plans approved or proposed to be submitted to the metropolitan transpor-
39 tation capital program review board as provided in section twelve
40 hundred sixty-nine-b of this title; (ii) monitor the contract awards of
41 the metropolitan transportation authority and the New York city transit
42 authority to insure that such awards are consistent with (A) provisions
43 of law authorizing United States content and New York state content; (B)
44 collective bargaining agreements; (C) provisions of law providing for
45 participation by minority and women-owned businesses; (D) New York state
46 labor laws; (E) competitive bidding requirements including those regard-
47 ing sole source contracts; and (F) any other relevant requirements
48 established by law; (iii) monitor the award of contracts to determine if
49 such awards are consistent with the manner in which the work was tradi-
50 tionally performed in the past provided, however, that any such determi-
51 nation shall not be admissible as evidence in any arbitration or judi-
52 cial proceeding; (iv) review the relationship between capital
53 expenditures pursuant to each such capital program plan and current and
54 future operating budget requirements; (v) monitor the progress of capi-
55 tal elements described in each capital program plan approved as provided
56 in section twelve hundred sixty-nine-b of this title; (vi) monitor the

1 expenditures incurred and to be incurred for each such element; and
2 (vii) identify capital elements not progressing on schedule, ascertain
3 responsibility therefor and recommend those actions required or appro-
4 priate to accelerate their implementation. The capital program committee
5 shall issue a quarterly report on its activities and findings, and shall
6 in connection with the preparation of such quarterly report, consult
7 with the state division of the budget, the state department of transpor-
8 tation, the members of the metropolitan transportation authority capital
9 program review board and any other group the committee deems relevant,
10 including public employee organizations, and, at least annually, with a
11 nationally recognized independent transit engineering firm. Such report
12 shall be made available to the members of the authority, to the members
13 of the metropolitan transportation authority capital program review
14 board, and the directors of the municipal assistance corporation for the
15 city of New York.

16 § 6. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of section 1263 of the public
17 authorities law, as amended by section 2 of chapter 425 of the laws of
18 2018, is amended to read as follows:

19 (b) The [~~chairman~~] chairperson shall establish committees to assist
20 him or her in the performance of his or her duties and shall appoint
21 members of the authority to such committees. Among such committees,
22 there shall be a committee on operations of the New York city transit
23 authority, the Manhattan and Bronx surface transit operating authority
24 and the Staten Island rapid transit operating authority; a committee on
25 operations of the Long Island Rail Road and the metropolitan suburban
26 bus authority; a committee on operations of the Metro-North commuter
27 railroad; a committee on operations of the Triborough bridge and tunnel
28 authority; a committee on finance; a committee on capital program over-
29 sight; and a committee on safety. The committee on capital program over-
30 sight shall include not less than four members, and shall include the
31 chairpersons of the committee on operations of the New York city transit
32 authority, the Manhattan and Bronx surface transit operating authority
33 and the Staten Island rapid transit operating authority, the committee
34 on operations of the Long Island Rail Road and the metropolitan suburban
35 bus authority, the committee on operations of the Metro-North commuter
36 railroad, and the committee on safety. The committee on safety shall
37 convene at least once annually and each committee chairperson, that is a
38 member of the committee on safety, shall report to the committee on
39 safety any and all initiatives, concerns, improvements, or failures
40 involving the safety of: (1) customers; (2) employees; and (3) the
41 public at large, in relation to authority facilities and services. The
42 capital program committee shall, with respect to any approved or
43 proposed capital program plans, (i) monitor the current and future
44 availability of funds to be utilized for such plans approved or proposed
45 to be submitted to the metropolitan transportation capital program
46 review board as provided in section twelve hundred sixty-nine-b of this
47 title; (ii) monitor the contract awards of the metropolitan transpor-
48 tation authority and the New York city transit authority to insure that
49 such awards are consistent with (A) provisions of law authorizing United
50 States content and New York state content; (B) collective bargaining
51 agreements; (C) provisions of law providing for participation by minori-
52 ty and women-owned businesses; (D) New York state labor laws; (E)
53 competitive bidding requirements including those regarding sole source
54 contracts; and (F) any other relevant requirements established by law;
55 (iii) monitor the award of contracts to determine if such awards are
56 consistent with the manner in which the work was traditionally performed

1 in the past provided, however, that any such determination shall not be
2 admissible as evidence in any arbitration or judicial proceeding; (iv)
3 review the relationship between capital expenditures pursuant to each
4 such capital program plan and current and future operating budget
5 requirements; (v) monitor the progress of capital elements described in
6 each capital program plan approved as provided in section twelve hundred
7 sixty-nine-b of this title; (vi) monitor the expenditures incurred and
8 to be incurred for each such element; and (vii) identify capital
9 elements not progressing on schedule, ascertain responsibility therefor
10 and recommend those actions required or appropriate to accelerate their
11 implementation. The capital program committee shall issue a quarterly
12 report on its activities and findings, and shall in connection with the
13 preparation of such quarterly report, consult with the state division of
14 the budget, the state department of transportation, the members of the
15 metropolitan transportation authority capital program review board and
16 any other group the committee deems relevant, including public employee
17 organizations, and, at least annually, with a nationally recognized
18 independent transit engineering firm. Such report shall be made avail-
19 able to the members of the authority, to the members of the metropolitan
20 transportation authority capital program review board, and the directors
21 of the municipal assistance corporation for the city of New York.

22 § 7. Paragraphs (c) and (d) of subdivision 4 of section 1263 of the
23 public authorities law, paragraph (c) as added by chapter 247 of the
24 laws of 1990, paragraph (d) as added by section 5 of part H of chapter
25 25 of the laws of 2009, are amended to read as follows:

26 (c) The [~~chairman~~] chairperson shall ensure that at every meeting of
27 the board and at every meeting of each committee the public shall be
28 allotted a period of time, not less than thirty minutes, to speak on any
29 topic on the agenda.

30 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c) of subdivision one of section twen-
31 ty-eight hundred twenty-four of this chapter or any other provision of
32 law to the contrary, the [~~chairman~~] chairperson shall not participate in
33 establishing authority policies regarding the payment of salary, compen-
34 sation and reimbursement to, nor establish rules for the time and
35 attendance of, the chief executive officer. The salary of the [~~chairman~~]
36 chairperson, as determined pursuant to subdivision two of this section,
37 shall also be compensation for all services performed as chief executive
38 officer.

39 § 8. This act shall take effect immediately; provided that the amend-
40 ments to paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 1263 of the public
41 authorities law made by section one of this act shall be subject to the
42 expiration and reversion of such paragraph pursuant to section 3 of
43 chapter 549 of the laws of 1994, as amended, when upon such date the
44 provisions of section two of this act shall take effect; and provided
45 further that the amendments to paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of section
46 1263 of the public authorities law made by section five of this act
47 shall be subject to the expiration and reversion of such subdivision
48 pursuant to section 3 of chapter 549 of the laws of 1994, as amended,
49 when upon such date the provisions of section six of this act shall take
50 effect.