
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 939

Session of
1979

INTRODUCED BY REED, CIMINI, GOEBEL, STEWART, COHEN, KUKOVICH,
BROWN, BORSKI, PUCCIARELLI, ZELLER AND M. R. CLARK,
MARCH 28, 1979

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 28, 1979

AN ACT

1 To encourage and promote the use of mass transit with a
2 reduction in automobile insurance coverage premiums for mass
3 transit passholders.

4 Legislative Findings: The General Assembly finds that
5 increased prices of gasoline create additional financial burdens
6 on owners and operators of private passenger vehicles. It
7 further finds that public and private expenditures for the
8 development of public transportation in the forms of rail and
9 bus transit services has amounted into the billions of dollars
10 and that such public transportation holds viability as a major
11 alternative to the use of private passenger vehicles, especially
12 in urbanized areas of the Commonwealth.

13 Further, the increased use of public transportation causes a
14 reduction in noise and air pollution in central city areas and
15 suburban arteries, relief of parking and traffic congestion,
16 easier commuting within the living and working place and a
17 decrease in private passenger vehicle accidents, as well as a
18 lessening in roadwear on public highways.

1 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
2 hereby enacts as follows:

3 Section 1. The following words and phrases when used in this
4 act shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise,
5 the meanings given to them in this section:

6 "Commissioner." The Commissioner of the Department of
7 Insurance.

8 "Mass transit." Refers to any rail, bus or commuter vehicle
9 providing public transportation, other than a taxi.

10 "MTPH." Mass transit passholder which is any person who
11 purchases and uses a pass allowing 40 or more one-way rides for
12 a public transportation company or authority in the
13 Commonwealth.

14 Section 2. All public transportation companies and
15 authorities in the Commonwealth may establish a mass transit
16 passholder program to encourage continuous use of their services
17 by the public. All companies and authorities shall notify the
18 commissioner when such a program is established.

19 Section 3. (a) The company or authority shall maintain an
20 accurate record of the name and address of each MTPH along with
21 the name of the MTPH'S automobile insurance company and policy
22 number, if any.

23 (b) The company or authority shall provide a written
24 purchase verification to any requesting MTPH who has purchased
25 MTPH cards for the equivalent of six months of use of service
26 which shall be computed at two one-way rides per weekday not
27 counting any holidays falling on those weekdays.

28 (c) No MTPH card shall be transferable to any other person
29 than the purchaser.

30 Section 4. (a) The commissioner shall order that all

1 providers of automobile insurance shall grant a decrease of at
2 least 10% in the premium for such insurance, exclusive of
3 comprehensive coverage, covering the principal vehicle owned by
4 a MTPH issued a written purchase verification pursuant to
5 section 3(b).

6 (b) The reduction shall remain in force for a period of six
7 months and may be renewed through the resubmission of a newer
8 written purchase verification pursuant to provisions of section
9 3(b).

10 (c) The commissioner may provide for reductions in excess of
11 10% if analysis of accident and other data indicates that the
12 use of public transportation has even greater effect on reducing
13 the policyholder's risk of involvement in an accident. The
14 commissioner may prescribe reductions of over 10% on a regional
15 basis for the same reason.

16 Section 5. (a) All companies and authorities providing
17 public transportation and establishing a MTPH program shall make
18 available to the Insurance Department their records relative to
19 the MTPH program.

20 (b) The commissioner is empowered to promulgate regulations
21 for the administration of this act solely for the purpose of
22 expediting its implementation. The Insurance Department may
23 conduct hearings for the purpose of reviewing the implementation
24 of this act.

25 Section 6. This act shall take effect in 180 days.