

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 783

Session of  
1985

INTRODUCED BY SAURMAN, HALUSKA, MACKOWSKI, GREENWOOD, REBER,  
KUKOVICH, CIVERA, TIGUE, BELARDI, BOYES, J. L. WRIGHT,  
MORRIS, HERSHEY, E. Z. TAYLOR, DAWIDA, MILLER, HAGARTY,  
JOHNSON, ARTY, OLASZ, COLAFELLA, BUNT, McVERRY, WOZNIAK,  
STABACK, BOOK, MERRY, NAHILL, BELFANTI, RYBAK, TRELLO,  
LINTON, SEMMEL, MAIALE, HOWLETT, FISCHER, PRESTON, DEAL,  
PETRONE, J. J. TAYLOR, FOX AND PRATT, APRIL 9, 1985

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, APRIL 9, 1985

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of February 11, 1976 (P.L.14, No.10), entitled  
2 "An act authorizing development of rural and intercity common  
3 carrier surface transportation," authorizing free or reduced  
4 fare transportation for permanently disabled persons.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. The definitions of "average fare" and "county  
8 transportation system" in section 3 of the act of February 11,  
9 1976 (P.L.14, No.10), known as the Pennsylvania Rural and  
10 Intercity Common Carrier Surface Transportation Assistance Act,  
11 added October 17, 1980 (P.L.1083, No.183), are amended and the  
12 section is amended by adding a definition to read:

13 Section 3. Definitions.--As used in this act:

14 "Average fare" means total passenger revenue divided by the  
15 total linked passenger trips excluding trips by senior citizens  
16 participating in the free transit program for senior citizens

1 and permanently disabled persons.

2 \* \* \*

3 "County transportation system" shall mean and include buses,  
4 vans or other transit vehicles purchased, maintained and  
5 operated by any county and used to provide free or reduced rate  
6 transportation within the county to persons 65 years of age or  
7 older and permanently disabled persons.

8 \* \* \*

9 "Permanently disabled person" shall mean a person 18 years of  
10 age or older who is unable to engage in any substantial gainful  
11 activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or  
12 mental impairment which can be expected to continue  
13 indefinitely.

14 \* \* \*

15 Section 2. Section 4(3.1) of the act, added October 17, 1980  
16 (P.L.1083, No.183), is amended to read:

17 Section 4. Program Authorizations.--The department is hereby  
18 authorized, within the limitations hereinafter provided:

19 \* \* \*

20 (3.1) To make grants from the State Lottery Fund to  
21 transportation companies, county transportation systems and  
22 local transportation organizations to pay estimated transit  
23 losses resulting from providing:

24 (i) Free service or local common carrier mass transportation  
25 systems to persons 65 years or older or permanently disabled  
26 persons when such passage is on fixed route public  
27 transportation services during nonpeak riding hours and on  
28 holidays and weekends. The losses resulting from granting  
29 service on mass transportation systems shall be reimbursable at  
30 75% of such system's average fare multiplied by the number of

1 trips made by senior citizens or permanently disabled persons  
2 participating in such free transit program. Transit systems that  
3 currently receive a program reimbursement based upon a  
4 percentage of average fare greater than 75% shall receive their  
5 current amount of senior citizen or permanently disabled person  
6 program reimbursement until such time as the amount of  
7 reimbursement for these systems equals 75% of the average fare  
8 times the number of senior citizens or permanently disabled  
9 persons trips: Provided, however, That reimbursement for the  
10 fiscal year 1980-1981 shall be calculated using the average  
11 fares as of January 1, 1980.

12 (ii) Free or reduced fare on shared ride county  
13 transportation systems for persons 65 years or older or  
14 permanently disabled persons:

15 (A) In case of free service on such county systems, the  
16 county shall be reimbursed at 75% of the cost incurred or to be  
17 incurred in operating and maintaining such system, with the  
18 remainder of any such cost being paid by the county.

19 (B) In case of reduced fare services on such county systems,  
20 the county shall be reimbursed at the same rate and under the  
21 same conditions as provided in subparagraph (iii).

22 (iii) Reduced fare services on local common carrier mass  
23 transportation systems to persons 65 years of age or older or  
24 permanently disabled persons when such passage is on shared ride  
25 public or contract transportation services during regular hours  
26 of operation. On shared public transportation, losses are  
27 reimbursable only if the elderly or permanently disabled person  
28 pays 25¢ or 25% of the cost of the individual fare, whichever is  
29 greater.

30 (iv) In no case shall the reimbursements for each succeeding

1 year exceed the prior year's reimbursements increased by a  
2 percentage equal to the percentage increase in granting costs  
3 for all local transportation organizations, county  
4 transportation systems and transportation companies for the most  
5 recently completed State fiscal year as compared to the fiscal  
6 year immediately preceding such year.

7 (v) The department shall promulgate such rules and  
8 regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this  
9 subparagraph. In accordance with section 2203-A(27) of the act  
10 of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as "The Administrative  
11 Code of 1929," no such regulation shall take effect until they  
12 are submitted to the Department of Aging for comment.

13 \* \* \*

14 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.