

SENATE, No. 2636

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 10, 2011

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS J. SACCO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Senators Madden, Gordon, Buono, Rice, Codey, Greenstein, Cunningham,
Beach, Whelan, Lesniak, Scutari, Gill, Sarlo, Weinberg, Girgenti, B.Smith
and Stack**

SYNOPSIS

Directs NJTA to reduce tolls no longer required for payment of Access to the Region's Core Tunnel project.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the collection of tolls by the New Jersey
2 Turnpike Authority and supplementing P.L.1948, c.454
3 (C.27:23-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary,
9 whenever the authority has exercised its powers and by resolution
10 fixed and charged and collected an increase in tolls for the
11 financing or payment of a contribution of \$1.25 billion to fund a
12 mass transit tunnel project between the states of New Jersey and
13 New York and such project has been canceled or terminated in any
14 capacity after the authorized collection of tolls has commenced, the
15 authority shall thereafter adopt an appropriate resolution or take
16 such other action as may be necessary to immediately reduce or
17 effectuate a reduction in the tolls charged and collected by the
18 authority to reflect the discharge of its obligation to contribute
19 towards the financing or payment of a contribution to fund that
20 mass transit project.
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22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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25 STATEMENT 26

27 This bill directs the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (“authority”)
28 to adopt an appropriate resolution or take such other action as may
29 be necessary to immediately reduce or effectuate a reduction in the
30 tolls charged and collected by the authority, the cumulative total of
31 \$1.25 billion to be collected over time, that is no longer required for
32 the financing or payment of the canceled mass transit tunnel project
33 between the States of New Jersey and New York.

34 In 2008, the authority approved a two-phase toll increase on the
35 New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway, the first toll
36 increase occurring in 2008 and the second toll increase to occur in
37 2012, to fund a \$7 billion, ten-year capital plan and a \$1.25 billion
38 contribution to the Transportation Trust Fund Authority for the
39 Access to the Region’s Core (ARC) Tunnel project.

40 The ARC Tunnel project was described as essential to relieving
41 congestion on the New Jersey Turnpike. In the authority’s
42 determination, the project served its needs by preserving vital
43 capacity on the Eastern and Western spurs of the New Jersey
44 Turnpike in keeping with its fiduciary obligation to fund critical
45 safety and congestion relief projects.

46 In October 2010, Governor Christie announced his decision to
47 terminate the ARC Tunnel project as a project of the Transportation
48 Trust Fund Authority. The toll increase authorized and collected by

S2636 SACCO, SWEENEY

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- 1 the authority for the financing or payment of the ARC Tunnel is no
- 2 longer required, and accordingly, the authority is directed to
- 3 immediately reduce tolls increased for this purpose.