

CHAPTER 105

AN ACT establishing the Public Assistance Cost Reduction and Transportation Independence Pilot Program and supplementing P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.44:10-62.1 Short title.

1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Public Assistance Cost Reduction and Transportation Independence Pilot Program Act.”

C.44:10-62.2 Findings, declarations relative to “Public Assistance Cost Reduction and Transportation Independence Pilot Program Act.”

2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. The Work First New Jersey program provides transportation assistance to eligible persons to further employment opportunities, to promote personal responsibility and economic self-sufficiency, and to help end the cycle of dependence on public assistance;

b. The cost of providing such transportation assistance, in the form of cash payments as well as free New Jersey Transit bus and rail passes, is a worthwhile investment for the taxpayers of New Jersey and for the benefit of recipients and their families;

c. Nonprofit charitable organizations have assisted in reducing such costs, while also providing a greater degree of transportation independence to such recipients and families, by accepting donated motor vehicles and making those vehicles available for use by, or for transfer to, recipients of public assistance in order to provide independent transportation to places of employment, day care facilities, and other locations as necessary to promote employment; and

d. It is in the public interest for the State Treasurer to have the discretion to establish a pilot program to determine whether providing surplus State motor vehicles to nonprofit charitable organizations engaged in such activity may result in net cost savings to the State as well as support for transportation assistance to recipients of public assistance.

C.44:10-62.3 Establishment of pilot program for transfer of ownership of surplus State motor vehicles to certain nonprofit entities.

3. a. The State Treasurer is authorized to establish a pilot program for the transfer of ownership and title of surplus State motor vehicles to any qualified nonprofit charitable organization for the purpose of providing transportation to persons eligible for transportation assistance under the Work First New Jersey program, established under the “Work First New Jersey Act,” pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.).

b. As used in this section, “surplus State motor vehicle” shall mean any motor vehicle that is in the custody and control of any State department, commission, board, body, or other agency of the State and is deemed by the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury as surplus, obsolete or no longer suitable for the purpose for which it was intended.

c. In determining whether to establish such a pilot program, the State Treasurer shall consult with the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services and shall solicit and consider information provided by county agencies responsible for administering the Work First New Jersey program. The State Treasurer shall also consider whether it may be possible to realize net cost savings to the State through such a program.

d. A pilot program established pursuant to this section, shall be designed to maximize, to the greatest extent possible, potential net cost savings to the State and shall include such

terms and conditions as the State Treasurer shall provide by regulations adopted pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

e. In determining the eligibility of a nonprofit charitable organization to participate in a pilot program established pursuant to this section, the State Treasurer shall examine the organization’s experience in providing donated motor vehicles to recipients of public assistance and the availability of mass transportation facilities, including but not limited to New Jersey Transit bus or rail routes, in the geographic area in which the nonprofit organization operates.

f. The State shall not be liable for any damages that may result from the use or operation of any motor vehicle transferred pursuant to this section.

g. The State Treasurer shall report findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within two years of the establishment of a pilot program pursuant to this section.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved December 4, 2008.