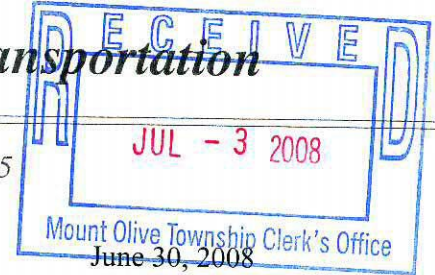




(c) cc: Admin

New Jersey Council On Special Transportation

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Dear Municipal Clerk,

The New Jersey Council on Special Transportation requests that a copy of the following letter be forwarded to your Mayor and members of your municipal council.

On behalf of the New Jersey Council on Special Transportation, I write to your municipality asking for support for Legislative Bills Assembly-2046 and companion Bill Senate-1830. The successful passage of these bi-partisan supported bills will have a direct and positive impact on the residents of your community who benefit from the transportation services provided by your county's paratransit and community transportation services.

These identical bills propose to increase the Casino Revenue's "Senior Citizens and Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program" (SCADRATP) allocation from 7.5% to 8.5%. Each county receives an annual SCADRATP grant to provide transportation services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Presently, New Jersey is experiencing a paratransit and community transportation funding crisis. Beginning in 2009 your county's SCADRATP funding will begin to decrease. Projections for 2010 do not look any better. These decreases will put a burden on town residents who may experience cuts in transportation services, waiting lists and other inconveniences. These bills are part of the answer while we collectively come up with a long-term solution to this funding dilemma.

These bills **DO NOT** put any additional burden on the New Jersey taxpayer. This is an already existing obligation by the NJ casinos and these bills do not ask them for any additional increases. The casinos will contribute the same as they do right now. In addition, the proposed 1% increase should not adversely affect any other program in the Casino Revenue Fund since there has been a cost savings since the PAAD program became federally funded.

The NJ Council on Special Transportation requests that your municipality support Bills A-2046 and S-1830 through resolutions. We further request that a copy of your resolution be forward to each of your legislative representatives, Board of Chosen Freeholders and the NJ Council on Special Transportation. A sample copy of a resolution is attached.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (973) 251-2242.

Sincerely

Michael M. Vieira, President
NJ Council on Special Transportation

Supporting Community Transportation Needs Throughout New Jersey Since 1981

RESOLUTION supporting
A revised funding percentage for
The Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program (SCADRTAP)
Assembly Bill 2046 & Senate Bill 1830

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2046 and companion Senate Bill 1830 has been introduced entitled An Act concerning the funding of the “Senior Citizens and Disabled Residents Transportation Assistance Program” and amending P.L 1983, c.578; and

WHEREAS, the funding through the Senior Citizen and Disabled Resident Transportation Assistance Program provides critical transportation and assists counties in providing and developing accessible transportation services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities; and;

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2046 and Senate Bill 1830 would increase the annual appropriation requirement for the SCADRTAP program from 7.5% to 8.5% of the revenues deposited in the Casino Revenue Fund and provide the additional funding to the NJ Transit designated 21-county-coordinated transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, the one percent increase in the SCADRTAP program would not adversely impact funding levels and services from any other Casino Revenue Funded program because a significant amount of funding for the state PAAD program is now being reimbursed through federal funding.

WHEREAS, senior citizens and persons with disabilities that reside in the municipality of _____ rely on county SCADRTAP transportation services that may include but not limited to non-emergency medical appointments, dialysis, physical and mental therapies, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, non-competitive workshops, employment, nutrition sites, meals on wheels, food shopping, veterans services, recreational activities and many other services; and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ Municipal Council voices support for Assembly Bill 2046 and Senate Bill 1830 and urges members of the New Jersey Assembly and Senate to pass these bills, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE _____ Municipal Council send copies of this resolution to each of our district legislative members, County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey Council on Special Transportation.