



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB1591

by Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 740/2-15.2  
70 ILCS 3605/51  
70 ILCS 3610/8.6  
70 ILCS 3615/3A.15  
70 ILCS 3615/3B.14

Amends the Downstate Public Transportation Act, the Metropolitan Transit Authority Act, the Local Mass Transit District Act, and the Regional Transportation Authority Act. Provides for free fares for veterans with disabilities, reduced fares for other veterans, and free fares for specified high school students on days when school is in session on public transportation. Provides for a continuing appropriation beginning in Fiscal Year 2020 to cover the free and reduced fares. Effective immediately.

LRB101 04869 AWJ 49878 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Downstate Public Transportation Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 2-15.2 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 740/2-15.2)

7 Sec. 2-15.2. Free and reduced services; eligibility.

8 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
9 60 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
10 the 95th General Assembly and until subsection (b) is  
11 implemented, any fixed route public transportation services  
12 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
13 of, every participant, as defined in Section 2-2.02 (1)(a),  
14 shall be provided without charge to all senior citizen  
15 residents of the participant aged 65 and older, under such  
16 conditions as shall be prescribed by the participant.

17 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
18 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
19 the 96th General Assembly, any fixed route public  
20 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
21 of service contracts of, every participant, as defined in  
22 Section 2-2.02 (1)(a), shall be provided without charge to  
23 senior citizens aged 65 and older who meet the income

1 eligibility limitation set forth in subsection (a-5) of Section  
2 4 of the Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Property  
3 Tax Relief Act, under such conditions as shall be prescribed by  
4 the participant. The Department on Aging shall furnish all  
5 information reasonably necessary to determine eligibility,  
6 including updated lists of individuals who are eligible for  
7 services without charge under this Section. Nothing in this  
8 Section shall relieve the participant from providing reduced  
9 fares as may be required by federal law.

10 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
11 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
12 the 101st General Assembly, any fixed route public  
13 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
14 of service contracts of, a participant shall be provided (i)  
15 without charge to a veteran that has a combined disability  
16 rating of more than 70% as certified by the U.S. Department of  
17 Veterans Affairs, and (ii) at a 50% reduced fare for a veteran  
18 who has a combined disability rating of 30% to 70% as certified  
19 by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, under conditions  
20 prescribed by each participant.

21 (d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, on and after  
22 January 1, 2020, any fixed route public transportation services  
23 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
24 of, a participant shall be provided without charge to high  
25 school students that are eligible for free or reduced price  
26 meals and free milk under the federal National School Lunch

1 Program or the Commodity School Program on days when school is  
2 in session.

3 (e) On the first December 31st after the effective date of  
4 this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly and on  
5 December 31st of each year thereafter, each participant shall  
6 certify to the State Comptroller the annual amount necessary  
7 for payment of expenses related to subsections (c) and (d).  
8 Beginning in Fiscal Year 2020, there is hereby appropriated, on  
9 an irrevocable and continuing annual basis, from the Road Fund  
10 amounts equal to the amount certified each year by each  
11 participant for payment of expenses related to subsections (c)  
12 and (d). The moneys appropriated under this subsection (e)  
13 shall be paid to each participant in an amount equal to the  
14 participant's certification for payment of expenses related to  
15 subsections (c) and (d).

16 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

17 Section 10. The Metropolitan Transit Authority Act is  
18 amended by changing Section 51 as follows:

19 (70 ILCS 3605/51)

20 Sec. 51. Free and reduced services; eligibility.

21 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
22 60 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
23 the 95th General Assembly and until subsection (b) is  
24 implemented, any fixed route public transportation services

1 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
2 of, the Board shall be provided without charge to all senior  
3 citizens of the Metropolitan Region (as such term is defined in  
4 70 ILCS 3615/1.03) aged 65 and older, under such conditions as  
5 shall be prescribed by the Board.

6 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
7 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
8 the 96th General Assembly, any fixed route public  
9 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
10 of service contracts of, the Board shall be provided without  
11 charge to senior citizens aged 65 and older who meet the income  
12 eligibility limitation set forth in subsection (a-5) of Section  
13 4 of the Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Property  
14 Tax Relief Act, under such conditions as shall be prescribed by  
15 the Board. The Department on Aging shall furnish all  
16 information reasonably necessary to determine eligibility,  
17 including updated lists of individuals who are eligible for  
18 services without charge under this Section. Nothing in this  
19 Section shall relieve the Board from providing reduced fares as  
20 may be required by federal law.

21 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
22 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
23 the 101st General Assembly, any fixed route public  
24 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
25 of service contracts of, the Board shall be provided (i)  
26 without charge to a veteran that has a combined disability

1 rating of more than 70% as certified by the U.S. Department of  
2 Veterans Affairs, and (ii) at a 50% reduced fare for a veteran  
3 who has a combined disability rating of 30% to 70% as certified  
4 by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, under conditions  
5 prescribed by the Board.

6 (d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, on and after  
7 January 1, 2020, any fixed route public transportation services  
8 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
9 of, the Board shall be provided without charge to high school  
10 students that are eligible for free or reduced price meals and  
11 free milk under the federal National School Lunch Program or  
12 the Commodity School Program on days when school is in session.

13 (e) On the first December 31st after the effective date of  
14 this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly and on  
15 December 31st of each year thereafter, the Board shall certify  
16 to the State Comptroller the annual amount necessary for  
17 payment of expenses related to subsections (c) and (d).  
18 Beginning in Fiscal Year 2020, there is hereby appropriated, on  
19 an irrevocable and continuing annual basis, from the Road Fund  
20 an amount equal to the amount certified each year by the Board  
21 for payment of expenses related to subsections (c) and (d). The  
22 moneys appropriated under this subsection (e) shall be paid to  
23 the Board in an amount equal to the Board's certification for  
24 payment of expenses related to subsections (c) and (d).

25 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

1           Section 15. The Local Mass Transit District Act is amended  
2 by changing Section 8.6 as follows:

3           (70 ILCS 3610/8.6)

4           Sec. 8.6. Free and reduced services; eligibility.

5           (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
6 60 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
7 the 95th General Assembly and until subsection (b) is  
8 implemented, any fixed route public transportation services  
9 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
10 of, every District shall be provided without charge to all  
11 senior citizens of the District aged 65 and older, under such  
12 conditions as shall be prescribed by the District.

13           (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
14 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
15 the 96th General Assembly, any fixed route public  
16 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
17 of service contracts of, every District shall be provided  
18 without charge to senior citizens aged 65 and older who meet  
19 the income eligibility limitation set forth in subsection (a-5)  
20 of Section 4 of the Senior Citizens and Persons with  
21 Disabilities Property Tax Relief Act, under such conditions as  
22 shall be prescribed by the District. The Department on Aging  
23 shall furnish all information reasonably necessary to  
24 determine eligibility, including updated lists of individuals  
25 who are eligible for services without charge under this

1 Section. Nothing in this Section shall relieve the District  
2 from providing reduced fares as may be required by federal law.

3 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
4 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
5 the 101st General Assembly, any fixed route public  
6 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
7 of service contracts of, every District shall be provided (i)  
8 without charge to a veteran that has a combined disability  
9 rating of more than 70% as certified by the U.S. Department of  
10 Veterans Affairs, and (ii) at a 50% reduced fare for a veteran  
11 who has a combined disability rating of 30% to 70% as certified  
12 by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, under conditions  
13 prescribed by each District.

14 (d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, on and after  
15 January 1, 2020, any fixed route public transportation services  
16 provided by, or under grant or purchase of device contracts of,  
17 each District shall be provided without charge to high school  
18 students that are eligible for free or reduced price meals and  
19 free milk under the federal National School Lunch Program or  
20 the Commodity School Program on days when school is in session.

21 (e) On the first December 31st after the effective date of  
22 this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly and on  
23 December 31st of each year thereafter, each District shall  
24 certify to the State Comptroller the annual amount necessary  
25 for payment of expenses related to subsections (c) and (d).  
26 Beginning in Fiscal Year 2020, there is hereby appropriated, on



1 an irrevocable and continuing annual basis, from the Road Fund  
2 amounts equal to the amount certified each year by each  
3 District for payment of expenses related to subsections (c) and  
4 (d). The moneys appropriated under this subsection (e) shall be  
5 paid to each District in an amount equal to the District's  
6 certification for payment of expenses related to subsections  
7 (c) and (d).

8 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

9 Section 20. The Regional Transportation Authority Act is  
10 amended by changing Sections 3A.15 and 3B.14 as follows:

11 (70 ILCS 3615/3A.15)

12 Sec. 3A.15. Free and reduced services; eligibility.

13 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
14 60 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
15 the 95th General Assembly and until subsection (b) is  
16 implemented, any fixed route public transportation services  
17 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
18 of, the Suburban Bus Board shall be provided without charge to  
19 all senior citizens of the Metropolitan Region aged 65 and  
20 older, under such conditions as shall be prescribed by the  
21 Suburban Bus Board.

22 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
23 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
24 the 96th General Assembly, any fixed route public

1 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
2 of service contracts of, the Suburban Bus Board shall be  
3 provided without charge to senior citizens aged 65 and older  
4 who meet the income eligibility limitation set forth in  
5 subsection (a-5) of Section 4 of the Senior Citizens and  
6 Persons with Disabilities Property Tax Relief Act, under such  
7 conditions as shall be prescribed by the Suburban Bus Board.  
8 The Department on Aging shall furnish all information  
9 reasonably necessary to determine eligibility, including  
10 updated lists of individuals who are eligible for services  
11 without charge under this Section. Nothing in this Section  
12 shall relieve the Suburban Bus Board from providing reduced  
13 fares as may be required by federal law.

14 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
15 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
16 the 101st General Assembly, any fixed route public  
17 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
18 of service contracts of, the Suburban Bus Board shall be  
19 provided (i) without charge to a veteran that has a combined  
20 disability rating of more than 70% as certified by the U.S.  
21 Department of Veterans Affairs, and (ii) at a 50% reduced fare  
22 for a veteran who has a combined disability rating of 30% to  
23 70% as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,  
24 under conditions prescribed by the Suburban Bus Board.

25 (d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, on and after  
26 January 1, 2020, any fixed route public transportation services

1 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
2 of, the Suburban Bus Board shall be provided without charge to  
3 high school students that are eligible for free or reduced  
4 price meals and free milk under the federal National School  
5 Lunch Program or the Commodity School Program on days when  
6 school is in session.

7 (e) On the first December 31st after the effective date of  
8 this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly and on  
9 December 31st of each year thereafter, the Suburban Bus Board  
10 shall certify to the State Comptroller the annual amount  
11 necessary for payment of expenses related to subsections (c)  
12 and (d). Beginning in Fiscal Year 2020, there is hereby  
13 appropriated, on an irrevocable and continuing annual basis,  
14 from the Road Fund an amount equal to the amount certified each  
15 year by the Suburban Bus Board for payment of expenses related  
16 to subsections (c) and (d). The moneys appropriated under this  
17 subsection (e) shall be paid to the Suburban Bus Board in an  
18 amount equal to the Suburban Bus Board's certification for  
19 payment of expenses related to subsections (c) and (d).

20 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

21 (70 ILCS 3615/3B.14)

22 Sec. 3B.14. Free and reduced services; eligibility.

23 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
24 60 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
25 the 95th General Assembly and until subsection (b) is

1 implemented, any fixed route public transportation services  
2 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
3 of, the Commuter Rail Board shall be provided without charge to  
4 all senior citizens of the Metropolitan Region aged 65 and  
5 older, under such conditions as shall be prescribed by the  
6 Commuter Rail Board.

7 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
8 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
9 the 96th General Assembly, any fixed route public  
10 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
11 of service contracts of, the Commuter Rail Board shall be  
12 provided without charge to senior citizens aged 65 and older  
13 who meet the income eligibility limitation set forth in  
14 subsection (a-5) of Section 4 of the Senior Citizens and  
15 Persons with Disabilities Property Tax Relief Act, under such  
16 conditions as shall be prescribed by the Commuter Rail Board.  
17 The Department on Aging shall furnish all information  
18 reasonably necessary to determine eligibility, including  
19 updated lists of individuals who are eligible for services  
20 without charge under this Section. Nothing in this Section  
21 shall relieve the Commuter Rail Board from providing reduced  
22 fares as may be required by federal law.

23 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
24 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
25 the 101st General Assembly, any fixed route public  
26 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase

1 of service contracts of, the Commuter Rail Board shall be  
2 provided (i) without charge to a veteran that has a combined  
3 disability rating of more than 70% as certified by the U.S.  
4 Department of Veterans Affairs, and (ii) at a 50% reduced fare  
5 for a veteran who has a combined disability rating of 30% to  
6 70% as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,  
7 under conditions prescribed by the Commuter Rail Board.

8 (d) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, on and after  
9 January 1, 2020, any fixed route public transportation services  
10 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
11 of, the Commuter Rail Board shall be provided without charge to  
12 high school students that are eligible for free or reduced  
13 price meals and free milk under the federal National School  
14 Lunch Program or the Commodity School Program on days when  
15 school is in session.

16 (e) On the first December 31st after the effective date of  
17 this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly and on  
18 December 31st of each year thereafter, the Commuter Rail Board  
19 shall certify to the State Comptroller the annual amount  
20 necessary for payment of expenses related to subsections (c)  
21 and (d). Beginning in Fiscal Year 2020, there is hereby  
22 appropriated, on an irrevocable and continuing annual basis,  
23 from the Road Fund an amount equal to the amount certified each  
24 year by the Commuter Rail Board for payment of expenses related  
25 to subsections (c) and (d). The moneys appropriated under this  
26 subsection (e) shall be paid to the Commuter Rail Board in an

1 amount equal to the Commuter Rail Board's certification for  
2 payment of expenses related to subsections (c) and (d).

3 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
5 becoming law.