



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB2015

Introduced 2/15/2019, by Sen. Martin A. Sandoval

#### 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 specified elementary and 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 fares. Effective immediately.

LRB101 10315 AWJ 55421 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 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, on and after  
11 January 1, 2020, any fixed route public transportation services  
12 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
13 of, a participant shall be provided without charge to  
14 elementary or high school students that are eligible for free  
15 or reduced price meals and free milk under the federal National  
16 School Lunch Program or the Commodity School Program on days  
17 when school is in session.

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

1 under this subsection shall be paid to each participant in an  
2 amount equal to the participant's certification for payment of  
3 expenses related to this subsection.

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

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

7 (70 ILCS 3605/51)

8 Sec. 51. Free services; eligibility.

9 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
10 60 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
11 the 95th General Assembly and until subsection (b) is  
12 implemented, any fixed route public transportation services  
13 provided by, or under grant or purchase of service contracts  
14 of, the Board shall be provided without charge to all senior  
15 citizens of the Metropolitan Region (as such term is defined in  
16 70 ILCS 3615/1.03) aged 65 and older, under such conditions as  
17 shall be prescribed by the Board.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
19 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
20 the 96th General Assembly, any fixed route public  
21 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
22 of service contracts of, the Board shall be provided without  
23 charge to senior citizens aged 65 and older who meet the income  
24 eligibility limitation set forth in subsection (a-5) of Section

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

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

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

1 equal to the Board's certification for payment of expenses  
2 related to this subsection.

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

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

6 (70 ILCS 3610/8.6)

7 Sec. 8.6. Free 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 District shall be provided without charge to all  
14 senior citizens of the District aged 65 and older, under such  
15 conditions as shall be prescribed by the District.

16 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
17 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
18 the 96th General Assembly, any fixed route public  
19 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
20 of service contracts of, every District shall be provided  
21 without charge to senior citizens aged 65 and older who meet  
22 the income eligibility limitation set forth in subsection (a-5)  
23 of Section 4 of the Senior Citizens and Persons with  
24 Disabilities Property Tax Relief Act, under such conditions as

1 shall be prescribed by the District. The Department on Aging  
2 shall furnish all information reasonably necessary to  
3 determine eligibility, including updated lists of individuals  
4 who are eligible for services without charge under this  
5 Section. Nothing in this Section shall relieve the District  
6 from providing reduced fares as may be required by federal law.

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

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

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

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

4 (70 ILCS 3615/3A.15)

5 Sec. 3A.15. Free services; eligibility.

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

15 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no later than  
16 180 days following the effective date of this amendatory Act of  
17 the 96th General Assembly, any fixed route public  
18 transportation services provided by, or under grant or purchase  
19 of service contracts of, the Suburban Bus Board shall be  
20 provided without charge to senior citizens aged 65 and older  
21 who meet the income eligibility limitation set forth in  
22 subsection (a-5) of Section 4 of the Senior Citizens and  
23 Persons with Disabilities Property Tax Relief Act, under such  
24 conditions as shall be prescribed by the Suburban Bus Board.



1 The Department on Aging shall furnish all information  
2 reasonably necessary to determine eligibility, including  
3 updated lists of individuals who are eligible for services  
4 without charge under this Section. Nothing in this Section  
5 shall relieve the Suburban Bus Board from providing reduced  
6 fares as may be required by federal law.

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

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

1 subsection.

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

3 (70 ILCS 3615/3B.14)

4 Sec. 3B.14. Free 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, the Commuter Rail Board shall be provided without charge to  
11 all senior citizens of the Metropolitan Region aged 65 and  
12 older, under such conditions as shall be prescribed by the  
13 Commuter Rail Board.

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

1 updated lists of individuals who are eligible for services  
2 without charge under this Section. Nothing in this Section  
3 shall relieve the Commuter Rail Board from providing reduced  
4 fares as may be required by federal law.

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

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

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

1           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
2           becoming law.