



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

**Raised Bill No. 5734**

LCO No. 2288

\*02288\_\_\_\_\_TRA\*

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:  
(TRA)

**AN ACT CONCERNING NEW AND EXPANDED BUS  
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES THROUGHOUT CONNECTICUT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established the  
2 "Buses for 21st Century Mobility" program which shall be  
3 administered by the Department of Transportation. Commencing July  
4 1, 2008, the Department of Transportation shall accept applications  
5 from transportation providers and community service providers for  
6 funding to provide new and expanded bus transportation services as  
7 part of the Buses for 21st Century Mobility program. Such new and  
8 expanded bus transportation service programs shall include, but not  
9 be limited to: (1) Programs to provide transportation services for  
10 disabled citizens to and from their homes for any purposes required by  
11 the Americans with Disabilities Act; (2) expansion of existing services  
12 where a demonstrated need has been shown; (3) programs to provide  
13 new rail shuttle services to encourage the use of MetroNorth  
14 Commuter railroad; (4) express commuter services; and (5) other bus  
15 transportation programs designed to increase bus ridership  
16 opportunities for Connecticut residents.

17 (b) Commencing July 1, 2008, the Department of Transportation  
18 shall accept applications from transportation providers and  
19 community service providers for funding to provide new and  
20 expanded marketing programs for bus transportation services as part  
21 of the Buses for the 21st Century Mobility program. Such new and  
22 expanded marketing programs shall include, but not be limited to: (1)  
23 Web-based programs that would assist Connecticut citizens in finding  
24 bus service to and from one location to another, as well as schedules  
25 and routes; (2) printed advertising programs providing bus service  
26 locations, schedules and routes and provide information concerning  
27 bus transportation services in various communities; and (3) any other  
28 bus transportation marketing and advertising programs that are  
29 designed to increase bus ridership opportunities within Connecticut.

30 (c) Funding by the department for new and expanded bus  
31 transportation services shall be allocated as follows: (1) Fifteen per  
32 cent of the funds available for the Buses for 21st Century Mobility  
33 program shall be assigned to projects which emanate from locations  
34 within each of the four counties of Hartford, Fairfield, New London  
35 and New Haven; (2) ten per cent of such available funds for the Buses  
36 for 21st Century Mobility program shall be assigned to projects which  
37 originate at locations within each of the four counties of Litchfield,  
38 Windham, Middlesex and Tolland. Services that cross regional or  
39 county lines shall be assigned a proportionate share of funding  
40 available to each county.

41 (d) The Department of Transportation shall consider, but is not  
42 under any obligation to fund, all projects submitted for funding and  
43 not fully funded as part of its process to determine how five million  
44 dollars in new operating funds could be allocated for the fiscal year  
45 ending June 30, 2009. The department shall not require applicants to  
46 resubmit proposals for consideration, however, applicants shall be  
47 notified and given the opportunity to modify such proposals. The  
48 department shall determine the allocation of funds under this program  
49 not later than September 30, 2008. Any funds remaining in the Buses

50 for 21st Century Mobility program at the end of a fiscal year shall not  
 51 lapse and shall be carried forward for the program and available for  
 52 expenditure for new and expanded bus transportation programs  
 53 during the succeeding fiscal year.

54 (e) At least seventy-five per cent of the funds available for capital  
 55 expenditures may be used for the purchase of full-sized and small  
 56 buses, and smaller vehicles for Americans with Disabilities Act  
 57 services, services for the elderly and services for rural areas. At least  
 58 one-third of the funds available for the purchase of vehicles shall be  
 59 expended for vehicles to provide services in rural areas. The balance of  
 60 such available funds may be used for capital expenditures associated  
 61 with the provision of new services, including signage, shelters, and  
 62 similar amenities. If such funds cannot be allocated in this way, they  
 63 shall be available for additional vehicles.

64 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) During the fiscal year ending June 30,  
 65 2009, seven million dollars in operating funds and fifteen million  
 66 dollars of bond proceeds shall be made available to the Department of  
 67 Transportation for the operation and administration of such program  
 68 during said fiscal year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a state-wide Buses for 21st Century Mobility program to provide new bus transportation opportunities throughout Connecticut.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*