

Free Public Transport for Concession Card Holders Bill 2022

A Bill for an Act for the provision of free public transport for all concession card holders in Victoria. Each day, Victorians use public transport to commute to essential services. In instances where concessions holders do not have access to sufficient funds to pay for their journeys, this travel is fraught with undue stress as they risk receiving fines.

This Bill was created to relieve the stress of concession card holders who have limited access to income to support this mode of travel. This Bill acts to remove the pressure on concession holders, who risk being caught without a valid Myki card. The implementation of this Bill will ensure that all Victorian concession card holders are non-discriminately empowered to commute to services when needed in the aim of improving their livelihoods.

A Bill for an Act relating to Free Public Transport for Concession Card Holders to be enacted by the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

PART I—Preliminary

Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are—

- (a) To provide free public transport for concession card holders;
- (b) To provide a free Myki card for concession card holders;
- (c) To improve public transport usage for concession card holders;
- (d) To ensure concession card fraud is dealt with.

Clause 2 Commencement

This Bill shall commence upon receiving assent from the Youth Governor of Victoria.

Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill—

- (a) **Public Transport** means publicly funded transportation services such as buses, trains, and trams;
- (b) **PTV** means Public Transport Victoria;
- (c) **Concession card holders** means any citizen who holds a concession card issued by the Commonwealth;
- (d) **Myki card** means the smart card ticketing system used by Public Transport Victoria in Metropolitan Melbourne and some regional areas;
- (e) **Essential service** means healthcare facilities and/or providers, supermarkets and/or food services, and places of work, learning or worship;
- (f) **Limited use** means where and what the card is limited to be used for;
- (g) **Exemption** means freedom from being required to use the free transport concession card in a valid time frame;
- (h) **Citizen** means resident of Victoria;
- (i) **Myki ticketing zone** means where a myki card is used.

PART II—Establishment

Clause 4 Free Myki Cards for Concession Card Holders

4.1 PTV shall create a separate concession transport card to be accessible for valid Concession card holders issued by the Commonwealth Government;

- (a) The Free Transport Concession Card shall be listed to the concession holder.

4.2 When commuting to essential services, Concession Holders may present their cards to Myki Inspectors as valid tickets for travel;

- (a) In areas where the Myki ticketing zone is not employed, Concession Holders must present the free myki travel card and supporting concession documentation, including named identification (ID).

Clause 5 Application Procedure

- 5.1 To gain access to free transport, Concession Holders must present the following:
 - (a) A valid concession card issued by the Commonwealth Government. These cards include:
 - (i) The Pensioner Concession Card;
 - (ii) The HealthCare Card;
 - (iii) The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card.
 - (b) And/or a Centrelink Customer Reference Number (CRN).
- 5.2 Additional Requirements:
 - (a) A citizen shall include a registered email and an Australian phone number upon application.
- 5.3 To renew a free transport card, a citizen shall provide the following:
 - (a) Proof of Status of any listed concession card;
 - (b) Registered phone number;
 - (c) Valid email address.

Clause 6 Limits to Use

- 6.1 Free transport cards shall only be used for transport to and from essential services.
- 6.2 Free transport cards are valid at all hours from Monday-Friday, with limited use occurring on weekends, between the hours of 10:00pm to 5:00am;
 - (a) In the case of use between the hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am on weekends, citizens must apply for an exemption.
- 6.3 PTV shall grant exemptions, in accordance with the following process:
 - (a) Applying to PTV directly, explaining why the exemption is needed, with supporting documents;
 - (b) The application is either approved or denied;
 - (c) Applicants may resubmit another application if they are unsuccessful in obtaining an exemption.

Clause 7 Punishment and Penalties

- 7.1 For individuals who are found to be using this service fraudulently, the following shall apply:
 - (a) On the spot penalty fine and/or:
 - (i) An infringement notice.