

A Bill for an Act relating to Free Public Transport for all Victorian Students Bill 2020.

To be enacted by the YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament;

## **Free Public Transport for Students Bill 2020**

A Bill for an Act for the provision of free public transport for all Victorian primary, secondary tertiary and TAFE students. Each day of the academic year school students across Victoria use public transport to commute to their places of learning. In instances where students 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 students who do not have access to Myki cards, potentially due to coming from lower socioeconomic status. This Bill acts to remove the pressure on students who risk being caught without a Myki card. The implementation of this Bill will ensure all Victorian students are non-discriminately empowered to commute to their places of learning every day of the academic year.

## PART I—Preliminary

### Clause 1 Purpose

The main purposes of this Act are—

- (a) to maximise the accessibility of education for all Victorian students;
- (b) to relieve students of the economic stress of funding transport to their places of learning;
- (c) to encourage the use of more environmentally friendly means of travel.

### Clause 2 Commencement

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

### Clause 3 Definitions

In this Bill, we define the following to mean—

- (a) **student** means any individual enrolled in a school, TAFE or university;
- (b) **public transport** means various publicly funded forms of transport, including metro train lines, bus lines and tram lines;
- (c) **Myki card** means the contactless smart card ticketing system used for electronic payment of fares on most public transport services in Melbourne and regional Victoria;
- (d) **Myki inspector** means government employees whose job is to ensure all members taking public transport in Victoria are paying their transport fee;
- (e) **PTV** means Public Transport Victoria;
- (f) **place of learning** means any school or educational institution accessed by students to receive education.

## Part II—Establishment

### Clause 4 Free Myki card for students

- 4.1 PTV shall create a student card to be distributed to all Victorian students.
- 4.2 Whilst commuting to their places of learning students may present their cards to Myki inspectors as a valid tickets for travel.

### Clause 5 Application procedure

- 5.1 To gain access to the free transport card students must present the following as proof of their enrolment at school, TAFE or university—
  - (a) valid student card;
  - (b) student ID application form.

**Clause 6      Limits to use**

- 6.1      The transport cards must only be used for transport to and from a students' place of learning.
- 6.2      Student transport cards are to only be valid during business days, Monday to Friday.
- 6.3      In the instance that a student requires transport for school-related purposes on Saturdays and/or Sundays they may apply for a weekend travel allowance card.
- 5.4      Weekend travel allowance cards are to be granted through the collaboration of the student's school and PTV by the following process—
  - (a)      the student submits an application to their school's administration;
  - (b)      the school administration approves the student application if an appropriate need for weekend travel is determined;
  - (c)      the school forwards the student application to PTV;
  - (d)      PTV grants the student a weekend travel allowance card.