Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	Res 0534-2023	**Version:**	A	**Name:**	Extend the hours of use for student MetroCards in NYC and would prohibit the MTA from promulgating rules or regulations that penalize a student for using a student MetroCard when school is not in session. (A.3723/S.759 and A.816/S.879)
Type:	Resolution			**Status:**	Adopted
				In control:	Committee on Education
On agenda:	3/16/2023				
Enactment date:				**Enactment #:**	

Title: Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the New York State Governor to sign, A.3723/S.759 and A.816/S.879, which would extend the hours of use for student MetroCards in New York City and would prohibit the Metropolitan Transportation Authority from promulgating rules or regulations that penalize a student for using a student MetroCard when school is not in session.

Sponsors: Rita C. Joseph, Farah N. Louis, Lynn C. Schulman, Crystal Hudson, Sandra Ung, Diana I. Ayala, Gale A. Brewer, Linda Lee, Kevin C. Riley, Althea V. Stevens, Carlina Rivera, Tiffany L. Cabán, Julie Menin, Kamillah Hanks, Sandy Nurse, Alexa Avilés, Chi A. Ossé, James F. Gennaro, Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, Eric Dinowitz, Mercedes Narcisse

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Attachments: 1. Res. No. 534, 2. March 16, 2023 - Stated Meeting Agenda, 3. Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 3-16-23, 4. Minutes of the Stated Meeting - March 16, 2023, 5. Proposed Res. No. 534-A - 3/17/23, 6. Committee Report 10/25/23, 7. Hearing Testimony 10/25/23, 8. Hearing Transcript 10/25/23, 9. Committee Report 12/5/23, 10. Hearing Transcript 12/5/23, 11. December 6, 2023 - Stated Meeting Agenda, 12. Hearing Transcript - Stated Meeting 12-6-23, 13. Minutes of the Stated Meeting - December 6, 2023

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
3/16/2023	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
3/16/2023	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
10/25/2023	*	Committee on Education	Hearing Held by Committee	
10/25/2023	*	Committee on Education	Amendment Proposed by Comm	
10/25/2023	*	Committee on Education	Laid Over by Committee	
10/25/2023	*	Committee on Public Safety	Hearing Held by Committee	
10/25/2023	*	Committee on Public Safety	Amendment Proposed by Comm	
10/25/2023	*	Committee on Public Safety	Laid Over by Committee	
12/5/2023	*	Committee on Education	Hearing Held by Committee	
12/5/2023	*	Committee on Education	Amendment Proposed by Comm	
12/5/2023	*	Committee on Education	Amended by Committee	
12/5/2023	A	Committee on Education	Approved by Committee	Pass
12/6/2023	A	City Council	Approved, by Council	Pass

Res. No. 534-A

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the New York State Governor to sign,

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A.3723/S.759 and A.816/S.879, which would extend the hours of use for student MetroCards in New York City and would prohibit the Metropolitan Transportation Authority from promulgating rules or regulations that penalize a student for using a student MetroCard when school is not in session.

By Council Members Joseph, Louis, Schulman, Hudson, Ung, Ayala, Brewer, Lee, Riley, Stevens, Rivera, Cabán, Menin, Hanks, Nurse, Avilés, Ossé, Gennaro, Brooks-Powers, Dinowitz and Narcisse

Whereas, The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), largely in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education (DOE), distributes student MetroCards to eligible students at the beginning of each semester, and as needed during the school year; and

Whereas, Student MetroCards provide three free rides via MTA subways and/or buses each school day, between 5:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., and include a free transfer between buses, or between the subway and local, limited or Select bus service; and

Whereas, A student MetroCard is only to be used by the student to whom it was assigned, is only permitted to be used during the specified times, and even then is only permitted to be used when the student's school is open for classes; and

Whereas, Students that are eligible for student MetroCards include those that are in grades K through 12, who live more than .5 miles from their school, and who do not have yellow school bus service available; and

Whereas, In addition, some students at private and parochial schools have access to student MetroCards; and

Whereas, About one million students of New York City's public, private and parochial schools utilize student MetroCards; and

Whereas, Student MetroCards provide an important service to New York City students, allowing them to move from home to school, and then to school-related activities, for free; and

Whereas, Although helpful, students and families have expressed concerns that the student MetroCard program does not currently serve them in the most effective way possible, expressing that the current time restraints placed on student MetroCards limits opportunities for students to engage in afterschool activities; and

Whereas, According to a May 2020 "Student MetroCard Policy Report" by Assemblymember Harvey Epstein's 74th District Youth Council and in partnership with the Coalition for Student Transit Justice, in a survey of 881 New York City students, 73.2% of those surveyed responded that they take part in afterschool activities that require public transit after 8:30 p.m., the current cut-off time after which a student MetroCard cannot be utilized; and

Whereas, In addition, students who utilize their student MetroCard on a day when school is not in session may be fined $100, have their MetroCard revoked, or face additional penalties under current New York City Transit Authority rules and regulations; and

Whereas, A.3723, introduced by New York State Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, and S.759, introduced by New York State Senator John C. Liu, would establish a student fare program that would provide three free fares each weekday between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., effectively expanding the time window during which students would be allowed to utilize their student MetroCard; and

Whereas, A.816, introduced by New York State Assemblymember Epstein, and S.879, introduced by New York State Senator Liu, would prohibit the MTA from promulgating any rules or regulations that penalize a student for using their student MetroCard on a non-school day; and

Whereas, As New York City students deserve to be able to have cost-free transportation to and from home, school and school-related activities at times that they truly need it, while also not being penalized harshly by utilizing their student MetroCard during times when they still need to get to and from home and school activities despite school otherwise being closed for the day, A.3723/S.759 and A.816/S.879 should be adopted; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass, and the New York State Governor to sign, A.3723/S.759 and A.816/S.879, which would extend the hours of use for student MetroCards in New York City and would prohibit the Metropolitan Transportation Authority from promulgating rules or regulations that penalize a student for using a student MetroCard when school is not in

session.

KK
LS 10520
3/16/23