



Policy Brief from the Office of Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner

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Providing benefits for MTA Workers who are assaulted on the job

Every day New York City Transit employees are highly vulnerable to abuse and physical attacks during their interactions with the millions of commuters that use the City's transit and bus systems. For example, a Bx9 bus operator in the Bronx sustained injuries and trauma, including vision loss and knee and shoulder injuries. Also, a Bx36 bus operator was attacked through the bus' partition while driving in the West Farms neighborhood. Most recently, a J train conductor was assaulted by a passenger for doing her job in Manhattan. Despite the fact that assaulting an MTA employee is a Class D felony, which is punishable by up to seven years in prison, these unfortunate incidents continue and we must do more to provide additional disability benefits for those that are injured while helping us to get to where we need to go.

The transit workers who provide service throughout New York City need a hand to help them cope with the lingering physical, psychological and financial hardships they experience after a violent attack. Assaulted MTA workers are temporarily put out of work or become permanently disabled. In addition to being physically impaired, attacked workers fall into financial disadvantage as they lose potential income – putting the livelihoods of their families at risk.

Legislation:

[Assembly Bill A.7920](#): An act to amend the New York Public Authorities Law, in relation to providing a disability benefit for employees of the New York City transit authority and its subsidiary corporations who are disabled by reason of an assault sustained in the course of employment.

Message from Assemblywoman Joyner:

Many transit workers call our community home, and they provide essential services that many hardworking families throughout the Bronx and New York City use each and every day. These individuals work tirelessly to ensure that millions of New Yorkers are able to commute to their desired destinations. These same transit workers put themselves in harm's way on a daily basis and, under current law, they are not being fairly compensated when they are assaulted and injured. This legislation levels the playing field and ensures that workers who are assaulted are compensated for injuries incurred in service of New York City's riding public.

Every
36 Hours
a Transit Worker
is assaulted on
the Job

Source: The Transport Workers Union
Local 100

**Total number of MTA employees
who lost time due to injury or
illness in 2015**



Source: MTA NYC Transit