

News...

...from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 12, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz
(773) 296-4141

New Law Creates Senior Citizen Universal Fare Card

CHICAGO – A new law co-sponsored by State Representative Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) will implement a universal fare card system on public transportation for senior citizens.

House Bill 2874, signed into law by Governor Quinn on Monday, requires the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to implement a universal fare card to be used interchangeably on all RTA public transportation systems including the Chicago Transit Authority, Metra, and Pace suburban buses. Currently, all transportation systems require separate fare cards.

“Right now, someone living in Skokie making the short commute to Chicago may have to use three or four separate transit cards just to get from one place to another,” Feigenholtz said. “It doesn’t make sense. This streamlines the way seniors pay for public transportation and eliminates the confusion that comes with carrying multiple transit cards for multiple transit systems.”

Similar legislation was signed by the Governor earlier this summer; House Bill 3597 requires the implementation of a similar universal fare system for all RTA riders and has an effective date of January 1, 2015. House Bill 2874 affects only residents over 65 years of age and speeds up the effective date to January 1, 2012. The RTA has until April 30, 2012 to implement the universal fare card program for senior citizens.

“Senior citizens have been asking for this legislation for quite some time,” said Feigenholtz. “They are especially concerned with safety hazards presented by having to carry and keep track of so many different transit cards. Fidgeting at the bus stop and rummaging in a wallet for the right card provides an opportunity for potential thieves. This legislation will not only make public transit more efficient, it will help keep seniors feeling confident about public transportation and encourage greater mobility for our aging population.”

For more information, contact Feigenholtz’s office at (773) 296-4141 or sara@staterepsara.com.

##