

12585. RESOLUTION 26-18 - ADOPTION OF A REVISED FARE SCHEDULE FOR THE CAPE MAY-LEWES FERRY TO INCREASE VEHICLE FARES, INCREASE PERIODS WHERE CHILDREN TRAVEL FREE, IMPLEMENT STAIRCASE PRICING, AND SET GROUP AND RETURN TRIP FARES TO A PERCENTAGE OF ONE-WAY FARES.

WHEREAS, The Delaware River and Bay Authority (the “Authority”), is a bi-state agency created by Compact for the purpose of operating crossing facilities between the States of Delaware and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Authority owns and operates the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, which connects Cape May, New Jersey, and Lewes, Delaware; and

WHEREAS, on February 9th, 2026, the Authority held a virtual public meeting where these changes were reviewed with the public for their feedback,

WHEREAS, the Authority has concluded that the revised fare schedule is just and reasonable, necessary, proper and desirable; and

WHEREAS, the Authority desires to amend the fare schedule with an effective date of April 1, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the revised fare schedule for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, attached hereto, is hereby adopted with an effective date of May 1, 2026.

Cape May-Lewes Ferry Fares								
(Fares are One-Way Unless Noted)			Effective May 1, 2024					
	OFF SEASON		SPRING / AUTUMN		HIGH SEASON		PEAK	
	NOV-MAR		APR-MAY, SEP - OCT		JUN – AUG			
VEHICLES (Not Including Driver)					(Mon. – Thu.)		(Weekends & holidays)	
	Base	Maximum Staircase	Base	Maximum Staircase	Base	Maximum Staircase	Base	Maximum Staircase
Car, SUV, Van, Pick-up Truck (vehicles less than 20’ length)	\$24.00	\$28.00	\$36.00	\$41.00	\$42.00	\$48.00	\$45.00	\$52.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$32.00	\$37.00	\$38.00	\$44.00		
Motorcycle or Motorbike	\$20.00	\$23.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$36.00	\$41.00
3-Wheel Motorbike	\$21.00	\$24.00	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$36.00	\$41.00
<i>Return-trip Value Fare</i>	\$18.00	\$21.00	\$27.00	\$31.00	\$32.00	\$37.00		
 Scooter	\$11.00	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$28.00	\$18.00	\$21.00	\$19.00	\$22.00
<i>Return-trip Value Fare</i>	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$22.00	\$25.00	\$16.00	\$18.00		

	OFF SEASON		SPRING / AUTUMN		HIGH SEASON		PEAK	
	NOV-MAR		APR- SEP - OCT		JUN – AUG			
OTHER VEHICLES (Not Including Driver, Continued)					(Mon. – Thu.)		(Weekends & holidays)	
	Base	Maximum Staircase	Base	Maximum Staircase	Base	Maximum Staircase	Base	Maximum Staircase
20' to under 25'	\$29.00	\$33.00	\$42.00	\$48.00	\$48.00	\$55.00	\$52.00	\$60.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$26.00	\$30.00	\$38.00	\$44.00	\$43.00	\$49.00		
25' to under 35'	\$39.00	\$45.00	\$53.00	\$61.00	\$58.00	\$67.00	\$65.00	\$75.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$48.00	\$55.00	\$52.00	\$60.00		
35' to under 45'	\$46.00	\$53.00	\$61.00	\$70.00	\$66.00	\$76.00	\$74.00	\$85.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$41.00	\$47.00	\$55.00	\$63.00	\$59.00	\$68.00		
45' to under 60'	\$59.00	\$68.00	\$76.00	\$87.00	\$81.00	\$93.00	\$92.00	\$106.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$53.00	\$61.00	\$68.00	\$78.00	\$73.00	\$84.00		
More than 60'	\$85.00	\$98.00	\$101.00	\$116.00	\$107.00	\$123.00	\$123.0	\$141.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$77.00	\$89.00	\$91.00	\$105.00	\$96.00	\$110.00		

VEHICLE & FOOT PASSENGERS				
Under 6 years of age	FREE		FREE	FREE
Children, age 6-13	FREE		FREE	\$3.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	FREE		FREE	\$2.00
Adults (14 – 61 years)	\$9.00		\$11.00	\$11.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$7.00		\$9.00	\$9.00
Seniors (62+ years)	\$7.00		\$9.00	\$9.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$6.00		\$7.00	\$7.00
Military	\$7.00		\$9.00	\$9.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$6.00		\$7.00	\$7.00
Blue & Red Responders (First Responders)	\$7.00		\$9.00	\$9.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$6.00		\$7.00	\$7.00
AAA Members	\$7.00		\$9.00	\$9.00
<i>Return-Trip Value Fare</i>	\$6.00		\$7.00	\$7.00

NOTE: Return-Trip Value Fares must be purchased with initial Sailing

Loyalty Rewards Members earn points for travel when booked online which are redeemable for future travel**

BUS PASSENGERS				
Under 6 years of age	FREE		FREE	FREE
Children, age 6-13	FREE		FREE	\$2.00
14 Years of age and older	\$8.00		\$8.00	\$8.00

FERRY TERMINAL SHUTTLE FARES	OFF SEASON	SPRING / AUTUMN	HIGH SEASON	PEAK
	NOV- MAR	APR – MAY, SEP - OCT	JUN - AUG	
Under 6 years of age	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
6 Years of age and older	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

DISCOUNT FARES & FEES		<i>Discount</i>		<i>Discount</i>		<i>Discount</i>	
Discount Book of Six (6) Tickets (all vehicles less than 20' length)	\$175.00	-\$3.83	\$175.00	-\$17.83	\$175.00	-\$23.83	N/A
Discount Book of Twelve (12) Tickets (all vehicles less than 20' length)	\$330.00	-\$5.50	\$330.00	-\$19.50	\$330.00	-\$25.50	N/A
Discount Book of Six (6) Tickets (Commercial vehicles)	15% off scheduled fare						N/A

FREQUENT TRAVELER BOOKS		
<i>(Not valid Memorial Day to Labor Day on Sat, Sun, or Holidays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.)</i>		
Discount Book of Six (6) Adult Tickets	\$51.00	\$8.50 ea.
Discount Book of Twelve (12) Adult Tickets	\$96.00	\$8.00 ea.
Discount Book of Twenty-Five (25) Adult Tickets	\$175.00	\$7.00 ea.

FEES	
Non-Refundable Reservation Cancellation Fee	\$8.00
“Show-go” handling fee	\$5.00
No-Show Fee	\$26.00
Optional Priority Boarding Fee	\$5.00

***PEAK FARES:** Memorial Day to Labor Day – Fri, Sat, Sun, & Holidays

** See complete requirements for Rewards Members at CMLF.com

TICKET EXPIRATION: Tickets expire two years after purchase date except for Season Passes, which expire December 31st of the year purchased.

Resolution 26-18 was moved by Commissioner Houghton, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffey, and was approved by a roll call vote of 11-0.

Resolution 26-18 Executive Summary Sheet

Resolution: Adoption of a revised fare schedule for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry to increase vehicle fares and shuttle fares, increase the period of time where children travel free, to increase the handling and cancelation fees, to implement staircase pricing and to modify group and return-trip fares to be a percentage of base fares.

Committee: Budget & Finance Committee

Committee Date: April 21, 2026

Board Date: April 21, 2026

Purpose of Resolution:

To authorize a revised fare schedule for the Cape May-Lewes Ferry effective May 1, 2026

Background for Resolution:

A revised fare schedule is proposed to increase vehicle fares between \$2 - \$6 (depending on season) and to increase the period (October – May) where fares for children ages 6 – 13 are free. The resolution also implements a \$2 increase in cancelation fees and the handling fee for “show-go” vehicle travel less than one hour in advance of a scheduled departure. Group and return-trip discount fares will now be a percentage of base fares. Lastly, it implements staircase pricing where prices step up as capacity is booked above 50%, 75%, and 90%.

The proposed fare schedule changes include:

- A \$3 - \$6 increase to in-season vehicle fares.
- Increase in the period of time where fares are free for children ages 6 – 13.
- A \$2 increase to the “show-go” (non-reserved) handling fees and cancelation fees.
- A \$2 increase to shuttle fares.
- Implementation of staircase pricing.
- Group and return-trip discount fares are set to a percentage of base fares.
- This proposed fare schedule is projected to generate approximately \$1,447,000 with no traffic growth or decline and is intended to be partially offset by anticipated promotional discounts.
- Above changes will be effective on May 1, 2026.