

STATE OF NEW YORK

8119--B

IN SENATE

March 23, 2020

Introduced by Sens. COMRIE, HOYLMAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the transportation law, in relation to paratransit services within the state and city of New York during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 15-b of the transportation law is
2 amended by adding a new paragraph c to read as follows:

3 c. (1) (a) The eligibility of all Americans with Disabilities Act
4 paratransit eligible customers, whose certification would otherwise
5 expire between March first, two thousand twenty and July thirty-first,
6 two thousand twenty, shall be extended through August thirty-first, two
7 thousand twenty.

8 (b) Each contractor providing paratransit services shall render eligi-
9 bility determinations for any application for Americans with Disabili-
10 ties Act paratransit based on the application and submitted medical
11 documentation alone, until August thirty-first, two thousand twenty.

12 (c) For the period ending July thirty-first, two thousand twenty, all
13 contractors providing paratransit services shall suspend all paratransit
14 shared rides and shall instead dispatch and route individual paratransit
15 trips, to the maximum extent possible. Customers shall be notified in
16 advance in the event that their ride will be shared with another custom-
17 er, and such customers shall have the right to refuse or reschedule
18 shared rides without penalty.

19 (d) All contractors providing paratransit services in the city of New
20 York shall ensure that all paratransit drivers and personnel providing
21 paratransit services are provided with hand sanitizer, disposable ster-
22 ile gloves, face masks and training on preventive measures to protect
23 both customers and drivers from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 consistent with current center for disease control and department of
2 health guidelines.

3 (2) Any contractor providing paratransit services is authorized to
4 extend any date set forth in clause (a), (b) or (c) of subparagraph (1)
5 of this paragraph, if, in the interest of the health and safety of the
6 public due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, such
7 contractor deems such extension to be necessary.

8 § 2. Subdivision 5 of section 15-c of the transportation law is
9 amended by adding a new paragraph e to read as follows:

10 e. (1) (a) The eligibility of all Americans with Disabilities Act
11 paratransit eligible customers, whose certification would otherwise
12 expire between March first, two thousand twenty and July thirty-first,
13 two thousand twenty, shall be extended through August thirty-first, two
14 thousand twenty.

15 (b) Each transportation provider providing paratransit services shall
16 render eligibility determinations for any application for Americans with
17 Disabilities Act paratransit based on the application and submitted
18 medical documentation alone, until August thirty-first, two thousand
19 twenty.

20 (c) For the period ending July thirty-first, two thousand twenty, all
21 transportation providers providing paratransit services shall suspend
22 all paratransit shared rides and shall instead dispatch and route indi-
23 vidual paratransit trips, to the maximum extent possible. Customers
24 shall be notified in advance in the event that their ride will be shared
25 with another customer, and such customers shall have the right to refuse
26 or reschedule shared rides without penalty.

27 (d) All transportation providers providing paratransit services in
28 this state shall ensure that all paratransit drivers and personnel
29 providing paratransit services are provided with hand sanitizer, dispos-
30 able sterile gloves, face masks and training on preventive measures to
31 protect both customers and drivers from COVID-19 and other infectious
32 diseases, consistent with current center for disease control and depart-
33 ment of health guidelines.

34 (2) Any transportation provider providing paratransit services is
35 authorized to extend any date set forth in clause (a), (b) or (c) of
36 subparagraph (1) of this paragraph, if, in the interest of the health
37 and safety of the public due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
38 pandemic, such transportation provider deems such extension to be neces-
39 sary.

40 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.