STATE OF NEW YORK

7833--A

IN SENATE

March 1, 2018

Introduced by Sens. GOLDEN, SEPULVEDA -- 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

AN ACT to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to taxi and limousine services equipped with wheelchair accessible vehicles

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

Section 1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds and declares that the public health, safety and welfare of New Yorkers who use wheelchairs traveling to, from and within the city of New York is a matter of substantial state concern, including access to safe and reliable mass transportation such as for-hire-vehicles. The majority of residents and non-residents of the city of New York who use wheelchairs do not currently have efficient access to accessible for-hire-vehicles in the city of New York. The legislature finds and declares that is it a matter of public health, safety and welfare to ensure adequate and reliable accessible transportation to disabled individuals that use wheelchairs in the city of New York. Additionally, New York city has grappled with the issue of providing efficient for-hire-vehicle service to people who use wheelchairs for decades. Unfortunately, it efforts have proven an abject failure as its rules and regulations fail to comport with the business structure of the fore-hire-vehicle model. This failure has manifested itself in the inability to achieve equivalent services, as admitted by the TLC commissioner. This legislative initiative creates a system that has proven successful in other states in providing people who use wheelchairs with transportation. Moreover, this legislation uses a similar model to that the TLC has implemented for the yellow taxi system.

§ 2. The administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 19-548 to read as follows:

§ 19-548 For-hire accessible wheelchair transportation. a. The New York city taxi and limousine commission is authorized to promulgate such

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

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rules and regulations as it shall deem necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

b. The New York city taxi and limousine commission shall contract with one entity to provide wheelchair accessible vehicles through a central dispatch service. Such dispatch service shall be responsible for providing for-hire wheelchair accessible transportation.

c. The New York city for-hire bases, as defined by regulations of the New York city taxi and limousine commission, shall not be subject to New York city taxi and limousine commission regulations related to accessible vehicles for disabled passengers.

d. The New York city taxi and limousine commission shall issue an annual report regarding the efficacy of the central dispatch service in providing people who use wheelchairs with for-hire-vehicle transportation. Such report shall include metrics describing number of rides in each borough and time between dispatch and pickup of passengers.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.