

STATE OF NEW YORK

8119

IN SENATE

March 23, 2020

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

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 submitted before July thirty-first, two thousand
11 twenty, based on the application and submitted medical documentation
12 alone, until August thirty-first, two thousand twenty.

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

20 (d) All contractors providing paratransit services in the city of New
21 York shall ensure that all paratransit drivers and personnel providing
22 paratransit services are provided with hand sanitizer, disposable ster-
23 ile gloves, and training on preventive measures to protect both custom-
24 ers and drivers from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, consistent
25 with current center for disease control and department of health guide-
26 lines.

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

LBD16013-01-0

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.