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:

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

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

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

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

(d) All contractors providing paratransit services in the city of New York shall ensure that all paratransit drivers and personnel providing paratransit services are provided with hand sanitizer, disposable sterile gloves, face masks and training on preventive measures to protect 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.
consistent with current center for disease control and department of
health guidelines.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.