

STATE OF NEW YORK

8119--C

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 -- 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 (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 period of validity of the paratransit certification of
4 all Americans with Disabilities Act paratransit eligible individuals,
5 whose certification would otherwise expire between March first, two
6 thousand twenty and July thirty-first, two thousand twenty, shall be
7 extended through August thirty-first, two 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 solely on information contained in the writ-
11 ten application and in submitted medical documentation, until August
12 thirty-first, two thousand twenty.

13 (c) All contractors providing paratransit services shall, until July
14 thirty-first, two thousand twenty, dispatch and route individual rather
15 than shared paratransit rides, to the maximum extent possible, and shall
16 notify customers as soon as practicable in advance in the event that
17 their ride will be shared with another customer. Such customers shall
18 have the right to refuse or reschedule rides that would have been
19 shared, and any such refusal or rescheduling shall be without penalty
20 provided they respond within a reasonable amount of time.

21 (d) All contractors providing paratransit services in the city of New
22 York shall ensure that all paratransit drivers and personnel providing

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

LBD16013-17-0

1 paratransit services are provided with hand sanitizer, disposable ster-
2 ile gloves, face masks and training on preventive measures to protect
3 customers, paratransit drivers and personnel providing paratransit
4 services from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, consistent with
5 current guidelines from the federal centers for disease control and
6 prevention, the federal occupational safety and health administration,
7 and the New York state department of health.

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

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

15 e. (1) (a) The period of validity of the paratransit certification of
16 all Americans with Disabilities Act paratransit eligible individuals,
17 whose certification would otherwise expire between March first, two
18 thousand twenty and July thirty-first, two thousand twenty, shall be
19 extended through August thirty-first, two thousand twenty.

20 (b) Each transportation provider providing paratransit services shall
21 render eligibility determinations for any application for Americans with
22 Disabilities Act paratransit based solely on information contained in
23 the written application and in submitted medical documentation, until
24 August thirty-first, two thousand twenty.

25 (c) All transportation providers providing paratransit services shall,
26 until July thirty-first, two thousand twenty, dispatch and route indi-
27 vidual rather than shared paratransit rides, to the maximum extent
28 possible, and shall notify customers as soon as practicable in advance
29 in the event that their ride will be shared with another customer. Such
30 customers shall have the right to refuse or reschedule rides that would
31 have been shared, and any such refusal or rescheduling shall be without
32 penalty provided they respond within a reasonable amount of time.

33 (d) All transportation providers providing paratransit services in
34 this state shall ensure that all paratransit drivers and personnel
35 providing paratransit services are provided with hand sanitizer, dispos-
36 able sterile gloves, face masks and training on preventive measures to
37 protect customers, paratransit drivers and personnel providing paratran-
38 sit services from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, consistent
39 with current guidelines from the federal centers for disease control and
40 prevention, the federal occupational safety and health administration,
41 and the New York state department of health.

42 (2) Any transportation provider providing paratransit services is
43 authorized to extend any date set forth in clause (a), (b) or (c) of
44 subparagraph one of this paragraph, if, in the interest of the health
45 and safety of the public due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic,
46 such transportation provider deems such extension to be necessary.

47 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.