

STATE OF NEW YORK

6012

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 16, 2019

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

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the use of electronic coupling when providing prearranged transportation services to passengers

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

1 Section 1. Subdivision 5 of section 1696 of the vehicle and traffic
2 law, as added by section 2 of part AAA of chapter 59 of the laws of
3 2017, is amended to read as follows:

4 5. The department shall promulgate regulations to:

5 (a) ensure that each TNC vehicle is easily identified as such and that
6 the TNC for which the TNC driver is providing the TNC service or TNC
7 prearranged trip is distinguishable. Such marking shall be in such form
8 as is approved by the commissioner, and shall be attached, affixed or
9 displayed in such manner as he or she may prescribe by regulation[-];
10 and

11 (b) require that a TNC shall implement a system of interactive elec-
12 tronic coupling between a passenger and a TNC driver designated as the
13 driver for the TNC prearranged trip requested by a passenger. Upon the
14 TNC vehicle's arrival to the prearranged pick-up location, such elec-
15 tronic coupling shall indicate through an interactive exchange of
16 signals on both the TNC driver's handheld device and the passenger's
17 handheld device that the prearranged match has been confirmed and that
18 the passenger may safely enter the vehicle designated to pick him or her
19 up.

20 § 2. Section 19-516 of the administrative code of the city of New York
21 is amended by adding a new subdivision c to read as follows:

22 c. The commission or successor agency shall promulgate regulations
23 requiring that all for-hire vehicles that provide prearranged transpor-

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

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1 tation services to passengers on the basis of a digital network accessi-
2 ble by a handheld device such as but not limited to a smartphone or
3 tablet shall implement a system of interactive electronic coupling
4 between the passenger and the driver assigned to pick the passenger up.
5 Upon the for-hire vehicle's arrival to the prearranged pick-up location,
6 such electronic coupling shall indicate through an interactive exchange
7 of signals on both the driver's handheld device and the passenger's
8 handheld device that the prearranged match has been confirmed and that
9 the passenger may safely enter the vehicle designated to pick him or her
10 up.

11 § 3. Article 9 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a
12 new section 384 to read as follows:

13 § 384. Additional safety requirements for commercial vehicles engaged
14 in the for-hire transportation of passengers. Any for-hire vehicle using
15 a digital application to prearrange passenger trips shall implement a
16 system of interactive electronic coupling between the passenger and the
17 driver assigned to pick the passenger up. Upon the for-hire vehicle's
18 arrival, such electronic coupling shall indicate through an interactive
19 exchange of signals on both the for-hire driver's handheld device and
20 the passenger's handheld device that the prearranged match has been
21 confirmed and that the passenger may safely enter the vehicle designated
22 to pick him or her up.

23 § 4. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a
24 law.