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:

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

(c) For the period beginning 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, 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 department of health guidelines.

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

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

(c) For the period beginning July thirty-first, two thousand twenty, all transportation providers 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 transportation providers providing paratransit services in this state shall ensure that all paratransit drivers and personnel providing paratransit services are provided with hand sanitizer, disposable sterile gloves, 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 department 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 necessary.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.