

# STATE OF NEW YORK

5491

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 9, 2021

Introduced by Sens. COMRIE, HOYLMAN, KAPLAN, LIU, MAY, SKOUFIS -- 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 (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-one, shall be  
7 extended through August thirty-first, two thousand twenty-one.

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-one.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

46 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.