STATE OF NEW YORK

8596

IN ASSEMBLY

January 10, 2022

Introduced by M. of A. RAJKUMAR -- read once and referred to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the labor law and the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to notification of job skills training programs and employment services for taxicab drivers

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

Section 1. Due to a multitude of challenges currently being faced by many taxicab drivers, there is an increasing desire among some to seek alternate employment. The introduction of transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft, the uncertainty of reliable and adequate income, long hours, health and safety risks and the recent medallion crisis which revealed that the average taxicab driver is over $500,000 in debt, have combined to force many taxicab drivers to leave the industry. The legislature finds that the state and the city of New York should work to provide job training to aid in the successful transition of interested taxicab drivers to new employment opportunities.

§ 2. The labor law is amended by adding a new section 45 to read as follows:

§ 45. Job skills training and employment services for taxicab drivers. The department, in conjunction with the New York city department of employment, or any other department or agency designated by the mayor of the city of New York, shall generate a list of all job skills training programs and employment services provided by or contracted through the state or the city of New York that are available and open, at no cost, to taxicab drivers. Programs which provide language instruction, financial literacy, social services, computer training and career counseling services shall be included. Such list shall include information on how to contact and enroll in such programs. Such information shall be updated annually and provided to the New York city taxi and limousine commission for distribution to holders of taxicab licenses or medallions.

§ 3. The administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 19-557 to read as follows:

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

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§ 19-557 Distribution of job skills training programs and employment service information. The commission shall distribute, semi-annually, to all drivers licensed to operate a taxicab under this chapter, the list and information on available job skills training programs and employment services which are compiled pursuant to section forty-five of the labor law. Such information shall be produced in the ten most common languages spoken by individuals in this state and distributed according to the language preference indicated by the taxicab driver.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law.