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:

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 period of validity of the paratransit certification of all Americans with Disabilities Act paratransit eligible individuals, whose certification would otherwise expire between March first, two thousand twenty and July thirty-first, two thousand twenty-one, shall be extended through August thirty-first, two thousand twenty-one.

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

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

(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 ster-

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

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

(2) Any contractor providing paratransit services is authorized to extend any date set forth in clause (a), (b) or (c) of subparagraph one of this paragraph, if, in the interest of the health and safety of the public due to the coronavirus (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 period of validity of the paratransit certification of all Americans with Disabilities Act paratransit eligible individuals, whose certification would otherwise expire between March first, two thousand twenty and July thirty-first, two thousand twenty-one, shall be extended through August thirty-first, two thousand twenty-one.

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

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

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

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

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.