STATE OF NEW YORK

1252

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 13, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. DINOWITZ, CARROLL, SIMON, WEPRIN, BENEDETTO, OTIS, BRAUNSTEIN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the public authorities law and the transportation law, in relation to extending and expanding the scope of the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot

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

Section 1. Subdivision 3 of section 1205 of the public authorities law, as added by chapter 717 of the laws of 1967, is amended and a new subdivision 9 is added to read as follows:

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision one of this section, no zonal system of fares proposed to be instituted on or after March first, nineteen hundred sixty-eight for the use of the whole or any part of a rapid transit facility or of an omnibus line facility **or a paratransit service** operated by the authority and no general revision of the system of transfers applicable to the use of all such facilities in effect as of that date shall be established without the written approval of the mayor. For the purposes of this subdivision the term "zonal system of fares" shall mean any system whereby the fare payable for the use of a rapid transit facility or an omnibus line facility **or any paratransit service operated by the authority** or of any part thereof varies according to distance traveled or to the location of the point of entry or departure by the user, but the creation or elimination of free transfer points shall not be regarded as the institution of such a system.

9. a. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot" shall mean the service created by the metropolitan transportation authority in two thousand seventeen, through which users of the authority's Access-A-Ride paratransit program can receive immediate rides using a smartphone app or phone service.

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

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b. The authority shall continue to operate the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot through March thirty-first, two thousand twenty-five, as provided by subdivision five-a of section fifteen-b of the transportation law.

c. Fares for rides for the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot shall be equal to the authority's base fare for bus and subway services. Hours of service for such pilot shall be the same as the authority's hours of service for bus, subway, and other paratransit services. The length, duration and number of on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot rides available to each user enrolled in the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot shall not be limited or restricted.

§ 2. Section 15-b of the transportation law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5-a to read as follows:

5-a. a. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot" shall mean the service created by the metropolitan transportation authority in two thousand seventeen, through which users of the authority's Access-A-Ride paratransit program can receive immediate rides using a smartphone app or phone service.

b. The metropolitan transportation authority shall continue to operate the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot through March thirty-first, two thousand twenty-five.

c. On or before March sixteenth, two thousand twenty-four, the metropolitan transportation authority shall expand the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot to include an additional one thousand two hundred Access-A-Ride users; provided, however, the authority shall not pay any costs or expenses related to such expansion above funding levels for the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot for the two thousand nineteen calendar year, and may only implement such expansion with funds appropriated to it by the state of New York or other governmental source for such purpose. In selecting new users for the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot, the metropolitan transportation authority shall endeavor to select a representative sample of Access-A-Ride users, accounting for age, disability, geographic distribution throughout New York city, and frequency of ridership of Access-A-Ride's other services.

d. Fares for rides for the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot shall be equal to the metropolitan transportation authority's base fare for bus and subway services. Hours of service for such pilot shall be the same as the metropolitan transportation authority's hours of service for bus, subway, and other paratransit services. The length, duration and number of on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot rides available to each user enrolled in the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot shall not be limited or restricted.

e. On or before April thirteenth, two thousand twenty-five, the authority shall issue a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the assembly, the mayor of the city of New York, the city council of the city of New York and the metropolitan transportation authority. Such report shall detail ridership, usage patterns, and costs of the on-demand E-hail paratransit pilot.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.