STATE OF NEW YORK

9959

IN SENATE

December 11, 2024

Introduced by Sen. HOYLMAN-SIGAL -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the operation of autonomous taxicabs in a city having a population of one million or more

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

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 397-d to read as follows:

§ 397-d. Autonomous taxicabs. 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no autonomous vehicle may be used for taxi, livery or transportation network company vehicle services in any city with a population of one million or more without first being duly licensed by the New York city taxi and limousine commission as a taxicab as defined in section one hundred forty-eight-a of this chapter and section 19-502 of the administrative code of the city of New York.

2. No autonomous vehicle shall be licensed by the New York city taxi and limousine commission to provide transportation for hire or prearranged trips, unless and until the New York city taxi and limousine commission establishes a license for the use of an autonomous vehicle pursuant to subdivision three of this section. The New York city taxi and limousine commission shall not license any autonomous vehicle to provide transportation for hire or prearranged trips unless that vehicle is a taxicab as defined in section one hundred forty-eight-a of this chapter and section 19-502 of the administrative code of the city of New York.

3. Before licensing an autonomous vehicle as a taxicab, the New York city taxi and limousine commission shall establish a license for use of an autonomous vehicle as a taxicab and shall promulgate rules regarding such license and the operation of autonomous taxicabs. In promulgating such rules, the New York city taxi and limousine commission shall, at a minimum, set requirements for the following:

(a) the process for issuing a license to use an autonomous vehicle as a taxicab;

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

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(b) the issuance of such licenses only to owners of taxicab medallions;

(c) the number of such licenses to be issued and any restrictions on the number of licenses that may be issued to any one person or entity;

(d) the safety standards for use of an autonomous vehicle as a taxicab;

(e) the insurance required to use an autonomous vehicle as a taxicab;

(f) the reporting to the New York city taxi and limousine commission of trip and revenue data, including the pickup and drop-off location, mileage, and fare for each trip;

(g) the vehicle standards for such autonomous vehicles, including whether the vehicle is a wheelchair accessible vehicle or a low- or zero-emissions vehicle; and

(h) such other rules as the New York city taxi and limousine commission considers to be necessary for the safe and orderly use of an autonomous vehicle as a taxicab.

4. The New York city taxi and limousine commission shall deny an application for a license for use of an autonomous vehicle as a taxicab if such vehicle or applicant does not comply with the rules of the New York city taxi and limousine commission and, after due notice and an opportunity to be heard, may suspend or revoke a license for failure to comply with such rules.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.