STATE OF NEW YORK

3856

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. WILLIAMS -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to providing reimbursement for certain individuals residing in transit deserts

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

Section 1. Section 1703 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding four new subdivisions 8-a, 8-b, 8-c and 8-d to read as follows:

8-a. "Transit desert" shall mean an area located in a city with a population of a million or more that lacks a subway system and is heavily car dependent. Such area shall include, but not be limited to the following zip codes, some part of, 10301, 10304, 10306, 10307, 10308, 10309, 10310, 10312, 11234, 11229, 11236, 11357, 11358, 11360, 11361, 11379, 11411, 11412, 11413, 11422, 11423, 11427, 11428, 11432, 11433, 11434, 11581, 11691, 11692, 11693, 11694, 11695 and 11697.

8-b. "Medical treatment" shall include, but not be limited to, the following services, anesthesiology, bariatrics and nutrition, cancer treatment, pediatric care, dentistry, emergency care, endocrinology, eye care, immunology and rheumatology, mental health, nephrology, neurology, obstetrics & gynecology, occupational medicine, orthopedic care, otolaryngology, palliative care, pathology, plastic and reconstructive surgery, primary care, pulmonary and critical care medicine, radiology, rehabilitation, surgery, urgent care, and urology.

8-c. "Religious leader" shall include any member of the clergy or laity who is engaged in the work assigned by the church or the denomination of which such individual is a member.

8-d. "Religious services" shall include rites and/or rituals performed by a religious leader.

§ 2. Section 1704-a of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 5 to read as follows:

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

LBD07384-01-5

5. (a) The Triborough bridge and tunnel authority shall implement a reimbursement program for one hundred percent of all central business district tolls, fees and other charges assessed for certain cars entering such district from a transit desert, as defined in subdivision eight-a of section seventeen hundred three of this article. Such cars shall include those entering to seek medical treatment, as defined in subdivision eight-b of section seventeen hundred three of this article, and those entering to provide religious services as defined in subdivision eight-d of section seventeen hundred three of this article. To qualify for such reimbursement, individuals shall be required to provide both proof of residency and documentation from either their medical treatment provider or by the church or the denomination of which such individual is a member.

(b) Such reimbursement shall occur monthly by the Triborough bridge and tunnel authority after receipt of the documentation required under paragraph (a) of this subdivision.

(c) The Triborough bridge and tunnel authority shall create a standard form to provide to medical treatment providers and churches or other denominations necessary to effectuate such reimbursement program.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.