STATE OF NEW YORK

8691

IN SENATE

January 7, 2026

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to pre-trip safety briefings for motor carriers that operate charter buses

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

Section 1. Subdivision 9 of section 509-m of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by section 9 of part K of chapter 58 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

9. **(a)** In coordination with the commissioner of transportation and the superintendent of state police, establish and regularly update the form and content of a pre-trip safety briefing for motor carriers that operate altered motor vehicles commonly referred to as "stretch limousines", designed to carry nine or more passengers including the driver pursuant to operating authority issued by the commissioner of transportation **and for motor carriers that operate charter buses pursuant to operating authority issued by the commissioner of transportation**, which motor carriers shall provide to passengers prior to transporting such passengers for hire in such stretch limousines **and such charter buses**.

(b) Pre-trip safety briefings conducted for such stretch limousines and charter buses shall include, but not be limited to, the mandatory use of safety belts by passengers when passenger seat positions are equipped with safety belts approved by and conforming to standards established by the commissioner and the civil fine for violations as provided by section twelve hundred twenty-nine-c of this chapter.

(c) For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "charter bus" shall mean a bus transporting passengers for compensation in a chartered party and the term "chartered party" shall mean a group of persons who, pursuant to a common purpose and under a single contract and at a fixed charge, have acquired exclusive use of a bus to travel together as a group to a specific destination or for a particular itinerary either agreed upon in advance or modified after having left the place of origin by such group.

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

LBD14058-01-5

§ 2. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 4 of section 1229-c of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by chapter 434 of the laws of 2024, is amended to read as follows:

(d) "charter bus" shall mean **(i)** a bus manufactured or assembled on or after November twenty-eighth, two thousand sixteen transporting passengers for compensation in a chartered party**, and (ii) a bus manufactured or assembled prior to November twenty-eighth, two thousand sixteen transporting passengers for compensation in a chartered party which is equipped with at least one safety belt for each passenger seat position approved by and conforming to standards established by the commissioner**; and

§ 3. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.