STATE OF NEW YORK

6881

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 25, 2025

Introduced by Sen. SKOUFIS -- 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 requiring bus drivers complete a human trafficking recognition training program

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

Section 1. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 509-b of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by chapter 675 of the laws of 1985, are amended and a new subdivision 5 is added to read as follows:

(3) has passed the bus driver physical examination administered pursuant to regulations established by the commissioner; [~~and~~]

(4) is not disqualified to drive a motor vehicle pursuant to section five hundred nine-c or any other provision of this article[~~.~~]**; and**

(5) has completed the human trafficking recognition training program pursuant to section five hundred nine-bbb of this article.

§ 2. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 509-bbb to read as follows:

§ 509-bbb. Human trafficking recognition training program. (a) For purposes of this section:

(i) "human trafficking victim" shall have the same meaning as defined in section four hundred eighty-three-aa of the social services law.

(ii) "interagency task force on human trafficking" shall mean the interagency task force on human trafficking established by section four hundred eighty-three-ee of the social services law.

(iii) "the program" shall mean the human trafficking recognition training program established under this section.

(b) The commissioner, in conjunction with the interagency task force on human trafficking, the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services and the commissioner of transportation, shall develop a human trafficking recognition training program. The program may be developed in conjunction or consultation with any other state, federal,

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

LBD11107-01-5

or non-profit organizations at the discretion of the commissioner. The program may be conducted through in-person instruction, electronic and video communication, or online programs.

(c) The program shall include, but not be limited to:

(i) the nature of human trafficking.

(ii) how human trafficking is defined in law.

(iii) how to identify someone who is human trafficking.

(iv) how to identify someone who is a human trafficking victim.

(v) entities to whom a driver may report suspected activity that might constitute human trafficking, including but not limited to the national human trafficking hotline, which connects victims of human trafficking to:

(A) relief and recovery options; and

(B) social and legal services.

(d) The commissioner and the commissioner of the department of transportation shall make available a list online of established or approved human trafficking recognition programs for use by a bus company.

(e) All new employees required under section five hundred nine-b of this article to complete the human trafficking recognition training program shall complete such program within their first sixty days of employment.

(f) The program shall be considered compensable time.

(g) Every bus company, as defined in section two of the transportation law, and every other entity which hires bus drivers to drive a bus shall maintain records indicating that each employee required to complete the program pursuant to this section has completed such program. Such records shall be kept on file by the bus company or other such entity for the period during which the employee is employed by the motor bus company and for one year after such employment ends.

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, section one of this act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth 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.