OLR Bill Analysis
HB 7243

AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY SAFETY AND SECURITY POLICIES.

SUMMARY

This bill requires transportation network companies (TNCs) (e.g., Uber and Lyft) to adopt rider safety and security policies and for TNC drivers to comply with them. Under its policy, a TNC must:

1. establish a central telephone number for riders and other individuals to contact the company in emergencies and situations threatening a rider’s safety or security, including when a rider may be a danger to himself or herself or another individual;

2. ensure that the central telephone number is prominently displayed on the TNC’s website and digital network and in each TNC vehicle;

3. ensure that calls to the central telephone number are answered immediately with an option for the caller to speak immediately with a representative; and

4. establish a protocol to provide prompt responses to emergencies and other situations, including guidelines on when the TNC will contact the driver or emergency personnel to provide information necessary to address the given situation.

The bill authorizes the Department of Transportation commissioner to impose a civil penalty of up to $5,000 on a TNC that fails to adopt or comply with a rider safety and security policy.

The bill also makes conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019
BACKGROUND

Transportation Network Companies

The law defines a TNC as a company, corporation, partnership, trust, association, sole proprietorship, or similar organization that operates in Connecticut and uses a digital network to connect TNC riders to TNC drivers to provide prearranged rides; it does not include a taxicab certificate holder or livery permit holder (CGS § 13b-116(1)).

Related Bill

SB 989, reported favorably by the Labor and Public Employees Committee, generally (1) requires TNCs to pay each of their drivers at least 75% of the money collected from their riders and (2) prohibits TNCs from discriminating against their drivers for participating in discussions about organizing or advocating for better working conditions.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 20 Nay 4 (03/19/2019)