OLR Bill Analysis
SB 989

AN ACT CONCERNING BASIC LABOR STANDARDS FOR TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY DRIVERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires transportation network companies (TNCs, e.g., Uber and Lyft) to (1) pay each of their drivers at least 75% of the money collected from each of the driver’s riders for a completed prearranged ride and (2) not keep more than 25% of the total moneys collected for any driver on any day. If a TNC violates these requirements, the bill allows an affected driver to bring a civil suit to recover up to twice the amount the TNC owes to the driver, plus reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

The bill also prohibits TNCs from discriminating against a TNC driver or group of drivers for participating in discussions about organizing or advocating for better treatment by, or working conditions with, the TNC. If a TNC violates this prohibition, the bill allows an affected driver to bring a civil suit to recover compensatory and punitive damages, plus reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

The bill requires each TNC to quarterly report to the transportation commissioner on the total (1) number of prearranged rides completed by its drivers during the quarter, (2) amount of money collected from those riders, and (3) amount of money paid to the drivers for those rides.

Lastly, the bill also allows the labor commissioner to enforce its provisions (but does not specify through what means he may do so).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

DEFINITIONS

Under the bill, a “transportation network company” is 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.

A “prearranged ride” is the transportation by a TNC driver of a TNC rider that (1) begins when the TNC driver accepts a request from the TNC rider through a digital network, (2) continues while the TNC driver transports the TNC rider, and (3) ends when the last TNC rider exits the TNC vehicle.

A “rider” is an individual or individuals who use a digital network to connect to a TNC driver and receive a prearranged ride between points the individual or individuals choose.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 9  Nay 5  (03/19/2019)