
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1080

AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various changes affecting public transportation access and awareness for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD). Specifically, it requires the following:

1. the Department of Transportation (DOT), starting July 1, 2023, to use its appropriated funds to give people with IDD who receive Department of Developmental Services (DDS) services (a) free public bus fares and (b) 50% reduced fares on intrastate commuter rail systems (§ 1);
2. DOT, in coordination with DDS, to make applications for transit photo ID cards available to these riders (§ 1);
3. the DOT and DDS commissioners, in conjunction with each transit district, to study the demand and need for statewide and local transportation services for people with IDD and report on the study results and recommendations to the Human Services and Transportation committees by February 1, 2024 (§ 2);
4. each transit district, by January 1, 2024, to develop a process for employers or community-based service providers that employ or serve at least 10 people with IDD to request the district to build and maintain a bus stop or shelter at or near their location (§ 3);
5. DDS, by October 1, 2023, to issue a request for proposals for the provision of nonmedical transportation services for people with IDD whose needs are not currently met by public transportation,

- including to and from work, educational facilities, medical appointments, stores, and other places to enjoy life's amenities (§ 4);
6. DOT, in consultation with DDS, to ensure people with IDD who receive DDS services have access to any DOT-funded travel training program on how to safely use commuter railroad systems and public bus services (§ 5);
 7. DDS, in consultation with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to develop and post in a conspicuous place on their websites, online training resources or videos with instruction and best practices for student transportation carriers and school bus drivers to appropriately interact with people with IDD (§ 6);
 8. the DMV commissioner, by October 1, 2023, to offer appointments at licensed driving schools to students with disabilities (including IDD) for the on-the-road skills test part of the driver's license test if the test is (a) administered by one of his agents or a DMV inspector agent and (b) made available to students of these schools who are otherwise eligible to take the test (§ 7); and
 9. starting July 1, 2023, allows the caregiver of a child younger than age 18 with a disability to apply for an accessible parking windshield placard on the child's behalf, in addition to the child's parent or guardian, who already may do so under current law (§ 8).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision on accessible parking placards (§ 8) is effective July 1, 2023.

§ 2 — STUDY ON TRANSPORTATION NEEDS FOR PEOPLE WITH IDD

The bill requires the DOT and DDS commissioners, together with each transit district, to study the need for statewide and local transportation services for people with IDD including:

1. expanding the operating hours, including evening hours, for service on commuter railroad systems and state-owned or controlled public bus transportation;
2. determining their daily needs, including traveling to and from work, educational facilities, medical appointments, stores, and other places to enjoy life's amenities; and
3. a specific analysis of each transit district's services that identifies underserved locations, specific routes for possible expansion to meet the needs, and the associated costs.

§ 8 — ACCESSIBLE PARKING PLACARDS

The bill allows a caregiver of a child younger than age 18 with a disability to apply for an accessible parking windshield placard on the child's behalf. Current law already allows the child's parent or guardian to do so.

As under current law, the DMV must issue a placard to each parent, guardian, or caregiver who applies. It correspondingly increases, from two to three, the maximum number of placards the DMV may issue on behalf of an eligible child.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/17/2023)