

HB4064 - An Act Relative to the Ride for Hire Industry

Sponsor:

House Bills in Third Reading

Summary:

The House-engrossed rewrite of the Governor's "ride for hire" legislation, this bill is intended to empower the Department of Public Utilities to provide comprehensive regulation of Transportation Network Companies, such as Uber, Lyft and Sidecar. Initially the bill defines a "transportation network company" as one that uses a digital network to connect riders to drivers for the purposes of pre-arranging and providing transportation, and establishes that a new Ride for Hire Division within the Department of Public Utilities, which is to have the general supervision of these companies. The companies must receive a permit from DPU, as well as the drivers, and between them the company and driver must have adequate insurance. Drivers must be subject to background checks, including being CORI-cleared. Drivers must be in compliance with DPU and RMV regulations; any driver violating these provisions may be subject to a fine of \$500 for a first violation, \$750 for a second violation and \$1000 for a third or subsequent violation; and amends provisions relative to CORI records to allow the DPU and municipal licensing authorities to have access to criminal record information.

In addition, the bill creates a separate Ride for Hire Division with the Department of Public Utilities; gives the DPU the authority to make an annual assessment against the Ride Sharing companies; authorizes the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation provide financial assistance to "small" taxi companies, including loan guarantees and medallion refinancing; eliminates the provisions relative to a five-member Transportation Network Company Local Advisory Commission included in the Governor's bill; requires MassPort to create special rules relative to drivers picking up passengers at Logan Airport; establishes a Task Force to review the current laws, regulations, and local ordinances governing licensed hackneys, taxis, livery, and transportation network companies in the Commonwealth; requires the establishment of a statewide roster of all livery and taxicab drivers, along with a convenient means for municipalities to notify the division of any livery or cab drivers registered within their municipality; grandfathered in the use of ride sharing vehicles between 10 and 15 years until January 1, 2017; and sunsets the requirement that drivers picking up at either the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center or Logan Airport must have livery licenses as of August 1, 2021.

(House-engrossed text of HB4049. The printed-as-amended text makes certain technical changes, and in addition it grandfathers in current drivers, allowing them to operate until the DPU has created the required Transportation Network Driver Certificates; it expands the jurisdiction of the Transportation Task Force to look into things like the establishment of a taxi medallion mitigation fund; it requires the Transportation Network Companies to share complaints about drivers with the Attorney General; and it requires the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority to adopt special rules relative to the operation of ride sharing services around the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.)

Intro Date:	2016-03-11
Status:	Conference committee appointed in the House (CC/H)
Complete History:	<p>03/09/16 - H - Printed-as-amended version of HB4049 (View comparison to prior version)</p> <p>03/14/16 - S - Received in the Senate</p> <p>03/14/16 - S - Referred to Senate Committee on Ways and Means</p> <p>06/23/16 - S - Reported favorably as amended by Senate Committee on Ways &amp; Means</p> <p>06/23/16 - S - New text recommended - see SB2371</p> <p>06/23/16 - S - Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next session (6/29/2016) with the amendment pending</p> <p>06/27/16 - Senate Session (6/28/16 1:00 PM Senate Chamber)</p> <p>06/29/16 - Senate Session (6/29/16 1:00 PM Senate Chamber)</p> <p>06/29/16 - S - Amendment(s) adopted as amended (Senate Ways and Means)</p> <p>06/29/16 - S - New text substituted - see SB2371</p> <p>06/29/16 - S - Ordered to a third reading</p> <p>06/29/16 - S - Passed to be engrossed (34/2)</p> <p>07/07/16 - H - Non-concurred in Senate amendment(s)</p> <p>07/08/16 - H - Conference committee appointed (Reps. Michlewitz, Mariano, Hill)</p> <p>07/08/16 - S - Insists on its amendment(s)</p> <p>07/08/16 - S - Conference committee appointed (Sens. Spilka, Eldridge, Humason)</p> <p>07/31/16 - H - Conference committee recommended substituting new draft - see HB4570</p>