

CHAPTER 2025-66

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1525

An act relating to prearranged transportation services; creating s. 316.2021, F.S.; prohibiting the impersonation of a transportation network company driver; providing criminal penalties; amending s. 341.061, F.S.; providing that services purchased from a transportation network company are not considered privately owned or operated bus transit systems; amending s. 427.0159, F.S.; authorizing the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to expend funds to contract with alternative providers; providing requirements for such alternative providers; amending s. 427.02, F.S.; revising the definition of the term “transportation service provider”; requiring transportation service providers to provide certain drivers with access to certain training materials; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 316.2021, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

316.2021 Unlawful impersonation of transportation network company driver.—

(1) A person may not impersonate a transportation network company driver, as defined in s. 627.748(1), by making a false statement; displaying counterfeit signage or emblems of a trade dress, trademark, brand, or logo of a transportation network company; or engaging in any other act that falsely represents that the person represents a transportation network company or is responding to a passenger ride request for a transportation network company.

(2)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), a person who willfully violates subsection (1) commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(b) A person who willfully violates subsection (1) during the commission of, or to facilitate the commission of, a separate felony offense commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 2. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (2) of section 341.061, Florida Statutes, to read:

341.061 Transit safety standards; inspections and system safety reviews.—

(2)

(d) Services purchased from a transportation network company as defined in s. 627.748(1) which otherwise comply with the provisions of s. 627.748 are not privately owned or operated bus transit systems.

Section 3. Subsection (5) is added to section 427.0159, Florida Statutes, to read:

427.0159 Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund.—

(5) The commission may expend funds to contract with alternative providers with dedicated vehicles and trained personnel specializing in paratransit services to support transportation services for persons with disabilities. Such entities shall provide specialized transportation services tailored to the specific needs of riders, that comply with service standards as established by the commission, to ensure safe and accessible mobility options.

Section 4. Subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 427.02, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

427.02 Paratransit service contracts for transportation service providers.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term “transportation service provider” means an organization or entity that contracts with a local government to provide paratransit service to persons with disabilities using a dedicated fleet of vehicles operated by its employees or directly contracted drivers who meet paratransit service standards. The term does not include a transportation network company as defined in s. 627.748(1).

(2) For contracts entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2024, a transportation service provider must agree to:

(a) ~~Provide training to each driver of a motor vehicle used to provide paratransit service to persons with disabilities with access to third-party training materials which, at a minimum, meet~~ meets requirements established by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities for training and professional development of staff providing direct services to clients of the agency.

Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 21, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 21, 2025.