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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - TRANSPORTATION NETWORK
COMPANY SERVICES

Introduced By: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Date Introduced: June 18, 2015

Referred To: Senate Commerce

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 39 of the General Laws entitled "PUBLIC UTILITIES AND
2 CARRIERS" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 14.2

4 TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES

5 **39-14.2-1. Purpose.** -- The purpose of this chapter is to establish state regulation to
6 ensure the public safety, consumer protection and lawful conduct in the provision of
7 transportation network services, while revising the regulatory conditions for taxi-cabs.

8 **39-14.2-2. Definitions.** -- As used in this chapter: (1) "Division" means the RI division of
9 public utilities and carriers.

10 (2) "Person" means and includes any individual, partnership, corporation, or other
11 association of individuals.

12 (3) "State agencies" means the departments of commerce, business regulation, and labor
13 and training.

14 (4) "Transportation network company" or "TNC" means a person who uses a digital
15 network or software application service to connect passengers to transportation provided by TNC
16 drivers. A TNC is not deemed to own, control, operate or manage the vehicles used by the TNC
17 drivers. A TNC is not a jitney as defined in § 39-13-1, a taxi-cab or limited public motor coach as
18 defined in § 39-14-1, or a public motor vehicle as defined in § 39-14.1-1, or a common carrier as

1 defined in title 39. TNCs may be further defined by the division through regulation.

2 (5) "Transportation network company driver" or "TNC driver" means a person who
3 operates a motor vehicle that is owned, leased or otherwise authorized for use by the person to
4 provide TNC services through an agreement with a TNC to receive connections to potential
5 passengers in exchange for the payment of a fee to the TNC.

6 **39-14.2-3. Regulations.** – (a) Every person owning or operating a transportation network
7 company, and every person engaged or to be engaged as a TNC driver providing a TNC service,
8 is subject to the jurisdiction of the division.

9 (b) On or before November 30, 2015, the division, in consultation with and including the
10 recommendations of the state agencies as defined in this chapter, shall promulgate regulations to
11 protect the public safety relating to both TNC drivers and vehicles used by TNC drivers to
12 provide TNC services. The division shall establish minimum automobile insurance requirements
13 including gap-coverage, provide reasonable fare protections, reinforce the application of the state
14 sales tax, and any other regulations as are deemed necessary to carry out the purpose of this
15 chapter. Said regulations shall be developed in accordance with the administrative procedures act,
16 in chapter 35 of title 42, including the inclusion of public comment.

17 (c) On or before November 30, 2015, the division, in consultation with and including the
18 recommendations of the state agencies as defined in this chapter, shall revise and modernize the
19 current regulations for taxi-cab or limited public motor coaches as defined in § 39-14-1. Said
20 regulations shall be revised in accordance with the administrative procedures act, in chapter 35 of
21 title 42, including the inclusion of public comment.

22 (d) On or before December 31, 2015, the division, in consultation with and including the
23 recommendations of the state agencies as defined in this chapter, shall provide recommendations
24 to the governor and the general assembly regarding any statutory changes deemed necessary to
25 fully implement the purposes of this chapter.

26 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - TRANSPORTATION NETWORK
COMPANY SERVICES

1 This act would establish state regulation over transportation network companies,
2 transportation network services, and transportation network drivers as well as the revision of taxi-
3 cab or limited public motor coach regulations.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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