

SENATE BILL 786

R2, O3

6lr2524
CF HB 1242

By: **Senator Guzzone**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation of Persons With Disabilities – Transportation Network**
3 **Companies – Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting transportation network companies under contract with the
5 Maryland Transit Administration that facilitate transit service to persons with
6 disabilities through transportation network operators from certain requirements
7 relating to a criminal history records check and a required course for employees;
8 requiring transportation network companies under contract with the Administration
9 that facilitate transit service to persons with disabilities to conduct a certain annual
10 background screening of each transportation network operator providing transit
11 service to persons with disabilities through the transportation network company;
12 and generally relating to requirements for transportation network companies
13 facilitating transit service to persons with disabilities.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Public Utilities
16 Section 10–101(l) and (m) and 10–404(b)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
20 Article – Transportation
21 Section 7–102.1(e)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
25 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – Public Utilities**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 10–101.

2 (l) “Transportation network company” means a company that operates in the
3 State using a digital network to connect passengers to transportation network operators or
4 transportation network partners for transportation network services.

5 (m) “Transportation network operator”, “transportation network partner”, or
6 “transportation network driver” means an individual who:

7 (1) has been issued a transportation network operator’s license, or is
8 otherwise authorized, by the Commission to provide transportation network services;

9 (2) receives, through a transportation network company’s digital network
10 application, a connection to a potential passenger to transport the passenger between
11 points chosen by the passenger in exchange for the payment of a fee to the transportation
12 network company; and

13 (3) uses a motor vehicle that is owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for
14 use by the individual and is approved for use in providing transportation network services
15 by the Commission.

16 10–404.

17 (b) The Commission may approve an applicant to be an operator and issue a
18 temporary transportation network operator’s license to the applicant if:

19 (1) the applicant provides all information that the Commission requires for
20 the application, including the information specified in item (2) of this subsection; and

21 (2) the Commission is satisfied with the successful submission of the
22 applicant’s:

23 (i) national criminal history records check:

24 1. conducted by a consumer reporting agency as defined
25 under § 14–1201 of the Commercial Law Article or a comparable entity approved by the
26 Commission; and

27 2. that includes:

28 A. a Multi–State Multi–Jurisdiction Criminal Records
29 Database Search or a search of a similar nationwide database with validation;

30 B. a search of the Sex Offender Registry; and

31 C. a search of the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Sex
32 Offender Public Website; and

(ii) driving record check that includes a driving history research report.

Article – Transportation

7–102.1.

(e) (1) The public interest requires the development of an effective and efficient transit service to meet the special needs of elderly [and handicapped] persons **AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**.

(2) When providing transit service to meet the special needs of [disabled] persons **WITH DISABILITIES**, the Administration shall:

(i) Apply to the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, in accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection, for State and national criminal history records checks of the Administration's employees who are or will be employed to provide transit service to [disabled] persons **WITH DISABILITIES**;

(ii) Ensure that any entity that contracts with the Administration to provide transit service to [disabled] persons **WITH DISABILITIES** applies to the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, in accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection, for State and national criminal history records checks of the contractor's employees who provide transit service to [disabled] persons **WITH DISABILITIES**; and

(iii) Ensure that all employees of the Administration or a contractor of the Administration who are or will be employed to provide transit service to [disabled] persons **WITH DISABILITIES** successfully complete a course, jointly developed by the State Department of Education and the Department of Disabilities and approved by the Administration, on matters relating to appropriate accommodation, including customer service, sensitivity, and respectful and courteous treatment of all passengers, including [disabled] persons **WITH DISABILITIES**.

(3) (i) In this paragraph, "Central Repository" has the meaning stated in § 10–201 of the Criminal Procedure Article.

(ii) The Administration or contractor shall apply to the Central Repository for a State and national criminal history records check for each employee subject to this subsection.

(iii) As part of the application for a criminal history records check, the Administration or contractor shall submit to the Central Repository:

1 1. Two complete sets of the employee's legible fingerprints
2 taken on forms approved by the Director of the Central Repository and the Director of the
3 Federal Bureau of Investigation;

4 2. The fee authorized under § 10-221(b)(7) of the Criminal
5 Procedure Article for access to Maryland criminal history records; and

6 3. The mandatory processing fee required by the Federal
7 Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history records check.

8 (iv) In accordance with Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the Criminal Procedure
9 Article, the Central Repository shall forward to the employee and the Administration or
10 contractor a printed statement of the employee's criminal history record information.

11 (v) Information obtained from the Central Repository under this
12 subsection shall be:

13 1. Confidential and may not be disseminated; and

14 2. Used only for the purpose authorized by this subsection.

15 (vi) The subject of a criminal history records check under this
16 subsection may contest the contents of the printed statement issued by the Central
17 Repository as provided in § 10-223 of the Criminal Procedure Article.

18 **(4) (I) 1. IN THIS PARAGRAPH THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE**
19 **THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

20 **2. "TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY" HAS THE**
21 **MEANING STATED IN § 10-101 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE.**

22 **3. "TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR" HAS THE**
23 **MEANING STATED IN § 10-101 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE.**

24 **(II) THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS**
25 **SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY TO A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY UNDER**
26 **CONTRACT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION THAT FACILITATES THE PROVISION OF**
27 **TRANSIT SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH TRANSPORTATION**
28 **NETWORK OPERATORS.**

29 **(III) A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY UNDER**
30 **CONTRACT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION THAT FACILITATES THE PROVISION OF**
31 **TRANSIT SERVICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SHALL CONDUCT AN ANNUAL**
32 **BACKGROUND SCREENING OF EACH TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR**
33 **PROVIDING SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH THE**

1 TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER §
2 10-404(B)(2) OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2026.