



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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March 7, 2025

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
230 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1030 (Fennell) - Transportation Network Companies - Deactivation of Operators - Policy and Appeal Procedure – Unfavorable

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of TechNet, I'm writing to share our concerns on HB 1030.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a targeted policy agenda at the federal and 50-state level. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.5 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, artificial intelligence, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, transportation, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance. TechNet has offices in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Harrisburg, Olympia, Sacramento, Silicon Valley, Tallahassee, and Washington, D.C.

The sharing economy is creating income opportunities in every corner of the country, allowing people to work independently and on discretionary schedules, use their personal property and skills to generate income, help them expand their businesses, and provide for themselves and their families. Policymakers should ensure that efforts to regulate the sharing economy protect innovation and individual empowerment, are not overly burdensome, and recognize the unique nature of the sharing economy when compared to traditional providers. The composition of the U.S. workforce is changing as new technologies have provided low-barrier access to flexible, independent work. This type of work allows individuals and families in need of supplemental income, including during periods of unemployment or underemployment, to access work on demand. Over time, in large part due to the availability of the gig and sharing economies, the independent workforce has grown to serve as an important source of supplemental earnings for millions of Americans.

TechNet has concerns about HB 1030 as drafted. Our member companies take safety reports from riders and drivers extremely seriously and review each one to determine the appropriate course of action. If a driver disagrees with the action taken, they can already ask for the decision to be reviewed. If a driver is found to have been in violation of any company's community guidelines, they are removed from the platform for the safety of the community.

Many of our TNC members already have policies in place to address operator deactivations and appeals processes. HB 1030 gives wide latitude to the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations around the form and description of the deactivation policy and manner in which said policy is distributed. Further, leaving the Commission to define the "reasonableness" of a private company's policy is vague, overbroad, and anti-competitive. Businesses require certainty to thrive, and we are concerned that the Commission's ability to adopt regulations will lead to business uncertainty. Additionally, the bill gives the Commission discretion to adopt regulations regarding measures a TNC company may take to summarize the records relating to a deactivation. The provision in the bill related to the Commission seeking out "any other information or record the Commission determines is necessary" could inadvertently lead to companies having to reveal proprietary information.

Finally, this bill contains a private right of action (PRA). We believe that PRAs will lead to frivolous lawsuits and expose Maryland businesses to onerous liability. Any enforcement should rest solely with the Attorney General.

TechNet seeks to encourage, enable, and advance American leadership in innovation, and is vigilant against vague, overbroad, unnecessary, harmful, or hostile laws and regulations that slow down innovation. We promote policies that encourage the development of entrepreneurship, mobile commerce, and the next wave of innovation in the new economy. Establishing an innovation-friendly policy framework is the key to the competitiveness of the technology industry. For the above stated reasons, TechNet is opposed to HB 1030. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Margaret Durkin
TechNet Executive Director, Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic