



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.

I am here today to introduce House Bill 0480, legislation that strengthens fairness, transparency, and due process for transportation network operators, ride-share drivers, when they face deactivation from digital platforms.

Transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft play a significant role in Maryland's transportation system. They provide critical mobility options for residents and visitors while offering flexible income opportunities for thousands of Marylanders who rely on ride-share driving as a primary or supplemental source of earnings.

However, despite their importance to the transportation ecosystem, ride-share drivers currently face the risk of sudden and unexplained deactivation, often without advance notice, clear justification, or a meaningful opportunity to appeal.

Because drivers are classified as independent contractors, they lack traditional workplace protections. As a result, many drivers, after investing substantial personal resources in vehicles, insurance, and maintenance, can lose access to the platform overnight. This instability not only harms individual drivers and their families, but also undermines the reliability of our transportation network as a whole.

HB 0480 addresses this gap by establishing clear, reasonable standards governing when and how a transportation network company may deactivate an operator. Specifically, the bill requires companies to:

- Maintain and publicly share a written deactivation policy that is clear, specific, and accessible;
- Ensure that deactivations are consistent with that policy and supported by a fair and objective investigation;
- Provide advance notice and detailed explanations for deactivation decisions, except in cases of egregious misconduct or when immediate action is required by law; and
- Offer drivers a meaningful internal appeals process with defined timelines and access to relevant records.

Importantly, this bill does not prevent transportation network companies from acting swiftly to protect public safety. HB 0480 explicitly allows immediate deactivation in cases involving

egregious misconduct or legal requirements. Instead, the bill ensures that routine deactivations are free from discrimination, retaliation, or arbitrary decision-making.

By promoting fairness and accountability, HB 0480 supports both drivers and the broader transportation system, helping to ensure economic stability for Maryland workers while maintaining safe, reliable ride-share services for the public.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to give House Bill 0480 a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.