

Suspend the Rules And Pass the Bill, H.R. 1082, with Amendments

(The amendments strike all after the enacting clause and insert a new text and a new title)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1082

To require ride-hailing companies to implement an enhanced digital system to verify passengers with their authorized ride-hailing vehicles and drivers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require ride-hailing companies to implement an enhanced digital system to verify passengers with their authorized ride-hailing vehicles and drivers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Sami’s Law”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) PASSENGER.—The term “passenger” means
4 an individual who is matched with a TNC driver
5 through a TNC platform.

6 (2) TNC DRIVER.—The term “TNC driver”
7 means an individual who contracts with a transpor-
8 tation network company and provides transportation
9 services facilitated through a TNC platform in ex-
10 change for compensation or payment of a fee from
11 a passenger.

12 (3) TNC PLATFORM.—The term “TNC plat-
13 form” means an online-enabled application or digital
14 network made available by a transportation network
15 company to connect passengers to TNC drivers for
16 the purpose of a TNC driver providing prearranged
17 transportation services.

18 (4) TNC VEHICLE.—The term “TNC vehicle”
19 means a vehicle (also known as a “ride-hailing vehi-
20 cle”) that is—

21 (A) owned, leased, or otherwise authorized
22 for use by a TNC driver; and

23 (B) used by the TNC driver to provide to
24 passengers prearranged transportation services
25 facilitated through a TNC platform.

1 (5) TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY;
2 TNC.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—The terms “transportation network company” and “TNC” mean a
4 corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, or
5 other entity that makes available a TNC platform to connect passengers to TNC drivers in
6 exchange for compensation or payment of a fee
7 in order for the TNC driver to transport the
8 passenger using a TNC vehicle.
9

10 (B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “transportation network company” and “TNC” does not
11 include—
12

13 (i) a shared-expense carpool or van-
14 pool arrangement that is not intended to
15 generate profit for the driver; or
16

17 (ii) microtransit or other dedicated
18 services provided exclusively on behalf of a
19 government entity, a nonprofit organization, or a third-party commercial enterprise.
20
21

22 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF RIDE-HAILING SIGNAGE.**

23 (a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection
24 (b), it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or offer
25 for sale any signage that—

1 (1) is designed to help a passenger to identify
2 a TNC vehicle; and

3 (2) either—

4 (A) contains a proprietary trademark or
5 logo of a transportation network company; or

6 (B) purports to be signage of a transpor-
7 tation network company.

8 (b) **APPLICABILITY.**—Subsection (a) shall not apply
9 to any person authorized by a transportation network
10 company to sell or offer for sale signage of the transpor-
11 tation network company described in that subsection.

12 (c) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

13 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—A violation of this section
14 shall be considered to be a violation of a rule defin-
15 ing an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed
16 under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade
17 Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

18 (2) **ACTION BY FTC.**—The Federal Trade Com-
19 mission shall enforce this section in the same man-
20 ner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdic-
21 tion, powers, and duties as though all applicable pro-
22 visions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15
23 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) are incorporated in this Act.

24 (3) **TREATMENT.**—Any person who violates this
25 section shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled

1 to the privileges and immunities, provided in the
2 Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et
3 seq.).

4 (d) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section limits
5 the authority of the Federal Trade Commission under any
6 other provision of law.

7 **SEC. 4. GAO STUDY ON INCIDENCE OF FATAL AND NON-**
8 **FATAL PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ASSAULT OF**
9 **PASSENGERS, TNC DRIVERS, AND DRIVERS**
10 **OF OTHER FOR-HIRE VEHICLES.**

11 (a) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
12 date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years there-
13 after, the Comptroller General of the United States shall
14 submit to Congress a report that includes the results of
15 a study regarding—

16 (1) the incidence of fatal and non-fatal physical
17 assault and sexual assault perpetrated in the pre-
18 ceding 2 calendar years (starting with calendar
19 years 2019 and 2020 for the first study)—

20 (A) against TNC drivers and drivers of
21 other for-hire vehicles (including taxicabs) by
22 passengers and riders of for-hire vehicles; and

23 (B) against passengers and riders by other
24 passengers and TNC drivers or drivers of other
25 for-hire vehicles (including taxicabs), including

1 the incidences that are committed by individ-
2 uals who are not TNC drivers or drivers of
3 other for-hire vehicles but who pose as TNC
4 drivers or drivers of other for-hire vehicles;

5 (2) the nature and specifics of any background
6 checks conducted on prospective TNC drivers and
7 drivers of other for-hire vehicles (including taxicabs),
8 including any State and local laws requiring those
9 background checks; and

10 (3) the safety steps taken by transportation
11 network companies and other for-hire vehicle serv-
12 ices (including taxicab companies) related to rider
13 and driver safety.

14 (b) **SEXUAL ASSAULT DEFINED.**—In this section, the
15 term “sexual assault” means the occurrence of an act that
16 constitutes any nonconsensual sexual act proscribed by
17 Federal, Tribal, or State law, including when the victim
18 lacks capacity to consent.

19 **SEC. 5. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

20 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of
21 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,
22 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement
23 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this
24 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record
25 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-

- 1 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
- 2 vote on passage.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to prohibit the unauthorized sale of ride-hailing signage and study the incidence of fatal and non-fatal assaults in TNC and for-hire vehicles in order to enhance safety and save lives.”.