

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 980

Representatives Grim, Baker

Cosponsors: Representatives Synenberg, Lett, Brownlee, Somani, Brennan

To amend sections 4925.02, 4925.03, 4925.04, and 1
4925.07 and to enact sections 4925.11, 4925.12, 2
and 4925.99 of the Revised Code to revise the 3
law governing transportation network companies 4
and to name this act the Rideshare Sexual 5
Assault Prevention Act. 6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4925.02, 4925.03, 4925.04, and 7
4925.07 be amended and sections 4925.11, 4925.12, and 4925.99 of 8
the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 9

Sec. 4925.02. (A) The public utilities commission shall 10
issue a transportation network company permit to any entity that 11
does all of the following: 12

(1) Applies for a permit issued in accordance with rules 13
adopted under this section; 14

(2) Affirms that the entity will maintain compliance with 15
the applicable requirements established under sections 4925.03 16
to ~~4925.08~~ 4925.12 of the Revised Code and with rules adopted 17
under this section; 18

(3) Submits along with an application for a permit a 19

permit fee of five thousand dollars. 20

Any permit issued under this section is effective for one 21
year commencing on the date of issuance. 22

(B) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit 23
the issuance of a transportation network company permit to an 24
entity that is also engaged in providing taxicab services, so 25
long as the entity complies with division (A) of this section, 26
all applicable requirements established under sections 4925.03 27
to ~~4925.08~~ 4925.12 of the Revised Code, and rules adopted by the 28
public utilities commission under division (C) of this section. 29

(C) The public utilities commission may adopt rules in 30
accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code for purposes of 31
issuing permits to transportation network companies and 32
implementing the requirements of this chapter. 33

(D) No entity shall operate a transportation network 34
company without a valid permit issued under this section or 35
without complying with rules adopted by the public utilities 36
commission under this section or the applicable requirements of 37
sections 4925.03 to ~~4925.08~~ 4925.12 of the Revised Code. 38

Sec. 4925.03. A transportation network company shall do 39
all of the following: 40

(A) Disclose its fare calculation method on its digital 41
network; 42

(B) Provide transportation network company riders or 43
potential riders with the applicable rates charged by the 44
transportation network company; 45

(C) Allow a transportation network company rider or 46
potential rider to request and receive an estimated fare before 47

the rider or potential rider receives transportation network 48
company services; 49

(D) Ensure that for each transportation network company 50
service request one of the following conditions is met: 51

(1) The transportation network company's digital network 52
provides a photograph of the transportation network company 53
driver and the license plate number of the motor vehicle that 54
will provide the transportation network company service before 55
the transportation network company rider enters the vehicle; 56

(2) The name of the transportation network company is 57
prominently displayed on the vehicle that will provide the 58
transportation network company service. 59

(E) Establish a process by which the transportation 60
network company may accept payments for transportation network 61
company services through the company's digital network; 62

(F) Within a reasonable period of time after the 63
completion of transportation network services, transmit an 64
electronic receipt to the transportation network company rider 65
that includes the origin and destination of the trip, the 66
distance of the trip, the total time during which transportation 67
network company services were provided, an itemization of the 68
total fare charged, and, if applicable, that the rider made a 69
cash payment to the driver; 70

(G) Designate an agent located within this state who is 71
authorized to receive service of process; 72

(H) Comply with the requirements established under 73
sections 3942.02 to 3942.04 of the Revised Code; 74

(I) Conduct ~~an annual background check~~ checks on each 75

authorized transportation network company driver before 76
authorizing the driver to provide transportation network company 77
services and ~~terminate~~ every six months thereafter, unless 78
otherwise specified in this chapter; 79

(J) Terminate the authorization of any transportation 80
network company driver that does not meet the initial 81
authorization requirements of division (B) of section ~~4525.04~~ 82
4925.04 of the Revised Code; 83

~~(J)~~ (K) Comply with the reporting requirements under 84
section 4925.12 of the Revised Code; 85

(L) Comply with any other requirements established by the 86
public utilities commission. 87

Sec. 4925.04. (A) Prior to authorizing a person to act as 88
a transportation network company driver, a transportation 89
network company shall do all of the following: 90

(1) Require the person to submit an application to the 91
transportation network company that includes at least all of the 92
following: 93

(a) The person's address; 94

(b) The person's age; 95

(c) The person's driver's license number and information 96
on the person's driving history; 97

(d) A copy of the certificate of motor vehicle 98
registration for the vehicle the person will use to provide 99
transportation network company services; 100

(e) Proof of automobile insurance. 101

(2) Conduct a background check, the expenses of which 102

shall be paid by the transportation network company, on each 103
applicant, including both of the following: 104

(a) A search of a multi-state/multi-jurisdiction criminal 105
records database, or a similar nationwide criminal records 106
database, and validation of any records through a primary source 107
search; 108

(b) A search of the United States department of justice 109
national sex offender public web site; 110

(3) Obtain and review a driving history report with regard 111
to each applicant. 112

(B) A transportation network company shall not authorize a 113
person to act as a transportation network company driver if any 114
of the following apply to the person: 115

(1) The person does not possess a valid driver's license. 116

(2) The person does not possess a valid certification of 117
motor vehicle registration for the motor vehicle that the person 118
intends to use to provide transportation network company 119
services. 120

(3) The person does not possess automobile liability 121
insurance for the vehicle that the person intends to use to 122
provide transportation network company services that meets the 123
requirements of section 3942.02 of the Revised Code unless the 124
transportation network company provides such insurance on behalf 125
of the driver. 126

(4) The person has not attained the age of nineteen. 127

(5) Within the past three years, the person has been 128
convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, more than three violations 129
of section 4511.194, 4511.204, 4511.21, 4511.211, 4511.251, 130

4511.29, 4511.30, 4511.39, 4511.46, 4511.47, 4511.711, or 131
4511.75 of the Revised Code or an existing or former municipal 132
ordinance or law of this or any other state, or of the United 133
States, that is substantially equivalent to any offense listed 134
in division (B) (5) of this section. 135

(6) Within the past three years, the person has been 136
convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, any serious vehicle-related 137
offense, including a violation of division (B) of section 138
2921.331 of the Revised Code or a violation of section 4510.11, 139
4510.111, 4510.12, 4510.14, 4510.16, 4510.18, 4511.20, or 140
4511.201 of the Revised Code or an existing or former municipal 141
ordinance or law of this or any other state, or of the United 142
States, that is substantially equivalent to any offense listed 143
in division (B) (6) of this section. 144

(7) Within the past seven years, the person has been 145
convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, any of the following: 146

(a) Operating a vehicle while under the influence of 147
alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of both, in violation 148
of section 4511.19 of the Revised Code; 149

(b) The commission of any felony offense while operating, 150
or being a passenger in, a motor vehicle; 151

(c) A theft or fraud offense in violation of section 152
2911.01 or 2911.02 of the Revised Code or any provision of 153
Chapter 2913. of the Revised Code; 154

(d) A property damage offense in violation of section 155
2909.02, 2909.03, 2909.05, 2909.06, 2909.07, 2909.09, 2909.10, 156
or 2909.101 of the Revised Code; 157

(e) A sex offense in violation of any provision of Chapter 158
2907. of the Revised Code; 159

(f) An offense of violence as defined in section 2901.01 160
of the Revised Code; 161

(g) An act of terrorism as defined in section 2909.21 of 162
the Revised Code; 163

(h) A violation of an existing or former municipal 164
ordinance or law of this or any other state, or of the United 165
States, that is substantially equivalent to any offense listed 166
in division (B) (7) of this section. 167

(8) A search of the United States department of justice 168
national sex offender public web site indicates that the person 169
is identified as a sex offender. 170

~~(C)~~ (C) (1) A transportation network company shall 171
terminate the authorization of a person to act as a 172
transportation network company driver on behalf of the company 173
if any of the conditions specified in division (B) of this 174
section apply to that person according to any of that person's 175
annual background check checks conducted in accordance with 176
section 4925.03 of the Revised Code. 177

(2) A transportation network company shall establish a 178
process to temporarily deactivate or suspend a transportation 179
network company driver from providing transportation network 180
company services if the transportation network company receives 181
a report or complaint alleging that any of the conditions 182
specified in division (B) of this section apply to the driver. 183
As part of that process, the transportation network company 184
shall ensure all of the following: 185

(a) The process allows the transportation network company 186
driver to challenge the temporary deactivation or suspension. 187

(b) The transportation network company allows the 188

transportation network company driver to return to providing 189
transportation network company services if the driver can 190
demonstrate that the report or complaint is unfounded, false, or 191
plausibly motivated by fraud or bias. 192

(c) The process requires a natural person to review any 193
submitted reports or complaints and any information provided by 194
the transportation network company driver to challenge a 195
temporary deactivation or suspension. 196

(3) The public utilities commission shall facilitate the 197
sharing of information between transportation network companies 198
related to whether a transportation network company driver has 199
been temporarily deactivated or suspended or has had the 200
authorization to provide transportation network company services 201
terminated. 202

(D) A transportation network company shall provide an 203
electronic or physical copy of the results of each background 204
check conducted on an applicant or a transportation network 205
company driver who is subject to a background check under this 206
section and section 4925.03 of the Revised Code. 207

Sec. 4925.07. (A) A transportation network company shall 208
maintain records of both of the following: 209

~~(A)~~ (1) All transportation network company drivers for not 210
less than two years after the date each driver last provided 211
transportation network company services; 212

~~(B)~~ (2) Each instance in which transportation network 213
company services are provided for not less than two years after 214
the services are provided. 215

(B) (1) The public utilities commission shall adopt rules 216
in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code not later 217

than June 1, 2028, establishing requirements for the use of 218
audio and video recordings of each prearranged ride and the 219
integration of such audio and video into the transportation 220
network company's digital network. The rules adopted by the 221
commission shall include policies regarding access to, ownership 222
of, storage of, notifications about, and deadlines for the 223
implementation of the audio and video recordings. 224

(2) The commission shall ensure that a transportation 225
network company driver and a transportation network company 226
rider have the option of allowing for audio and video recordings 227
during a prearranged ride. If the rider and the driver do not 228
agree on whether audio and video recordings should be allowed 229
for a prearranged ride, the choice of the rider shall be honored 230
for that ride. 231

Sec. 4925.11. (A) As used in this section, "biometric 232
data" or "biometric identifiers" means a measurable physical 233
characteristic or personal behavioral trait used to recognize 234
the identity, or verify the claimed identity, of a person. 235
Biometric data or biometric identifiers include depictions, 236
images, descriptions, or recordings of an individual's facial 237
features, iris or retina, finger or hand print, voice, genetics, 238
or characteristic movements or gestures. Biometric data or 239
biometric identifiers also include data derived from depictions, 240
images, descriptions, or recordings, to the extent that it would 241
be reasonably possible to identify the person from whose 242
information the data had been derived. 243

(B) No transportation network company shall do any of the 244
following: 245

(1) Except as provided in division (D) of this section, 246
alter the rating a transportation network company rider assigned 247

to a transportation network company driver or the rating a 248
driver assigned to a rider on a transportation network company's 249
digital network; 250

(2) Assign an automatic or default transportation network 251
company driver rating that the transportation network company 252
rider did not assign; 253

(3) Assign an automatic or default transportation network 254
company rider rating that the transportation network company 255
driver did not assign; 256

(4) Collect or use biometric data or biometric identifiers 257
from a transportation network company driver or transportation 258
network company rider without first obtaining the consent of the 259
driver or rider; 260

(5) Allow transportation network company drivers to offer, 261
sell, or provide food or beverages to transportation network 262
company riders unless the food or beverage is factory-sealed; 263

(6) Authorize the transport of an unaccompanied juvenile 264
who is not more than fifteen years old unless the juvenile is 265
part of an authorized family account on which the juvenile's 266
parent or legal guardian is the account holder and permission 267
from that parent or legal guardian is obtained for a prearranged 268
ride; 269

(7) Charge a fee or increase the cost of a prearranged 270
ride solely on the basis of a transportation network company 271
rider choosing to use audio and video recordings of the 272
prearranged ride. 273

(C) A transportation network company that has obtained a 274
valid permit under section 4925.02 of the Revised Code shall 275
develop policies that do all of the following: 276

<u>(1) Prevent unauthorized drivers from providing</u>	277
<u>transportation network company services;</u>	278
<u>(2) Prevent unauthorized account sharing and account</u>	279
<u>renting, unless otherwise authorized by a transportation network</u>	280
<u>company;</u>	281
<u>(3) Prevent sexual assault, physical assault, and homicide</u>	282
<u>against or committed by a transportation network company driver;</u>	283
<u>(4) Allow a transportation network company driver to</u>	284
<u>refuse a prearranged ride to an individual who is not authorized</u>	285
<u>to use the account if that individual requests a prearranged</u>	286
<u>ride;</u>	287
<u>(5) Notify all transportation network company drivers and</u>	288
<u>transportation network company riders of any updates to</u>	289
<u>transportation network company safety policies and ensure each</u>	290
<u>driver receives training related to those updates;</u>	291
<u>(6) Require a transportation network company driver to</u>	292
<u>report information concerning a criminal conviction or a plea of</u>	293
<u>guilty or nolo contendere to the transportation network company</u>	294
<u>provided that such conviction or plea relates to one of the</u>	295
<u>disqualifying offenses specified in division (B) of section</u>	296
<u>4925.04 of the Revised Code.</u>	297
<u>(D) (1) A transportation network company may delete ratings</u>	298
<u>or reviews from its digital network that are plausibly motivated</u>	299
<u>by fraud or bias.</u>	300
<u>(2) A transportation network company shall not consider</u>	301
<u>negative ratings or reviews that are plausibly motivated by</u>	302
<u>fraud or bias for purposes of a temporary deactivation,</u>	303
<u>suspension, or complete termination of an individual's</u>	304
<u>authorization to operate as a transportation network company</u>	305

driver. 306

Sec. 4925.12. (A) As used in this section: 307

(1) "Incidents involving safety" means any report 308
involving a transportation network company driver, a 309
transportation network company rider, or any other person using 310
transportation network company services, in which one person's 311
physical, emotional, or psychological security is put at risk by 312
another person. 313

(2) "Incidents involving discrimination" means any report 314
involving the unfair or prejudicial treatment of an individual 315
or group based on personal characteristics as described by that 316
individual's or group's protected class. 317

(3) "Incidents involving accidents" means any report of a 318
collision involving the motor vehicle of a transportation 319
network company driver and another motor vehicle, a pedestrian, 320
or the property of another person. 321

(4) "Protected class" means an individual's race, color, 322
religion, sex, military status, national origin, disability, 323
age, or ancestry, as those terms are used in section 4112.02 of 324
the Revised Code. 325

(B) Not later than the first day of January that occurs 326
after the effective date of this section, and every first day of 327
January thereafter, a transportation network company shall 328
compile and submit to the public utilities commission every 329
report that the transportation network company has received from 330
the prior year involving any of the following: 331

(1) Incidents involving safety; 332

(2) Incidents involving discrimination; 333

(3) Incidents involving accidents. 334

(C) Not later than the first day of February that occurs 335
after the effective date of this section, and every first day of 336
February thereafter, the commission shall submit a consolidated 337
summary of the reports it receives from each transportation 338
network company to the speaker of the house of representatives, 339
the president of the senate, and the minority leaders of both 340
the house of representatives and the senate. 341

Sec. 4925.99. The public utilities commission shall fine a 342
transportation network company one thousand five hundred dollars 343
for each instance in which the company fails to comply with 344
division (I), (J), or (K) of section 4925.03 of the Revised 345
Code, division (C) or (D) of section 4925.04 of the Revised 346
Code, or section 4925.11 or 4925.12 of the Revised Code. 347

Section 2. That existing sections 4925.02, 4925.03, 348
4925.04, and 4925.07 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 349

Section 3. This act shall be known as the Rideshare Sexual 350
Assault Prevention Act. 351