
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 427 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, JULY 17, 2014

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
JULY 17, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to investigate
2 consumer transportation needs and approve experimental
3 licenses for mobile-based ridesharing services in cities of
4 the second class.

5 WHEREAS, Citizens in the City of Pittsburgh have long been
6 frustrated with available transportation services and are
7 actively seeking reliable, safe and affordable transportation
8 alternatives to better serve their needs; and

9 WHEREAS, This demand for alternative transportation options
10 has opened the door for fresh and innovative ridesharing
11 companies, like Uber and Lyft, to fill the vacancy left by
12 existing taxi services in Pittsburgh; and

13 WHEREAS, Through a mobile telephone application, ridesharing
14 companies can quickly connect riders to drivers by using
15 smartphone technologies, an innovative business model that adds
16 competition and more choices for consumers in a market currently
17 dominated by a few transportation service providers; and

18 WHEREAS, Consumers have been so welcoming to this new type of
19 transportation service that one mobile-based ridesharing company

1 is reporting that its business in Pittsburgh is growing faster
2 than in any other city where its service is made available; and

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania laws and regulations require for-fee
4 transportation services to obtain a certificate of public
5 convenience from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, but
6 nontraditional companies, such as mobile-based ridesharing
7 services, must be approved for an experimental license; and

8 WHEREAS, While mobile-based ridesharing companies operating
9 in Pittsburgh have filed applications for experimental licenses
10 to operate safely and legally within the city, the companies
11 have yet to receive approval from the Pennsylvania Public
12 Utility Commission due to numerous contests filed by
13 transportation competitors; and

14 WHEREAS, Approving experimental licenses and adopting
15 regulations that enable new transportation companies to operate
16 in this Commonwealth will provide for greater innovation and
17 growth, introduce more competition in the transportation
18 services market and, most importantly, meet the needs of
19 Pennsylvania's consumers; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage the Pennsylvania Public
21 Utility Commission to evaluate inadequacies in existing
22 transportation services and adopt regulations that welcome
23 market competition to meet the transportation needs of consumers
24 in cities of the second class; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Pennsylvania Public
26 Utility Commission to approve applications for experimental
27 licenses submitted by mobile-based ridesharing companies that
28 are operating in cities of the second class.