



*Senate of Pennsylvania*

# *Senator Larry Farnese*

*1st Senatorial District*

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## *MEMO*

**Date:** *January 12, 2012*  
**To:** *All Senators*  
**From:** *Senator Lawrence M. Farnese, Jr.*  
**Subject:** *Co-sponsorship – Wheelchair-Accessible Taxicabs*

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would enable a more robust and appropriate complement of wheelchair-accessible taxicabs in the City of Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) is the body responsible for the oversight and administration of taxicab certificates and medallions in Philadelphia. Title 53, Chapter 57, does not currently allow the PPA to issue additional certificates and medallions specifically for wheelchair-accessible taxicabs. Unfortunately, Philadelphia does not currently have adequate resources to ensure the transport of the disabled community who would benefit from this type of taxicab access.

My legislation would amend Title 53 (Municipalities Generally), adding §5717.1, authorizing the PPA to encourage the conversion of existing medallion taxicabs to wheelchair-accessible taxicabs. If four months after the effective date of the legislation the number of wheelchair-accessible taxicabs is fewer than 50, the authority will begin the process of issuing additional certificates and medallions to applicants to increase the complement to 50 in operation. These new medallions may be issued over a period of time authorized by the authority.

This language was passed as part of House Bill 2545 in the 2005-06 legislative session, but was vetoed by the Governor due to provisions in the bill unrelated to the wheelchair-accessible taxicab language. The standalone legislation is attached.

Thank you for your consideration in co-sponsoring this legislation. It is imperative to the disabled community in Philadelphia and will enable them to reach a new level of independence. Please email Brandie Pifer at [bpifer@pasenate.com](mailto:bpifer@pasenate.com) or call my office at 7-5662 to co-sponsor.

## AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for wheelchair-accessible  
3 service.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 5717.1. Wheelchair-accessible service.

9 (a) Issuance of certificates and medallions.--The authority  
10 may by order or regulation provide for special medallion fees,  
11 rights, privileges and limitations to encourage conversion of  
12 existing medallion taxicabs to wheelchair-accessible taxicabs.  
13 If, four months after the effective date of this section, the  
14 number of wheelchair-accessible taxicabs with citywide call or  
15 demand rights in cities of the first class is fewer than 50, the  
16 authority shall begin the process of issuing additional  
17 certificates and corresponding medallions to applicants to  
18 provide wheelchair-accessible taxicab service to increase the

1 number of wheelchair-accessible taxicabs to 50 operational  
2 wheelchair-accessible taxicabs. These medallions shall only be  
3 attached to wheelchair-accessible taxicabs and shall in the  
4 discretion of the authority be issued at a reasonable market  
5 price consistent with section 5717 (relating to additional  
6 certificates and medallions) or through a competitive request  
7 for proposal process open to any otherwise qualified person in  
8 which factors in addition to market value may be considered in  
9 the best interests of the public. The authority may in its  
10 discretion issue these medallions in stages.

11 (b) Contract service.--Any medallion taxicab providing  
12 service in a wheelchair-accessible vehicle shall also be  
13 permitted to provide contract service, consistent with the  
14 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's rules and regulations.  
15 The authority may limit the amount of contract service that may  
16 be provided by medallion taxicabs using wheelchair-accessible  
17 vehicles if it finds that the contract service is impairing the  
18 taxicab industry's ability to provide common-carrier taxicab  
19 service to people with disabilities. This contract service may  
20 be provided under rates other than the approved rate for  
21 exclusive service that applies to the common-carrier service  
22 provided by medallion taxicabs.

23 (c) Age restriction.--The vehicle age restrictions of  
24 section 5714(a) (relating to certificate and medallion required)  
25 shall not apply to wheelchair-accessible vehicles if the  
26 vehicles meet all inspection requirements of this chapter and as  
27 established by the authority.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.