

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR MIA COSTELLO

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 14

"An Act relating to transportation network companies and transportation network company drivers."

Senate Bill 14, the *Let's Ride Alaska Act*, improves transportation and economic opportunity through innovation. The bill provides clarity in state law to allow for Rideshare companies to operate in Alaska.

Rideshare (sometimes known as "Transportation Network Companies") is a relatively new concept with a simple premise - use technology to connect Alaskans, helping get from here to there. During the past decade companies like Uber, Lyft, and SideCar have revolutionized how people travel in cities worldwide. Using a simple smart phone app, these companies have created a platform that connects private drivers with people looking for a ride. The result is quick, cashless transportation solutions. Drivers and riders self-select each other through the app, make their trip, and digitally rate their experience.

Senate Bill 14 authorizes their use in Alaska by providing clarity to Alaska's insurance and workers compensation statutes. Rideshare drivers are classified as independent contractors and are exempted from workers' compensation similar to taxi drivers. The bill also requires safety background checks, zero tolerance substance policies, and numerous other safeguards.

Diversification is key to growing our state's economy. Enabling Rideshare through Senate Bill 14 is an innovative way to create jobs for Alaskans and improve transportation and public safety in our state.

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