

**SENATE BILL NO. 14**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS COSTELLO, MacKinnon, Hughes, Meyer

Introduced: 1/18/17

Referred: Labor and Commerce, Finance

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

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

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
5 to read:

6 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature to clarify the Alaska  
7 Workers' Compensation Act, ensure the safety, reliability, and cost-effectiveness of rides  
8 provided by transportation network company drivers in the state, and preserve and enhance  
9 access to these important transportation options for residents of and visitors to the state.

10 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 21.96 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 **Sec. 21.96.018. Transportation network company insurance provisions.** (a)  
12 Insurers that write automobile insurance in the state may exclude any and all coverage  
13 offered under the policy issued to an owner or operator of a personal vehicle for any  
14 loss or injury that occurs while a driver is logged onto the digital network of a

1 transportation network company or while a driver provides a prearranged ride. The  
2 right to exclude all coverage may apply to any coverage included in an automobile  
3 insurance policy, including

- 4 (1) liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage;
- 5 (2) uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage;
- 6 (3) medical payments coverage;
- 7 (4) comprehensive physical damage coverage; and
- 8 (5) collision physical damage coverage.

9 (b) Exclusions under (a) of this section apply notwithstanding any requirement  
10 under AS 28.20. Nothing in this section implies or requires that a personal automobile  
11 insurance policy provide coverage while the driver is logged onto the digital network  
12 of a transportation network company, while the driver is engaged in a prearranged  
13 ride, or while the driver otherwise uses a personal vehicle to transport passengers for  
14 compensation.

15 (c) Nothing in this section precludes an insurer from providing coverage for  
16 the personal vehicle of a transportation network company driver if the insurer chooses  
17 to provide coverage by contract or endorsement.

18 (d) Automobile insurers that exclude coverage under (a) of this section do not  
19 have a duty to defend or indemnify any claim expressly excluded under (a) of this  
20 section. Nothing in this section may be considered to invalidate or limit an exclusion  
21 contained in a policy, including any policy in use or approved for use in this state  
22 before the enactment of this section, that excludes coverage for vehicles used to carry  
23 persons or property for a charge or available for hire by the public.

24 (e) An automobile insurer that defends or indemnifies a claim against a driver  
25 that is excluded under the terms of its policy shall have a right of contribution against  
26 other insurers that provide automobile insurance to the same driver in satisfaction of  
27 the coverage requirements of AS 28.23.060 at the time of loss.

28 (f) In a claims coverage investigation, a transportation network company and  
29 any insurer potentially providing coverage under AS 28.23.060 shall cooperate to  
30 facilitate the exchange of relevant information with directly involved parties and any  
31 insurer of the transportation network company driver, if applicable, including the

1 precise times that a transportation network company driver logged onto and off of the  
 2 digital network of a transportation network company in the 12-hour period  
 3 immediately preceding and in the 12-hour period immediately following the accident  
 4 and disclose to one another a clear description of the coverage, exclusions, and limits  
 5 provided under any automobile insurance maintained under AS 28.23.060.

6 (g) In this section, "digital network," "personal vehicle," "prearranged ride,"  
 7 "transportation network company," "transportation network company driver," and  
 8 "driver" have the meanings given in AS 28.23.180.

9 \* **Sec. 3.** AS 23.30.230(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) The following persons are not covered by this chapter:

- 11 (1) a part-time baby-sitter;
- 12 (2) a cleaning person;
- 13 (3) harvest help and similar part-time or transient help;
- 14 (4) a person employed as a sports official on a contractual basis and  
 15 who officiates only at sports events in which the players are not compensated; in this  
 16 paragraph, "sports official" includes an umpire, referee, judge, scorekeeper,  
 17 timekeeper, organizer, or other person who is a neutral participant in a sports event;
- 18 (5) a person employed as an entertainer on a contractual basis;
- 19 (6) a commercial fisherman, as defined in AS 16.05.940;
- 20 (7) an individual who drives a taxicab whose compensation and written  
 21 contractual arrangement is as described in AS 23.10.055(a)(13), unless the hours  
 22 worked by the individual or the areas in which the individual may work are restricted  
 23 except to comply with local ordinances;
- 24 (8) a participant in the Alaska temporary assistance program  
 25 (AS 47.27) who is engaged in work activities required under AS 47.27.035 other than  
 26 subsidized or unsubsidized work or on-the-job training;
- 27 (9) a person employed as a player or coach by a professional hockey  
 28 team if the person is covered under a health care insurance plan provided by the  
 29 professional hockey team, the coverage is applicable to both work related and  
 30 nonwork related injuries, and the coverage provides medical and related benefits as  
 31 required under this chapter, except that coverage may not be limited to two years from

1 the date of injury as described under AS 23.30.095(a); in this paragraph, "health care  
2 insurance" has the meaning given in AS 21.12.050; and

3 (10) a person working as a qualified real estate licensee who performs  
4 services under a written contract that provides that the person will not be treated as an  
5 employee for federal income tax or workers' compensation purposes; in this  
6 paragraph, "qualified real estate licensee" means a person who is required to be  
7 licensed under AS 08.88.161 and whose payment for services is directly related to  
8 sales or other output rather than the number of hours worked; **and**

9 **(11) a transportation network company driver who provides a**  
10 **prearranged ride or is otherwise logged onto the digital network of a**  
11 **transportation network company as a driver.**

12 \* **Sec. 4.** AS 23.30.230(c) is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

13 (4) "digital network" has the meaning given in AS 28.23.180;

14 (5) "prearranged ride" has the meaning given in AS 28.23.180;

15 (6) "transportation network company" has the meaning given in  
16 AS 28.23.180;

17 (7) "transportation network company driver" has the meaning given in  
18 AS 28.23.180.

19 \* **Sec. 5.** AS 28 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

20 **Chapter 23. Transportation Network Companies and Drivers.**

21 **Sec. 28.23.010. Not other carriers.** A transportation network company or  
22 driver is not a common carrier, contract carrier, or motor carrier, and may not provide  
23 taxicab or for-hire vehicle service. The state or a municipality may not require a  
24 transportation network company driver to register the personal vehicle the driver uses  
25 to provide prearranged rides as a commercial or for-hire vehicle.

26 **Sec. 28.23.020. Business license required; agent.** A transportation network  
27 company shall comply with the provisions of AS 43.70 (Alaska Business License  
28 Act). A transportation network company shall maintain an agent for service of process  
29 in the state.

30 **Sec. 28.23.030. Fare collected for services.** A transportation network  
31 company may charge a fare on behalf of a transportation network company driver for

1 a service provided to a transportation network company rider. Before a fare is  
2 collected from a rider, the transportation network company shall disclose to the rider,  
3 on the company's Internet website or in the company's software application, the  
4 transportation network company's fare or fare calculation method. The transportation  
5 network company shall provide riders the option of receiving an estimated fare before  
6 the rider enters the vehicle of a transportation network company driver.

7 **Sec. 28.23.040. Identification of transportation network company vehicles**  
8 **and drivers.** Before a rider enters the personal vehicle of a transportation network  
9 company driver, the transportation network company shall display on the company's  
10 Internet website or in the company's software application a picture of the  
11 transportation network company driver and the license plate number of the personal  
12 vehicle providing the prearranged ride.

13 **Sec. 28.23.050. Electronic receipt.** Within a reasonable period following the  
14 completion of a trip, the transportation network company shall transmit to the rider, on  
15 behalf of the transportation network company driver, an electronic receipt showing the  
16 origin and destination of the trip and itemizing the fare paid, if any.

17 **Sec. 28.23.060. Financial responsibility of transportation network**  
18 **companies.** (a) A transportation network company driver, or transportation network  
19 company on behalf of the driver, shall maintain primary automobile insurance that  
20 recognizes that the driver is a transportation network company driver or otherwise  
21 uses a vehicle to transport passengers for compensation and that covers the driver  
22 while the driver is logged onto the digital network of a transportation network  
23 company or while the driver is engaged in a prearranged ride.

24 (b) The following automobile insurance requirements shall apply while a  
25 participating transportation network company driver is logged onto the digital network  
26 of a transportation network company and is available to receive transportation requests  
27 but is not engaged in a prearranged ride:

28 (1) primary automobile liability insurance in the amount of at least  
29 \$50,000 for death and bodily injury for each person, \$100,000 for death and bodily  
30 injury for each incident, and \$25,000 for property damage;

31 (2) the coverage requirements of this subsection may be satisfied by

1 (A) automobile insurance maintained by the transportation  
2 network company driver;

3 (B) automobile insurance maintained by the transportation  
4 network company; or

5 (C) any combination of (A) and (B) of this paragraph.

6 (c) The following automobile insurance requirements shall apply while a  
7 transportation network company driver is engaged in a prearranged ride:

8 (1) primary automobile liability insurance that provides at least  
9 \$1,000,000 for death, bodily injury, and property damage;

10 (2) the coverage requirements of this subsection may be satisfied by

11 (A) automobile insurance maintained by the transportation  
12 network company driver;

13 (B) automobile insurance maintained by the transportation  
14 network company; or

15 (C) a combination of (A) and (B) of this paragraph.

16 (d) If insurance maintained by a driver under (b) or (c) of this section has  
17 lapsed or does not provide the required coverage, insurance maintained by a  
18 transportation network company must provide the coverage required by this section  
19 beginning with the first dollar of a claim, and the transportation network company  
20 insurer has the duty to defend that claim.

21 (e) Coverage under an automobile insurance policy maintained by the  
22 transportation network company may not be dependent on a personal automobile  
23 insurer first denying a claim nor shall a personal automobile insurance policy be  
24 required first to deny a claim.

25 (f) Insurance required by this section may be placed with an insurer licensed  
26 under AS 21.09.060 or with a surplus lines insurer eligible under AS 21.34 that has a  
27 credit rating not lower than A- from A.M. Best or a similar rating from another rating  
28 agency recognized by the division of insurance.

29 (g) Insurance satisfying the requirements of this section shall be considered to  
30 satisfy the financial responsibility requirement for a motor vehicle under AS 28.20.

31 (h) A transportation network company driver shall carry proof of coverage

1 under (b) and (c) of this section with the driver at all times during the driver's use of a  
2 vehicle in connection with a digital network of a transportation network company. In  
3 the event of an accident, a transportation network company driver shall provide the  
4 insurance coverage information to the directly interested parties, automobile insurers,  
5 and investigating police officers upon request under AS 28.22.019. Upon that request,  
6 a transportation network company driver shall also disclose to directly interested  
7 parties, automobile insurers, and investigating police officers whether the driver was  
8 logged onto the digital network of a transportation network company or on a  
9 prearranged ride at the time of an accident.

10 (i) In the event of a loss involving a personal vehicle used in connection with a  
11 transportation network company and if the personal vehicle is subject to a lien, the  
12 insurance carrier for the transportation network company shall pay a claim covered  
13 under collision physical damage coverage or comprehensive physical damage  
14 coverage directly to the business repairing the personal vehicle or jointly to the owner  
15 of the personal vehicle and the primary lienholder on the covered personal vehicle.

16 **Sec. 28.23.070. Transportation network company automobile insurance**  
17 **disclosures.** A transportation network company shall disclose in writing to  
18 transportation network company drivers the following before the drivers are allowed  
19 to accept a request for a prearranged ride on the digital network of the transportation  
20 network company:

21 (1) the insurance coverage, including the types of coverage and the  
22 limits for each coverage, that the transportation network company provides while the  
23 transportation network company driver uses a personal vehicle in connection with a  
24 transportation network company's digital network;

25 (2) that the automobile insurance policy of the transportation network  
26 company driver might not provide any coverage while the driver is logged onto the  
27 digital network of a transportation network company and is available to receive  
28 transportation requests or is engaged in a prearranged ride, depending on the terms of  
29 the automobile insurance policy of the driver; and

30 (3) that, if the personal vehicle the transportation network company  
31 driver uses to provide transportation network services has a lien against it, using the

1 motor vehicle for transportation network services without physical damage coverage  
2 may violate the terms of the contract with the lienholder.

3 **Sec. 28.23.080. Limitations on transportation network companies.** A  
4 transportation network company is not an employer under AS 23.20.520. A  
5 transportation network company driver is an independent contractor and not an  
6 employee of the transportation network company if the transportation network  
7 company

8 (1) does not unilaterally prescribe specific hours during which a driver  
9 shall be logged onto the digital network of the transportation network company;

10 (2) does not impose restrictions on the ability of the driver to use the  
11 digital network of other transportation network companies;

12 (3) does not restrict a driver from engaging in any other occupation or  
13 business; and

14 (4) enters into a written agreement with the driver stating that the  
15 driver is an independent contractor for the transportation network company.

16 **Sec. 28.23.090. Zero tolerance for drug or alcohol use.** The transportation  
17 network company shall implement a zero-tolerance policy prohibiting drug and  
18 alcohol use while a driver is providing a prearranged ride or is logged onto the digital  
19 network of the transportation network company but not providing a prearranged ride.  
20 The transportation network company shall post the company's zero-tolerance policy  
21 prohibiting drug and alcohol use on the company's Internet website.

22 **Sec. 28.23.100. Transportation network company driver requirements.**  
23 Before a transportation network company allows an individual to accept trip requests  
24 through its digital network, the transportation network company shall

25 (1) require the individual to submit to the transportation network  
26 company an application that includes the individual's address, age, and driver's license  
27 number, the motor vehicle registration and automobile liability insurance information  
28 for the individual's personal vehicle, and other information required by the  
29 transportation network company;

30 (2) conduct a local and national criminal background check for each  
31 applicant that reviews

1 (A) a multi-state or multi-jurisdiction criminal records locator  
2 or a similar commercial nationwide database with validation; and

3 (B) the United States Department of Justice National Sex  
4 Offender Public Website; and

5 (3) obtain and review a driving history research report for the  
6 individual.

7 **Sec. 28.23.110. Nondiscrimination and accessibility.** (a) The transportation  
8 network company shall adopt a policy prohibiting discrimination based on destination,  
9 race, color, national origin, religious belief or affiliation, sex, disability, age, sexual  
10 orientation, or gender identity with respect to a rider or potential rider. The company  
11 shall inform drivers of the policy.

12 (b) A transportation network company driver shall comply with all applicable  
13 laws relating to accommodation of service animals.

14 (c) A transportation network company may not impose additional charges for  
15 providing services to riders with physical disabilities because of those disabilities.

16 **Sec. 28.23.120. Records.** A transportation network company shall keep  
17 records

18 (1) maintained by the transportation network company for an  
19 individual prearranged ride for at least one year from the date of the prearranged ride;  
20 and

21 (2) maintained by individual transportation network company drivers  
22 for one year after the agreement between the transportation network company and  
23 driver entered into under AS 28.23.080(4) ends.

24 **Sec. 28.23.180. Definitions.** In this chapter,

25 (1) "digital network" means any online-enabled application, software,  
26 website, or system offered or used by a transportation network company that enables  
27 the prearrangement of rides with transportation network company drivers;

28 (2) "personal vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is used by a  
29 transportation network company driver and is owned, leased, or otherwise authorized  
30 for use by the transportation network company driver; "personal vehicle" does not  
31 include a taxi, limousine, or other commercial motor vehicle for hire;

1                   (3) "prearranged ride" means transportation provided by a driver to a  
 2 rider, beginning when a driver accepts a ride requested by a rider through a digital  
 3 network controlled by a transportation network company, continuing while the driver  
 4 transports a requesting rider, and ending when the last requesting rider departs from  
 5 the personal vehicle; "prearranged ride" does not include shared expense carpool or  
 6 vanpool arrangements or transportation provided using a taxi, limousine, or other  
 7 commercial motor vehicle for hire;

8                   (4) "transportation network company" means a corporation,  
 9 partnership, sole proprietorship, or other entity that uses a digital network to connect  
 10 transportation network company riders to transportation network company drivers who  
 11 provide prearranged rides; a transportation network company may not be considered to  
 12 control, direct, or manage the personal vehicles or transportation network company  
 13 drivers that connect to its digital network, except where agreed to by written contract;

14                   (5) "transportation network company driver" or "driver" means an  
 15 individual who

16                                 (A) receives connections to potential passengers and related  
 17 services from a transportation network company in exchange for payment of a  
 18 fee to the transportation network company; and

19                                 (B) uses a personal vehicle to offer or provide a prearranged  
 20 ride to riders upon connection through a digital network controlled by a  
 21 transportation network company in return for compensation or payment of a  
 22 fee;

23                   (6) "transportation network company rider" or "rider" means an  
 24 individual or person who uses a digital network of a transportation network company  
 25 to connect with a transportation network company driver who provides prearranged  
 26 rides to the rider in the driver's personal vehicle between points chosen by the rider.

27                   **Sec. 28.23.190. Short title.** This chapter may be cited as the Transportation  
 28 Network Companies Act.