

HB 5259

Sponsored by Rep. Brandt Iden(District 61)

Good Morning,

I am Matthew Oddy and I would first like to thank the Chair Representative Iden for introducing HB5259 and for the opportunity to address the Committee and its members with my support of this amendment.

I represent over 226 Taxi and Limousine carriers operating 300 vehicles under Checker Transportation and Checker Cab. I also am a licensed Limousine Carrier.

This amendment specifically addresses Section 11 in Act 345 which deals with TNC, Taxi and Limousine Carrier signage. Act 345 was enacted March 21 2017, a few deficiencies were identified in the application of the Acts signage regulation which this amendment addresses.

Most taxi and limo carriers subscribe to a Dispatch Service, the current regulation does not allow a limousine or Taxi carrier to display the Dispatch Service they are affiliated with without also displaying the Carriers signage when in service. I do not believe the language in Act 345 was written with the intent to require two names to be displayed.

Prior to Act 345 regulations did not require a carrier to display both names, a carrier was only required to display the taxi license # or the State registration number on the vehicle when in service.

The act language has created additional printing costs and delays for new carriers to get licensed and get on the road which I do not believe was the intent.

The required signage in Act 345 usually has to be custom made with the carriers legal name and must be mailed to LARA for visual inspection and approval which increases costs and creates delays in the licensing approval process. I have heard some carriers were driving to Lansing to have the signage on the car visually inspected for approval by LARA staff in the parking lots which is not efficient.

Checker alone has mailed over 226 individual carrier signage stickers to LARA since March 2017 for licensing approval and printed over 1,200 custom stickers for these carriers costing over \$6,000 not including labor and time for installation. This has been an obstacle in the licensing process that not only delays businesses from getting started but is a cost burden for most small mom and pop businesses.

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The Amendment also standardizes the size of the letters and numerals used in the signage. Under the current regulation, signage must "Sufficiently Identify" the carrier and be "Sufficiently Large" to be readable at 50 feet and made of "Reflective" material.

These requirements are open to varying interpretations for regulatory compliance which leaves the carriers to "Guess" how the signage should be made and all they can do is hope that it satisfies the regulation during the application review process.

HB5259 in my opinion resolves these issues streamlining the LARA licensing process for TNC's, Taxi and Limo carriers with the following benefits to Michigan businesses, LARA, and consumers.

- Allows Dispatch services to operate with a single name on a carriers vehicle while displaying the LARA registration number.
- Provides a standard signage size for TNC's, Taxi and Limo Carriers for compliance
- Reduces operating start-up costs for small businesses
- Reduces the application burden on Businesses
- Shortens the LARA licensing approval process time
- Improves carrier identification for Consumers

This amendment reestablishes the option for Dispatch Services and Carriers to display one name and the State Registration Number.

I have provided a before and after signage example to each Committee member to visually show the proposed change as it will look on Checker vehicles if passed.

Thank You Again for the opportunity to support HB5259.

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