

Sec. 2. STUDY; STATEWIDE REGULATION OF VEHICLES FOR HIRE

(a) The Commissioner of Financial Regulation, in consultation with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, ~~and~~ the Director of the Office of Professional Regulation, the Executive Director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and with input from industry and consumer stakeholders, shall conduct a study of whether and to what extent vehicles for hire, vehicle for hire drivers, and vehicle for hire companies should be regulated by the State. Among other things, the Commissioner shall consider:

- (1) issues related to public safety, necessity, and convenience;
- (2) regulatory models currently in place in Vermont, including urban and rural municipalities in Vermont, and adopted in other states and local jurisdictions, including in both urban and rural municipalities in Vermont, applicable to transportation network companies and other vehicle for hire companies;
- (3) matters related to passenger safety, including driver background checks, periodic vehicle safety inspections, and signage;
- (4) matters related to insurance coverage, including minimum liability coverage, disclosure requirements, and claims procedures, generally, and with consideration of other, similarly-situated jurisdictions, other commercial automobile policy requirements, and enhanced personal liability coverage for drivers;
- (5) matters related to fares, including the provision of fare estimates to riders, restrictions on “surge pricing,” and payment methods;
- (6) matters such as the licensing or permitting of companies and drivers; nondiscrimination street hails; the protection of driver and rider information; taxes or fees and, if applicable, recommended amounts; the employment status of drivers; increased access for people with disabilities;
- (7) the extent to which all vehicles for hire, vehicle for hire drivers, and vehicle for hire companies should be treated similarly with respect to statewide regulation; and
- (8) any other matter deemed relevant by the Commissioner ~~and the Director~~.

(b) For purposes of this section, a “vehicle for hire” is a passenger vehicle transporting passengers for compensation of any kind. Vehicles for hire include taxicabs, transportation network company vehicles, limousines, jitneys, car services, contract vehicles, shuttle vans, and other such vehicles transporting passengers for compensation of any kind except:

- (1) Those which an employer uses to transport employees.
- (2) Those which are used primarily to transport elderly, special needs and handicapped persons for whom special transportation programs are designed and funded by State, federal, or local authority otherwise exempted pursuant to 23 V.S.A. § 4(15).
- (3) Buses, trolleys, trains, or similar mass transit vehicles.
- (4) Courtesy vehicles for which the passenger pays no direct charge, such as hotel or car dealer shuttle vans.

Commented [JLR1]: Note: We would request to exclude a review of municipal regulations in other states—this would be too difficult to undertake.

(c) On or before December 15, 2018, the Commissioner shall submit a progress report outlining his or her findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Transportation, on Judiciary, and on Finance and the House Committees on Transportation, on Judiciary, and on Commerce and Economic Development.

(d) On or before January 15, 2019, the Commissioner shall submit a final report of his or her findings and recommendations to the Senate Committees on Transportation, on Judiciary, and on Finance and the House Committees on Transportation, on Judiciary, and on Commerce and Economic Development.