



“Pass this bill if you want to help control the spiraling costs of health care!”¹

-Representative William J. Seitz
30th District of Ohio

+ Policy Brief

Ohio HB 195 Making Accessible Taxis an Option in Ohio

**Developmental
Disability
Awareness and
Advocacy Day**

March 7, 2018

A rich, meaningful, and fulfilling life means a chance to be involved in your community. Employment, recreation, sports, spending time with friends, and taking part in a faith community require transportation. People with disabilities continue to find transportation to be a major barrier to inclusion. HB 195 would lift the requirement that ambulettes be used to transport people with mobility disabilities. Other options are more available and less expensive.



Existing Laws

Under current Ohio law, people who use wheelchairs must use state-licensed “ambulettes” for hired transportation in non-emergency circumstances. An ambulette is a vehicle specifically designed to transport people who are medically fragile. Current law doesn’t recognize that many people who use wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices are not medically fragile. They don’t need the level of care offered by an ambulette but are still required to use this service instead of more affordable options.



Facts about HB 195

- HB 195 allows companies like Uber and Lyft to offer wheelchair accessible taxis in Ohio.
- Ambulettes would still be available for people who needed them.
- The bill is budget neutral. It doesn’t cost the state anything to implement. It saves insurance providers money if more affordable transportation options are available.
- HB 195 expands the choices people with disabilities have to get around in their communities.

Resources to Learn More

¹Joint Sponsor Testimony on HB 195:
<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-HB-195>

²Transportation Challenges for Ohioans with Disabilities
<http://ddc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/transportation-challenges-impact-sheet-7-17.pdf>

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Talking Points

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My name is _____.

I live in _____.

I use a wheelchair or my friends or family members use a wheelchair.

Transportation is a major challenge to people using wheelchairs.

There are many times when someone using a wheelchair needs a ride somewhere, like to visit friends or go to church.

People with disabilities don't always need medical care to take part in the community. Many people with disabilities lead healthy, active lives.

HB 195 would give people with disabilities more transportation options, including Uber, Lyft, and accessible taxis.

It's more convenient and less expensive to use a taxi than an ambulette.

State law needs to change so that people with mobility disabilities have more choices when they need a ride.