

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate House

Comm: RCS 01/27/2012

The Committee on Transportation (Benacquisto) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Paragraph (hhh) is added to subsection (7) of section 212.08, Florida Statutes, to read:

212.08 Sales, rental, use, consumption, distribution, and storage tax; specified exemptions.—The sale at retail, the rental, the use, the consumption, the distribution, and the storage to be used or consumed in this state of the following are hereby specifically exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

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(7) MISCELLANEOUS EXEMPTIONS.—Exemptions provided to any entity by this chapter do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter when payment is made by a representative or employee of the entity by any means, including, but not limited to, cash, check, or credit card, even when that representative or employee is subsequently reimbursed by the entity. In addition, exemptions provided to any entity by this subsection do not inure to any transaction that is otherwise taxable under this chapter unless the entity has obtained a sales tax exemption certificate from the department or the entity obtains or provides other documentation as required by the department. Eligible purchases or leases made with such a certificate must be in strict compliance with this subsection and departmental rules, and any person who makes an exempt purchase with a certificate that is not in strict compliance with this subsection and the rules is liable for and shall pay the tax. The department may adopt rules to administer this subsection.

(hhh) Accessible vehicles.—The sale or lease of accessible taxicabs is exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter. As used in this paragraph, the term "accessible taxicab" means a chauffer driven taxi, limousine, sedan, van, or other passenger vehicle where the operator and the motor vehicle are hired and used for the transportation of persons for compensation, and which transports eight passengers or fewer and is equipped with a lift or ramp designed specifically to transport physically disabled persons or contains any other device designed to permit access to and enable the transportation of physically disabled persons, including persons who use wheelchairs, motorized

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wheelchairs, or similar mobility aids; complies with the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 49 C.F.R., ss. 38.23, 38.25, and 38.31, as amended, whether or not such regulations would apply under federal law; and meets all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards and regulations adopted thereunder. If such equipment is installed through an aftermarket conversion of a stock vehicle, only the value of the conversion is exempt from the tax imposed by this chapter.

Section 2. (1) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall conduct a study to determine the availability of accessible taxicabs operating in metropolitan and tourist destination areas, including, but not limited, to Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Orange, Hillsborough, Duval, Lee, Escambia, and Volusia Counties.

- (2) Specifically, the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall collect the following information:
- (a) The number of accessible taxicabs available in the counties being studied, including the total percentage of accessible cabs relative to the entire fleet of taxicabs.
- (b) The availability of accessible taxicabs at airports and seaports, including average wait times for passengers needing such vehicles.
- (c) Statements from persons who work with disabled and senior communities regarding the availability of accessible taxicabs for use in everyday life, such as access to grocery stores, doctor offices, and recreational activities, along with the availability of accessible vehicles when traveling



throughout the state.

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- (d) A synopsis of any recent court decisions related to availability of accessible taxicabs and the potential effect of such decisions on persons desiring accessible vehicles in this state.
- (e) Information relating to how major cities in Florida compare to other cities around the country in terms of the operation and regulation of accessible and available taxicabs, including Washington, D.C., Chicago, New York City, Atlanta, and Philadelphia.
- (f) Information concerning cooperative agreements in this state between smaller taxi vendors and larger taxi vendors who act as partners to satisfy demand for accessible transportation.
- (3) The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability shall issue a final report and present recommendations to the Legislature for planning and providing funding for the provision of accessible vehicles. The report shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by February 1, 2013.

========= T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========== And the title is amended as follows:

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.

Delete everything before the enacting clause and insert:

A bill to be entitled An act relating to transportation accessibility; amending s. 212.08, F.S.; providing a tax exemption 100

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for the sale or lease of accessible vehicles; providing a definition; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a study to determine the availability of accessible taxicabs operating in metropolitan and tourist destination areas of the state; describing the information to be collected in the study; requiring the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to include in its final report recommendations for consideration by the Legislature; providing an effective date.