

Disability Equality Training (Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers) Bill

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TO

Make the completion of disability equality training a requirement for the licensing of taxi and private hire vehicle drivers in England and Wales; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Duty of authorities to impose conditions on drivers of taxis and private hire vehicles to undertake training in the requirements of disabled passengers

- (1) This section applies to authorities (“licensing authorities”) in England with the power to grant licences to persons to drive hackney carriages (“taxis”) or private hire vehicles. 5
- (2) Such authorities include those exercising licensing powers provided for in—
- (a) the Town Police Clauses Act 1847;
 - (b) Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; and
 - (c) the Private Hire Vehicles (London) Act 1998. 10
- (3) A licensing authority must make it a requirement upon persons seeking or renewing a licence that such persons have attended and completed an approved disability equality training course meeting the requirements of section 2.
- (4) A person applying for or renewing a licence must— 15
- (a) provide the authority with information on the course attended by that person;
 - (b) a declaration that they have attended the course; and
 - (c) authorise the course provider to disclose to the authority, on request, sufficient information to confirm or otherwise the accuracy of the information provided by the person applying for or renewing a licence. 20
- (5) A licensing authority must review at least every five years how it exercises its powers under subsection (3) to ensure that it is promoting, facilitating and

safeguarding the interests of disabled people who hire or seek to hire licensed taxis and private hire vehicles for personal use.

- (6) In carrying out a review under subsection (5) a licensing authority must consult such persons as it considers appropriate.

2 Approved disability equality training courses 5

- (1) Subject to section 3, a course is an approved disability equality training course if –

- (a) the purpose of the course is to demonstrate the rights and needs of disabled people who hire or seek to hire licensed taxis or private hire vehicles for personal use; 10
- (b) the course and its content have been approved by the licensing authority;
- (c) the course is available within, or within reasonable reach of, the area for which the licensing authority has responsibility;
- (d) the content of the course, and information about arrangements for enrolling on the course, have been published; and 15
- (e) the person applying for or renewing the licence has attended and completed the course within ten years prior to the date on which the person applies for the licence and which at the time the person completed the course was approved by the licensing authority. 20

- (2) Before approving a course the licensing authority must –

- (a) have regard to any guidance given by the Secretary of State on the arrangements for and content of such courses; and
- (b) consult such persons, including but not limited to local organisations representing people with disabilities, as it considers appropriate. 25

- (3) A licensing authority may approve courses with distinct content for –

- (a) different types of licence;
- (b) drivers of different types of vehicle; and
- (c) different types of passengers.

- (4) A licensing authority which has approved a course or courses must review at least every five years the content and effectiveness of the training provided by the approved course or courses and the content of the course or courses. 30

3 Previous training

Where a person seeking to renew a licence to drive a taxi or private hire vehicles has – 35

- (a) already undertaken disability equality training within the previous ten years of the date on which the person applies to renew the licence, and
- (b) the licensing authority is satisfied that that training was broadly equivalent to an approved course required to be undertaken for the purpose of section 1(3) 40

the authority may treat the applicant as having met the requirements of section 1(3).

4 Guidance on approved training courses

The Secretary of State may publish guidance, to which licensing authorities must have regard, on the arrangements and content of approved courses. 45

5 Extent

This Act extends to England and Wales only.

6 Commencement

- (1) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (2) Section 1 comes into force at the end of the period of twelve months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed. 5
- (3) The remaining provisions of this Act come into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument appoint.
- (4) Regulations under this section may appoint different days for different purposes or areas. 10

7 Short title

This Act may be cited as the Disability Equality Training (Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers) Act 2017.

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