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ISSUE:

Senate Energy, Utilities & Commerce Committee and Senate Transportation and Housing Committee will hold a joint hearing February 17th regarding for-hire transportation in California.

The purpose of the hearing is to educate legislators regarding the different models of for-hire transportation (taxi, limo, charter bus, and TNC Uber/Lyft). There will be limited time in the hearing to dive into the many issues surrounding taxi regulation.

Today's meeting is meant to outline taxi priorities and lay the groundwork for a thoughtful and useful discussion in the hearing.

Taxi regulation in California is extensive. Taxi is the only model that is fully regulated by cities. Each city can and does create its own requirements for taxis to operate. The other for-hire models have statewide requirements to operate.

This disparity places taxis at a severe disadvantage. Something must be done to level the playing field. The state created this disparity and the state must be the entity to fix it.

Did you know...?

- Taxi service is on demand and only taxis are permitted to pick up street hails
- Taxis may not add new vehicles to their fleets – cities determine how many vehicles the companies may use
- Taxis cannot set their own prices – cities set the prices
- Taxis must pay permits, fees and abide by strict regulations in each city in which they operate (handout: list comparing taxi requirements to TNC requirements)
- Taxis are covered by commercial insurance that applies 24/7
- Taxi drivers must get fingerprint background checks in every city in which they operate

SOLUTION:

Taxis should be regulated by one statewide set of standards. In order to compete in the changing for hire transportation ecosystem taxis must be allowed

- Fleet size flexibility – allowed to move vehicles in and out of their fleets to meet market demand
- Pricing flexibility – allowed to lower and raise their prices to better compete, provided the consumer knows what the ride will cost
- To move vehicles in/out of geographic boundaries
- One fingerprint background check for drivers
- only one permit to operate rather than permits and fees in every city