

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



Transportation Network Company Insurance Law Effective in Texas as of Jan. 1

January first of each year marks the official effective date of new laws in the state of Texas. Among the most talked about, House Bill 1733 requires liability insurance for transportation network company drivers such as Uber or Lyft. This new law sets guidelines for Transportation Network Services, requiring drivers for companies that offer prearranged rides to have \$1 million in liability insurance "for death, bodily injury and property damage for each incident." This is required when a driver is providing ride-share services to someone who made a request through a "digital network" such as a smartphone app.

The increasing popularity of online transportation companies like Uber and Lyft led to these changes in automobile liability insurance requirements. Personal insurance does not provide coverage for accidents that occur while a driver is transporting a passenger for money, while commercial auto policies were too expensive. This law amends the current insurance code to ensure drivers have coverage at all times. TNC drivers must have an extra 50/100/25 coverage when the app is on -- \$50,000 for each injured person in a wreck up to a total of \$100,000 per accident and property damage coverage up to \$25,000 per accident. Drivers for any networked transportation company are also required to hold liability insurance, uninsured motorist protection, and personal injury protection.

"The new law under House Bill 1733 ensures safety for both the driver and the passengers. Now drivers will be covered when the ride hailing app is on, even if no one else is in the car. Ultimately, it is a win for everyone utilizing the popular ride-sharing services of companies like Uber and Lyft," stated Rep. Roberto Alonzo.



City of Dallas Rest Break Ordinance Now In Effect

Effective on Jan.1 of this year, the City of Dallas will require that all workers performing construction activity at a construction site receive break of not less than 10 minutes for every four hours of scheduled work. Proponents of the ordinance said it was a common sense and low-cost way to address heat stroke and death in dangerous outdoor jobs. Opponents said it was outside the scope of the city's authority and there was no data to show a widespread problem.

Nonetheless, the City Council approved the ordinance and an implementation and enforcement plan on Dec. 9, 2015. Passage of the ordinance has resulted in a change to the wording in the Building Construction Site Management Notice required to be posted at all building construction sites, including construction projects already underway.

Violations of the ordinance may be reported confidentially by calling 311. All complaints will be referred to 311 and dispatched to Code Compliance for response within 24 hours. If a complaint has merit, a notice of violation will be issued to the owner, owner's representative or person in control.. If the violation is still not addressed, a citation may be issued.

For more information visit the City's Building Inspection website : <http://dallascityhall.com/departments/sustainabledevelopment/buildinginspection>



Rep. Roberto R. Alonzo at a constituent conference in Austin, TX.