



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 208

LCO No. 4233



Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO LOW-COST OR FREE
TRANSPORTATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 13b-38bb of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Transportation shall establish a state
4 matching grant program, in accordance with the provisions of this
5 section, which shall be available to any municipality upon application
6 of such municipality. Such grants shall be expended by such
7 municipalities for elderly and disabled demand responsive
8 transportation programs that shall be available to persons age sixty or
9 older.

10 (b) Each municipality applying for such grant funds shall provide a
11 fifty per cent match to such funds, except that a municipality that
12 provides transportation services for persons with disabilities multiple
13 times per week in a neighboring municipality shall provide a twenty-
14 five per cent match. If a municipality chooses not to apply for such
15 funds, its portion shall revert to the Special Transportation Fund.

16 [(b)] (c) Not later than thirty days after the commissioner determines
17 an allocation amount, the commissioner shall notify municipalities of
18 the availability of such amount.

19 [(c)] (d) Municipalities shall apply to the state through a designated
20 regional planning organization or transit district for funding allocations.
21 The regional planning organization or transit district and municipalities
22 interested in applying for the funds shall collaborate on service design
23 to determine how to use the funding most effectively in that
24 municipality and its surrounding region. The commissioner shall have
25 the authority to approve or disapprove the method for delivery of
26 service.

27 [(d)] (e) The maximum amount allocated to a municipality shall be
28 determined by the commissioner in accordance with the following
29 formula: Fifty per cent of such funds shall be apportioned on the basis
30 of the share of the population of persons age sixty or older in the
31 municipality relative to the state's total population of persons age sixty
32 or older, as defined in the most recent federal decennial census or in
33 estimates provided in the five-year interim by the Office of Policy and
34 Management. Fifty per cent of such funds shall be apportioned on the
35 basis of a municipality's square mileage relative to the state's total
36 square mileage.

37 [(e) Each municipality applying for such grant funds shall provide a
38 fifty per cent match to such funds. If a municipality chooses not to apply
39 for such funds, its portion shall revert to the Special Transportation
40 Fund.]

41 (f) A municipality, receiving a grant provided pursuant to this
42 section, shall annually submit to the Commissioner of Transportation,
43 on forms provided by said commissioner, the following data on such
44 transportation programs: (1) The number of unduplicated riders; (2) the
45 number of one-way trips; (3) the number of miles traveled; (4) the
46 number of trip denials; (5) the number of hours vehicles are in use
47 annually; (6) all federal, state, municipal and other revenues received

48 and expenditures incurred in the provision of dial-a-ride services; ~~(7) for~~
49 municipalities providing a twenty-five per cent match to state funds
50 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, a summary of services
51 provided in neighboring municipalities, including, but not limited to,
52 number of persons with disabilities served and times and days
53 transportation services are offered weekly; and [(7)] (8) any other
54 information determined to be necessary by the commissioner.

55 (g) A municipality receiving a grant pursuant to this section shall
56 annually submit to the Commissioner of Transportation a certification
57 that any state grant shall be in addition to current municipality levels of
58 spending on such programs.

59 (h) Any funds shall only be expended for grants and administrative
60 costs and shall not be expended for any other purpose.

61 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The Commissioner of Transportation,
62 in consultation with the Commissioners of Aging and Disability
63 Services, Developmental Services and Social Services, shall study
64 transportation service issues for persons with disabilities, including, but
65 not limited to: (1) Best practices for building a transportation system to
66 enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, (2)
67 gaps in low-cost or free transportation services for such persons, (3)
68 regional differences in access to such services, and (4) funding needed
69 to expand access to low-cost or free transportation for such persons.

70 (b) Not later than October 1, 2023, the Commissioner of
71 Transportation shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of
72 section 11-4a of the general statutes, with the joint standing committees
73 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging,
74 human services, public health and transportation on the results of the
75 study and recommendations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2023	13b-38bb
Sec. 2	July 1, 2023	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To expand daily access to low-cost or free transportation throughout the state for persons with disabilities to improve their quality of life and facilitate their ability to work.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. SEMINARA, 8th Dist.

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