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New LegislationOpens the Market for Accessible Cabs

House Bill 195, recently signed into law by Governor Kasich, paves the way for more accessible cabs in Ohio. The law rolls back a requirement that any vehicle transporting individuals who use wheelchairs be licensed as an ambulette. Prior to this law, the extra regulations attached to ambulette transportation made it expensive and difficult for public transportation companies to transport persons who use wheelchairs. House Bill 195 provides an exemption for cab companies and ride-sharing companies like Uber and Lyft.

Suzanne Hopkins, Director of Programs at the Center for Independent Living Options, stated that she is pleased at this progress towards a day when accessible taxis are readily available at the same price anyone else would pay. “Like any able-bodied person, I want to have the option to take a spontaneous trip, for pleasure or for work, at a reasonable cost.”

Studies focused on the lives of Ohioans with disabilities emphasize transportation as the single greatest barrier to living, working, and playing in the community. Transportation Challenges for Ohioans with Disabilities (Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, 2017): This bill is one step towards offering more options. The law, which was championed by the Center for Independent Living Options, the Ohio Association of Centers for Independent Living, and Representatives Bill Seitz and Catherine Ingram, takes one more step towards making Ohio a more accessible state.

To read H.B. 195, click here.

About the Association of Centers for Independent Living: Ohio Centers for Independent Living, 12 community-based, non-profit organizations run by people with disabilities with the goal of ensuring community integration and a more accessible Ohio.

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