

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3262

To amend title 23, United States Code, to compel States to require illuminated signs and other measures on ride-hailing vehicles, to prohibit the sale of such signs, to require ride-hailing companies to implement an electronic access system on ride-hailing vehicles, and to be known as “Sami’s Law”.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2019

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. SUOZZI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to compel States to require illuminated signs and other measures on ride-hailing vehicles, to prohibit the sale of such signs, to require ride-hailing companies to implement an electronic access system on ride-hailing vehicles, and to be known as “Sami’s Law”.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as “Sami’s Law”.

1 **SEC. 2. SANCTIONS FOR STATES WITHOUT RIDE-HAILING**  
2 **VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION LAWS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 23, United  
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 **“§ 171. Sanctions for States without transportation**  
7 **network company vehicle identification**  
8 **laws**

9 “(a) WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS FOR NONCOMPLI-  
10 ANCE.—

11 “(1) FIRST FISCAL YEAR.—On the first day of  
12 the fiscal year that is two years after the date of en-  
13 actment of this section, the Secretary shall withhold  
14 1 percent of the amount required to be apportioned  
15 to a State under each of paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
16 section 104(b) if the State does not meet the re-  
17 quirements of subsection (b) on the first day of the  
18 fiscal year.

19 “(2) SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—On the first  
20 day of each fiscal year beginning 3 years after the  
21 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall  
22 withhold 2.5 percent of the amount required to be  
23 apportioned to a State under each of paragraphs (1)  
24 and (2) of section 104(b) if the State does not meet  
25 the requirements of subsection (b) on the first day  
26 of the fiscal year.

1           “(3) EFFECT OF WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS.—

2           No funds withheld under this subsection from appor-  
3           tionment to any State shall be available at any point  
4           for apportionment to that State.

5           “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A State meets the require-  
6           ments of this subsection if the Governor of the State cer-  
7           tifies to the Secretary that the State has enacted and is  
8           enforcing the following laws with respect to TNC drivers  
9           and TNC vehicles operating in that State:

10           “(1) FRONT AND REAR LICENSE PLATES.—A  
11           law requiring that every TNC vehicle has a duly  
12           issued general State license plate on both the front  
13           and rear of the vehicle.

14           “(2) INSPECTION AND SIGN REQUIREMENTS.—  
15           A law requiring TNC drivers to present TNC vehi-  
16           cles for inspection not later than 180 days after the  
17           date of enactment of such laws (unless the State has  
18           enacted and is enforcing a law meeting the require-  
19           ments of this subsection on the date of enactment of  
20           this section) and annually thereafter. Such law shall  
21           include the following:

22           “(A) A provision requiring each TNC driv-  
23           er to affix the stickers containing the optical  
24           code or label provided to that driver (pursuant  
25           to section 3(1)(A) of Sami’s Law) on each win-

1           dow of the TNC driver’s vehicle adjacent to  
2           where passengers may sit.

3           “(B) A provision that requires periodic  
4           safety inspections of the TNC vehicle performed  
5           at intervals of at least once each year.

6           “(C) A provision that requires each TNC  
7           vehicle to display a consistent and distinctive  
8           sign at all times when the TNC driver is active  
9           on the TNC digital platform or providing any  
10          prearranged transportation service. Such sign—

11                  “(i) shall include the transportation  
12                  network company’s proprietary trademark  
13                  or logo;

14                  “(ii) shall be readable during daylight  
15                  hours at a distance of 50 feet;

16                  “(iii) shall be illuminated so that it is  
17                  patently visible in darkness; and

18                  “(iv) may be magnetic or removable in  
19                  nature.

20          “(D) A provision that does not permit a  
21          TNC driver to provide TNC services if the TNC  
22          vehicle does not pass such inspection.

23          “(3) UNLAWFUL DISPLAY.—A law that pro-  
24          hibits an individual who is not a TNC driver for a  
25          transportation network company from displaying on

1 any vehicle the sign described in paragraph (2)(C)  
2 that is affiliated with that company on any vehicle  
3 with the intent to pass himself or herself off as a  
4 TNC driver operating a TNC vehicle for the trans-  
5 portation network company affiliated with that sign.

6 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

7 “(1) the term ‘TNC driver’ means an individual  
8 who is employed or contracted by a transportation  
9 network company to provide transportation services  
10 to the public through a TNC platform;

11 “(2) the term ‘TNC platform’ means an online-  
12 enabled application or digital network used to con-  
13 nect riders to TNC drivers for the purpose of pro-  
14 viding prearranged transportation services;

15 “(3) the term ‘TNC vehicle’ means a vehicle  
16 owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for use by a  
17 TNC driver that the TNC driver uses to provide  
18 TNC services, also known as a ride-hailing vehicle;  
19 and

20 “(4) the term ‘transportation network com-  
21 pany’—

22 “(A) means a corporation, partnership,  
23 sole proprietorship, or other entity, that uses a  
24 digital network to connect riders to drivers af-  
25 filiated with the entity in order for the driver

1 to transport the rider using a vehicle owned,  
2 leased, or otherwise authorized for use by the  
3 driver to a point chosen by the rider; and

4 “(B) does not include a shared-expense  
5 carpool or vanpool arrangement that is not in-  
6 tended to generate profit for the driver.”.

7 **SEC. 3. ACCESS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR RIDE-**  
8 **HAILING VEHICLES AND RIDE-HAILING COM-**  
9 **PANIES.**

10 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
11 of this Act, each transportation network company shall es-  
12 tablish and implement the following system, prohibition,  
13 requirement, and policy:

14 (1) A system that enables each individual who  
15 uses a TNC platform to verify the identity of the  
16 TNC driver who is provided to such individual via  
17 that TNC platform, and such TNC driver to confirm  
18 the identity of such individual prior to the beginning  
19 of a trip. Such system shall include the following:

20 (A) A machine-readable code or image,  
21 such as a QR code (or successor technology),  
22 that can be scanned by the individual hailing  
23 such driver, using a personal mobile device with  
24 a built-in camera. The transportation network  
25 company shall provide to each TNC driver for-

1           ward-facing window stickers containing such  
2           code or label.

3           (B) The ability, via the transportation net-  
4           work company's TNC platform, to—

5                 (i) provide to each individual who is  
6                 assigned a TNC driver via such platform  
7                 the unique machine-readable code or label  
8                 of that TNC driver;

9                 (ii) provide a means by which such in-  
10                dividual may scan the machine-readable  
11                code or label displayed on the window  
12                sticker of the TNC vehicle, using the TNC  
13                platform on the individual's personal mo-  
14                bile device, to confirm the identity of the  
15                TNC driver who is assigned to the indi-  
16                vidual prior to entering the vehicle; and

17                (iii) restrict each TNC driver from  
18                commencing a trip until the individual who  
19                has opted to use and scan the machine-  
20                readable code or label verifies the identity  
21                of the TNC driver by scanning the code or  
22                label.

23           (2) A prohibition on a TNC driver from pro-  
24           viding TNC services if the TNC vehicle of that driv-

1 er does not pass inspections required by the State in  
2 which the TNC driver's vehicle is licenced.

3 (3) A requirement that all TNC vehicles display  
4 a consistent and distinctive sign provided by the  
5 transportation network company at all times when  
6 the TNC driver is active on the TNC digital plat-  
7 form or providing any TNC service. Such sign—

8 (A) shall include the transportation net-  
9 work company's proprietary trademark or logo;

10 (B) shall be readable during daylight hours  
11 at a distance of 50 feet;

12 (C) shall be illuminated so that it is pat-  
13 ently visible in darkness; and

14 (D) may be magnetic or removable in na-  
15 ture.

16 (4) A policy to require that any sign described  
17 in paragraph (3) be returned to the transportation  
18 network company when a TNC driver ceases to be  
19 employed or contracted by such company.

20 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF RIDE-HAILING SIGN.**

21 It shall be unlawful for any person other than a  
22 transportation network company to sell or offer for sale  
23 any sign described in section 3(3).



1 **SEC. 5. UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE.**

2 A violation of a section 3 or 4 shall be treated as  
3 a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act  
4 or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the  
5 Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).  
6 The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this Act in  
7 the same manner, by the same means, and with the same  
8 jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable  
9 terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission  
10 Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and  
11 made a part of this Act. Any person who violates section  
12 3 or section 4 shall be subject to the penalties and entitled  
13 to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal  
14 Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

15 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

16 For purposes of this Act—

17 (1) the term “machine-readable code or image”  
18 means a machine-readable optical label that is  
19 unique to each TNC driver and the vehicle of such  
20 TNC driver and can be scanned using a personal  
21 mobile device with a built-in camera;

22 (2) the term “personal mobile device” means  
23 any mobile device that an individual uses to connect  
24 to a TNC platform;

25 (3) the term “QR code” means a machine-read-  
26 able code or image also known as a quick response

1 code and consists of a matrix or two-dimensional  
2 barcode;

3 (4) the term “TNC driver” means an individual  
4 who is employed or contracted by a transportation  
5 network company to provide transportation services  
6 to the public through a TNC platform;

7 (5) the term “TNC platform” means an online-  
8 enabled application or digital network used to con-  
9 nect riders to TNC drivers for the purpose of pro-  
10 viding prearranged transportation services;

11 (6) the term “TNC vehicle” means a vehicle  
12 owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for use by a  
13 TNC driver that the TNC driver uses to provide pre-  
14 arranged transportation services, also known as a  
15 ride-hailing vehicle; and

16 (7) the term “transportation network com-  
17 pany”—

18 (A) means a corporation, partnership, sole  
19 proprietorship, or other entity, that uses a dig-  
20 ital network to connect riders to drivers affili-  
21 ated with the entity in order for the driver to  
22 transport the rider using a vehicle owned,  
23 leased, or otherwise authorized for use by the  
24 driver to a point chosen by the rider; and

1 (B) does not include a shared-expense car-  
2 pool or vanpool arrangement that is not in-  
3 tended to generate profit for the driver.

4 **SEC. 7. GAO STUDY ON THE INCIDENCE OF ASSAULT AND**  
5 **ABUSE OF RIDE-HAILING RIDERS AND DRIV-**  
6 **ERS.**

7 The Comptroller General of the United States shall  
8 conduct a study on the incidence of assault and abuse per-  
9 petrated on drivers by riders using ride-hailing vehicles,  
10 and on such riders by drivers of ride-hailing vehicles, and  
11 shall submit a report to Congress not later than one year  
12 after the date of enactment of this Act. The report shall  
13 also examine—

14 (1) the nature and specifics of any background  
15 checks conducted by ride-hailing companies on po-  
16 tential drivers, including any State laws which may  
17 require such background checks;

18 (2) incidences where individuals who are not  
19 ride-hailing drivers try to pose as ride-hailing driv-  
20 ers;

21 (3) incidences of ride-hailing passengers enter-  
22 ing the wrong vehicle, whether or not the vehicle was  
23 a ride-hailing vehicle; and

24 (4) efforts by ride-hailing companies to imple-  
25 ment additional safety measures and practices and

1 of State and local governments requiring such meas-  
2 ures, and the efficacy of those efforts, practices, and  
3 requirements.

