

SUBJECT: Requiring certain training for transportation network company drivers

COMMITTEE: Licensing & Administrative Procedures — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — K. King, Walle, Goldman, Harless, Hernandez, Herrero, T. King
3 nays — Patterson, Schaefer, Shaheen
1 absent — S. Thompson

WITNESSES: For — Mandi Kimball, Children at Risk (*Registered, but did not testify*: Servando Esparza, TechNet; Chris Miller, Uber Technologies Inc.; Doug Davis, Tom Spilman, Wholesale Beer Distributors of Texas; Thomas Parkinson)
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that requiring transportation network companies to provide drivers with human trafficking awareness and prevention materials could help prevent rideshare applications from being exploited by human traffickers.

DIGEST: HB 2323 would require a transportation network company to annually provide human trafficking prevention training materials to each driver authorized to use the company’s digital network. The training materials would have to be:

- provided in a digital or Internet-based video format;
- at least 15 minutes in duration;
- approved by the attorney general;
- provided in English and Spanish; and
- provided before a new driver was authorized to provide rides using the company’s digital network.

The materials would have to include:

- an overview of human trafficking;
- guidance on how to identify at-risk individuals;
- relevant information on the difference between labor and sex trafficking;
- guidance on the role of a driver in reporting and responding to human trafficking; and
- the contact information of appropriate entities for reporting human trafficking.

A transport network company would be required to maintain records necessary to establish that the company had provided the required training materials.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.