



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Chris Jacobs

## Jacobs Denounces Assembly Ridesharing Bill

SENATOR JACOBS March 14, 2017

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(Albany, NY) – Calling it a “major step backwards” in the effort to bring ridesharing to Western New York, New York State Senator Chris Jacobs (60<sup>th</sup> SD) criticized the New York Assembly’s new ridesharing legislation that was introduced late on Friday.

“This is not a ridesharing bill, instead it is a bill to kill the efforts to get ridesharing across New York State,” said Jacobs. “This legislation includes incredibly burdensome insurance provisions, the highest ridesharing taxes in the nation and unworkable regulations that would completely undermine the ability of ridesharing to work in Upstate and Western New York,” the Senator added.

The Assembly bill would require ridesharing providers to carry three times as much insurance coverage as for hire vehicles in New York City. The required coverage increases to ten times the level required downstate when ridesharing drivers have a passenger.

The Assembly bill would also have each local municipality design its own ridesharing regulations. “If this isn’t an effort to kill ridesharing I don’t know what is,” said Jacobs. “We have 23 municipalities just in Erie County, if each one has its own rules and regulations that would make ridesharing completely unworkable.”

The State Senate passed a ridesharing bill last month and the Governor included ridesharing in his proposed budget. Jacobs urged the Assembly to go back and pass a reasonable and workable bill.

“The convoluted regulatory framework, punitive taxes and insurance fees in the current Assembly bill will only ensure Buffalo and Western New York will still hold the embarrassing title as one of the few places in the country that does not have ridesharing,” Jacobs concluded