
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Senator Dave Cortese, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 1532 **Hearing Date:** 7/8/2025
Author: Committee on Communications and Conveyance
Version: 7/3/2025 Amended
Urgency: Yes **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Manny Leon

SUBJECT: Public Utilities Commission

DIGEST: Of relevance to this committee, this bill would extend the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) authority for the transportation network company (TNC) wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV) program, known as the "Access for All" (AFA) program.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Requires the CPUC, until January 1, 2026, to establish the TNC-WAV program known as the "Access for All" program. Among other program requirements, AFA requires each TNC to pay to PUC an amount equivalent to, at a minimum, \$0.05 for each TNC trip completed using the TNC's online-enabled application or platform to fund the program.

This bill:

- 1) Extends the requirement for the CPUC to establish the AFA program until January 1, 2032, including extending the \$0.05 charge for each completed TNC trip.

COMMENTS:

This is the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee policy omnibus bill and makes various changes to existing law. See the Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee analysis for details on other provisions of this bill not within this committee's jurisdiction.

- 1) *Purpose of the bill.* According to the author, "The content of this bill covers a scope of issues directly pertaining to the jurisdiction and experience of this [the

Communications & Conveyance] committee. Specifically, it extends the state's ability to fund two programs administered by the CPUC that provide critical assistance to disabled Californians. The bill also includes new accountability measures for the CPUC based on this committee's experience in engaging in oversight of the CPUC's programs during a committee oversight hearing, wherein the committee discovered concerning trends about CPUC Commissioner attendance at hearings."

- 2) *AFA*. The Access for All Program (AFA) was developed to implement SB 1376 (Hill, Chapter 701, Statutes of 2018). The program began implementation in the third quarter of 2019, and is designed to encourage growth in the availability of on-demand transportation that meets the mobility needs of persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users who need a WAV. This is achieved by collecting a per-trip fee on all TNC (i.e., Uber and Lyft) trips that originate in California, which is then re-invested in WAV service.

Pursuant to existing law, PUC recently assessed whether WAV service is within service benchmarks established by the PUC,¹ which covers various features of service, including presence of WAVs across hours of the day, decrease in WAV-related expenditures, promotion of WAV service through outreach and engagement, and occurrence of complaints from WAV customers. The findings show that TNCs have the ability to meet and exceed program goals in most key performance areas in some counties, but there is still room for improvement and more to be learned about statewide feasibility of offering on-demand WAV service. The report did make recommendations to the Legislature to improve the program. Specifically, augmenting timelines for entities participating in the program to be disbursed funds on an annual basis, instead be biennial. PUC suggests that doing so may help resource constraints on the part of participants, but also could increase participation overall. Currently, the statutory authorization for this program expires on January 1, 2026. This bill proposes to extend this sunset to January 1, 2032.

- 3) *Double referral*. This bill was approved by the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee by a 15-0 vote on July 1, 2025.

RELATED/PREVIOUS LEGISLATION:

SB 1376 (Hill, Chapter 701, Statutes of 2018) – Established the AFA program, including requiring the CPUC to assess a fee on TNC rides to fund AFA. Further included a sunset on the program of January 2026.

¹ 2024 TNC Access for All Program Annual Report. https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/consumer-protection-and-enforcement-division/documents/tlab/accessforall/cpuc_legislative-report_access-for-all_dec-2023.pdf

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

POSITIONS: (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday,
July 2, 2025.)

SUPPORT:

California Association of Area Agencies on Aging
City and County of San Francisco
Marin Center for Independent Living
San Francisco County Transportation Authority

OPPOSITION:

None received

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