

Nebraska Public Service Commission

COMMISSIONERS:

ROD JOHNSON
FRANK E. LANDIS
CRYSTAL RHOADES
TIM SCHRAM
GERALD L. VAP



300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

Post Office Box 94927, Lincoln, NE 68509-4927

Website: psc.nebraska.gov

Phone: (402) 471-3101

Fax: (402) 471-0254

NEBRASKA CONSUMER HOTLINE:

1-800-526-0017

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

JEFFREY L. PURSLEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSC RELEASES TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES ANNUAL REPORT

LINCOLN, JANUARY 5, 2017— The Nebraska Public Service Commission has submitted its 2016 Annual Report on the Implementation of LB629 to the Legislature.

Passed in 2015, LB629, established a new classification of transportation service providers, Transportation Network Companies (TNC) and allowed for the regulation of TNCs by the Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC).

State law (NEB. Rev. Stat. §75-324) requires TNCs to apply with the PSC for permits to operate in Nebraska. Currently, two TNCs, Uber and Lyft have authority to operate in the state. During the past year, the PSC did not receive any additional application for authority to provide TNC services. The report indicates, there are approximately 500 people who work as TNC drivers for either of the two companies, with the vast majority working primarily in Omaha and Lincoln.

“The report suggests the addition of TNCs does not appear to have had a profound impact on taxi service,” said Jeff Pursley, PSC Executive Director. “Statewide data gathered from cab companies shows the total number of rides given has generally been on an upward trend over the past five years.”

One exception to the trend would be in Lincoln, where data shows a general decline in the number of rides given, cabs in service, and drivers employed.

Pursley said, “While it is hard to say what is behind the decline in Lincoln, it does not appear to be related to TNCs, since the reduction in numbers pre-dates their appearance in the state.”

Under the new regulations, TNCs must carry appropriate levels of insurance, conduct thorough criminal background checks on their drivers, execute vehicle inspections by certified mechanics, and obtain a permit to operate from the PSC.

LB629 also created the Transportation Network Company Regulation Cash Fund. Initial and annual applications fees collected from the TNCs are placed in the fund which is managed by the PSC and used to enforce rules and regulations and investigate complaints against TNCs. As of Dec. 15, 2016, the Transportation Network Company Regulation Fund had a balance nearing \$66,000. ###

Contact:

Deb Collins- Public Information Coordinator

(402) 471-0226

deb.collins@nebraska.gov

****Editor's note: a copy of the Annual Report to the Legislature on the Status of the Implementation of LB 629 can be found on the PSC website @ http://www.psc.nebraska.gov/tran/tran_tnc_annual_reports.html ****