

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 25-0235.02 Rebecca Bayetti x4348

HOUSE BILL 25-1007

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Froelich and Valdez, Boesenecker, Lindsay, Mauro, Soper

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Winter F. and Simpson, Cutter

House Committees

Transportation, Housing & Local Government

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR PARATRANSIT**
102 **SERVICES.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Transportation Legislation Review Committee. Beginning on January 1, 2026, the bill imposes the following duties on any political subdivision of the state, public entity, or nonprofit corporation that provides paratransit services in the state, in addition to those duties otherwise provided by law:

- To establish, in coordination with local public entities

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

providing emergency services, a plan to communicate information and provide paratransit services during emergencies;

- To ensure that fare collection technology for paratransit services is comparable to that offered for regular or fixed route services; and
- Before reducing the service area for paratransit services, to consult with affected community members and conduct an impact analysis.

The bill also creates the paratransit task force (task force) in the department of transportation. The purpose of the task force is to study and make recommendations regarding the standardization of and best practices for paratransit services in the state. The task force consists of 16 members as follows:

- 3 legislative members, jointly appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, with 2 members of the majority party and one member of the minority party;
- 4 members representing disability advocacy organizations, with one member appointed by and from each of the following organizations:
 - Atlantis Community, Inc.;
 - American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today;
 - The Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition; and
 - The National Federation of the Blind;
- 5 members representing transit organizations, with one member appointed by and from each of the following organizations:
 - The department of transportation;
 - The Colorado Association of Transit Agencies;
 - The regional transportation district;
 - AARP; and
 - The Denver regional council of governments;
- One member representing a private company that partners with a transit agency to provide paratransit services, appointed by the governor;
- One member representing the Colorado disability opportunity office, appointed by the governor;
- One member determined by the governor to enhance and expand the expertise of the task force, appointed by the governor; and
- The lieutenant governor or the lieutenant governor's designee.

The task force is required to meet at least 3 times in 2025 to study and make recommendations on the standardization of and best practices for

paratransit services in the state. On or before October 15, 2025, the task force must submit a report to the transportation legislation review committee that includes a summary of the work accomplished by the task force and any recommendations to the general assembly concerning matters studied by the task force. The department of transportation must include a summary of the report and the recommendations of the task force in its annual presentation to the general assembly in January 2026.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 43-1-604 as
3 follows:

4 **43-1-604. Paratransit services - communication duties - report**
5 **- definitions - repeal.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
6 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "EMERGENCY" MEANS:

8 (I) A FIRE, RESCUE CALL, OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT;

9 (II) A NATURAL OR HUMAN-CAUSED DISASTER SUCH AS AN
10 EARTHQUAKE, WILDFIRE, FLOOD, OR SEVERE WEATHER EVENT; OR

11 (III) AN INCIDENT REASONABLY DETERMINED TO BE AN
12 EMERGENCY BY A PUBLIC ENTITY PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES.

13 (b) "PARATRANSIT SERVICES" MEANS COMPLEMENTARY PARALLEL
14 TRANSIT SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES WHO ARE UNABLE
15 TO UTILIZE REGULAR OR FIXED ROUTE TRANSIT SERVICES FOR SOME OR ALL
16 OF THEIR TRANSIT NEEDS.

17 (c) "PUBLIC ENTITY PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES" MEANS
18 ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE OR AGENCY OF A POLITICAL
19 SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE THAT RESPONDS IN A PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY
20 TO AN EMERGENCY, INCLUDING A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, FIRE
21 DEPARTMENT, OR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.

22 (d) "TRANSIT AGENCY" MEANS ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE

1 STATE, PUBLIC ENTITY, OR NONPROFIT CORPORATION THAT PROVIDES
2 PARATRANSIT SERVICES IN THE STATE.

3 (2) (a) ON AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2026, IN COORDINATION WITH
4 LOCAL PUBLIC ENTITIES PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES, A TRANSIT
5 AGENCY SHALL ESTABLISH A PLAN TO COMMUNICATE INFORMATION AND
6 PROVIDE PARATRANSIT SERVICES DURING EMERGENCIES.

7 (b) THE COMMUNICATION PLAN MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION ON
8 THE NUMBER OF RIDERS WHO USE THE TRANSIT AGENCY'S PARATRANSIT
9 SERVICES AND THE TRANSIT AGENCY'S RESOURCE CAPACITY, INCLUDING
10 THE NUMBER OF DRIVERS AND THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES USED TO PROVIDE
11 PARATRANSIT SERVICES.

12 (c) (I) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, TRANSIT AGENCIES AND
13 PUBLIC ENTITIES PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES SHALL SUBMIT A
14 REPORT TO THE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION REVIEW COMMITTEE ON
15 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNICATION AND EMERGENCY
16 SERVICES PLAN DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2).

17 (II) THIS SUBSECTION (2)(c) IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

18 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
21 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
22 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
23 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
24 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
25 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
26 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.