



# HOUSE BILL 391: Passenger Protection Act.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	December 16, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Howard Marsilio Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	S.L. 2019-194		

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## **OVERVIEW: S.L. 2019-194:**

- *Amends Transportation Network Company (TNC) safety requirements.*
- *Creates an infraction for a TNC driver's failure to display their license plate number as required.*
- *Creates a misdemeanor criminal offense for impersonating a TNC driver.*
- *Raises the punishment for assaulting a TNC driver while providing a TNC service from a Class 2 misdemeanor to a Class A1 misdemeanor.*

*This act has various effective dates. Please see full summary.*

## **CURRENT LAW/BILL ANALYSIS:**

This act is named the "Passenger Protection Act."

**TNC Safety Requirement Changes.** - Transportation Network Companies are currently required to have TNC drivers inspect their vehicles annually to meet State safety requirements, to provide certain information to customers after a ride request is accepted by a driver, and maintain records of each TNC service provided and TNC drivers for specified periods of time. This act amends TNC safety requirements by:

- Requiring a TNC to require a TNC driver to display the vehicle's license plate number in a location that is visible from the front of the vehicle.
- Requiring a TNC to require a TNC driver to display consistent and distinctive signage or emblems while a TNC driver is active on the TNC digital platform or when providing a TNC service.

**License Plate Display Requirement.** – This act creates a new infraction for a TNC driver's failure to display the license plate number of the vehicle as required by the new safety requirements within this act.

**Impersonating a TNC Driver.** – This act creates a new criminal offense for impersonating a TNC driver. Impersonating a TNC driver during the commission of a separate felony offense is a Class H felony, any other violation is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

**Assaulting a TNC Driver.** – Current law makes assault, assault and battery, or affray a Class 2 misdemeanor. Violations of these offenses involving certain victims, or under certain circumstances, are punished as a Class A1 misdemeanor, such as assaulting a public transit operator. This act specifies that assaulting a TNC driver providing a TNC service is a Class A1 misdemeanor.

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**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The signage and alternative identifier changes to the TNC safety requirements becomes effective July 1, 2020, and the remaining changes to the safety requirements became effective October 1, 2019. The new, and changes to, criminal offenses became effective December 1, 2019. The remainder of this act became effective August 1, 2019.