

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BILL S. 1247 AN ACT CRIMINALIZING SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A PASSENGER BY A RIDESHARE OPERATOR

WHEREAS, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), such as Uber and Lyft, provide ride-sharing services that are convenient and used by many to commute in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Recognizing that TNCs have become an integral part of our overall transportation system, residents have also expressed that this evolving industry continues to present serious concerns related to public safety; *and*

WHEREAS, In February, a woman was allegedly sexually assaulted by her rideshare driver when travelling from an establishment in South Boston to her home. In 2018, a driver was charged with exposing himself to two women near Downtown Crossing. In 2015, another driver was convicted of aggravated rape, kidnapping, assault and battery; *and*

WHEREAS, According to reports by WCVB, a woman was allegedly raped by her Uber driver after she left a bar alone. The next day, her friends encouraged her to contact the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, who guided her through her next steps. After obtaining a sexual assault test kit, she was told that there was not enough evidence to move the case to trial; *and*

WHEREAS, Prosecutors at the Suffolk County district attorney's Domestic and Sexual Violence Unit indicated that in order to move forward with a trial, they would have to prove that the rideshare driver knew that the victim was too intoxicated to give consent; *and*

WHEREAS, S. 1247 *An Act criminalizing sexual assault of a passenger by a rideshare operator* would effectively eliminate consent as a defense for a ride-share driver and make it illegal for a driver to have sex with a passenger. The bill treats ride-share drivers as people in a position of trust, similar to a police officer with a person in custody; *and*

WHEREAS, Incidents of sexual assault on rideshares are deeply disturbing and unsettling for residents across Boston. Ensuring the safety of all residents - especially young women - who use rideshares is critical. This bill would effectively provide an extra layer of protection for residents that utilize rideshares, especially those that are in vulnerable positions; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council strongly supports the passage of S. 1247, *An Act criminalizing sexual assault of a passenger by a rideshare operator* in the State Legislature, and urges prompt action in the passage of this legislation.

Filed on: November 19, 2025