



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: June 22, 2010

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For Immediate Release

VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENT FOR PEDICAB OPERATORS CLOSE TO BECOMING LAW

San Diego City Councilmember Marti Emerald is pleased to announce that a State bill intended to strengthen San Diego's new pedicab rules has cleared another major hurdle in Sacramento. Assembly Bill 2294 passed the Senate Transportation Committee Tuesday on a 6-0 vote and is now on it's on to the full Senate. The bill cleared the State Assembly last month.

"This will add teeth to the pedicab rules already in place in San Diego," said Councilmember Emerald, Chair of the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee. "The Bill would require San Diego pedicab operators to have valid California drivers' licenses. It makes sure these drivers know the rules of the road and will help keep their passengers safe". Currently, pedicab operators in San Diego only need a business license.

Councilmember Emerald pushed for sweeping reforms in the local pedicab industry a year ago after a tourist died when she fell out of a pedicab. The City's new regulations include mandatory seat belt use, restrictions on which streets pedicabs can be operated and requires clearly posted fares. The only major reform missing was a required California drivers' license.

AB 2294 was sponsored by State Assemblyman Marty Block. The Assembly version only impacts cities in San Diego County. But members of the Senate Transportation Committee have amended the bill, saying it should give all California cities the option of requiring drivers' licenses for pedicab operators.

If approved by the full Senate, AB 2294 will immediately go back to the Assembly to reconcile the two versions.

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