



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 2253

By The Speaker (Council Member Johnson) and Council Members Powers, Rivera and Menchaca

A Local Law in relation to creating a pilot program to establish micro-distribution centers for distributing goods via sustainable modes of transportation

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Micro-Distribution Center Pilot. a. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Bicycle. The term “bicycle” has the same meaning as set forth in section 102 of the vehicle and traffic law or any successor provision.

Bicycle with electric assist. The term “bicycle with electric assist” has the same meaning as set forth in section 102-c of the vehicle and traffic law or any successor provision.

Commercial vehicle. The term “commercial vehicle” means a motor vehicle designed, maintained, or used primarily for the transportation of property, provided that such vehicle:

(i) bears commercial plates, where commercial plates or equivalent registration plates from other states or countries are permissible for purposes of this section;

(ii) is permanently altered by having all seats and seat fittings, except the front seats, removed to facilitate the transportation of property, except that for vehicles designed with a passenger cab and a cargo area separated by a partition, the seating capacity within the cab will not be considered in determining whether the vehicle is properly altered.

(iii) displays the registrant's name permanently affixed in characters at least three inches high on both sides of the vehicle, with such display being in a color contrasting with that of the vehicle and placed

approximately midway vertically on doors or side panels.

Commercial vehicle operator. The term “commercial vehicle operator” means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, municipality, or other legal entity that either on behalf of itself or others, utilizes a commercial vehicle to deliver packages, parcels, papers, or articles of any type.

Department. The term “department” means the department of transportation.

Sustainable modes of transportation. The term “sustainable modes of transportation” means bicycles, bicycles with electric assist, electric scooters, electric vehicles, hand trucks and any other modes designated as sustainable by the department.

b. No later than January 1, 2022 the department shall establish a pilot program to create micro-distribution centers. Such micro-distribution centers shall be used exclusively for transferring goods from commercial vehicles to sustainable modes of transportation that distribute such goods to their final delivery points.

c. The department shall establish at least 12 micro-distribution centers, which shall be no less than 800 square feet in size. In establishing such centers, the department shall consult with operators of commercial vehicles that conduct deliveries.

d. The department shall make electric vehicle charging infrastructure available at no fewer than 3 micro-distribution centers.

e. The department shall establish an online reservation system that allows commercial vehicle operators to reserve the use a micro-distribution center for commercial distribution activity via sustainable modes of transportation. The department shall require such operators to register with the department and pay a registration fee, to be determined by the department.

f. It shall be unlawful for a commercial vehicle operator to access and use a micro-distribution center without having properly registered with the department and secured a reservation. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, failure to comply shall result in monetary liability or the removal of such unauthorized

vehicle, or both, as determined by the department.

g. It shall be unlawful to use non-sustainable modes of transportation to distribute goods from a micro-distribution center. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, failure to comply shall result in monetary liability or the removal of such non-sustainable modes of transportation, or both, as determined by the department.

h. No later than June 1, 2022, the department shall post on its website, and submit to the speaker of the council and the mayor, a report that includes, at a minimum, the following information:

1. the number of participating commercial vehicle operators who registered and utilized a micro-distribution center, the size of participating operators, the total number of reservations disaggregated by micro-distribution center, and the types of sustainable modes of transportation used to distribute goods;

2. a summary of the feedback received from participating operators, including but not limited to, satisfaction with the program and modification recommendations, if any;

3. recommendations on how such program could be improved, if any;

4. recommendations on whether such program should be continued or modified; and

5. recommendations for the expansion of such program.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

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