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Res. No. 421-A

Resolution calling on the New York State Governor to sign S.8689/A.10055, authorizing the New York State Office for the Aging to establish, operate, and maintain programs for transportation services

By Council Members Mealy, Louis, Hanks, Schulman, Maloney, Farías, Lee, Banks, Narcisse, Zhuang and Aldebol

Whereas, According to the New York State Comptroller, the population of adults 65 and older in New York City (NYC) grew by nearly half a million in the last two decades, reaching a record high 1.43 million in 2023; and

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), social isolation happens when an individual does not have relationships, contact with, or support from others and loneliness is the feeling of being alone, disconnected, or not close enough to others; and

Whereas, According to the CDC, both social isolation and loneliness increase an individual's risk of serious mental and physical health conditions; and

Whereas, According to the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA), 17 percent of older adults report experiencing relatively high levels of loneliness and 22 percent say that they are not socializing as much as they would like; and

Whereas, According to the NIH National Institute on Aging, a lack of accessible transportation can increase an individual's risk for social isolation; and

Whereas, In the older adult population, there is a high prevalence of functional difficulties, meaning an individual faces challenges accomplishing typical daily activities, with, according to the Center for Research on Housing Opportunity, Mobility, and Equity (HOME), 32 percent of older adults having at least one functional

difficulty and nearly a quarter having an ambulatory difficulty, meaning they have difficulty walking or climbing stairs; and

Whereas, According to HOME, for adults aged 85 and older, these numbers jumped to 65 percent and 51 percent respectively, making accessible transportation crucial for maintaining older adults' standards of living, including ensuring that they can stay connected to their communities and loved ones; and

Whereas, Most subway stations in NYC are not currently compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and, according to an article published by Medium, most of the ADA compliant stations that do exist are located in Manhattan and not in the outer boroughs where there are significant older adult populations; and

Whereas, According to LiveOn NY, already existing older adult transportation services are not meeting the needs of their users, with Access-A-Ride receiving only a 65 percent customer satisfaction rate; and

Whereas, S.8689, introduced by State Senator Cordell Cleare in the New York State Senate, and companion bill A.10055, introduced by Assembly Member John Zaccaro Jr. in the New York State Assembly, would authorize the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) to establish, operate, and maintain programs for transportation services and to partner with municipalities for the operation and maintenance of transportation programs; and

Whereas, S.8689/A.10055 passed in the State Senate and State Assembly on June 2, 2026 and May 29, 2026, respectively; and

Whereas, As the older adult population continues to grow, making it crucial that agencies focused on the older adult population take a more central role in providing necessary services, this bill will allow NYSOFA to take more initiative in developing programs to serve the transportation needs of older New Yorkers and work more closely with DFTA to fund and improve older adult focused transportation programs in NYC; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Council of the City of New York calls on the New York State Governor to sign

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S.8689/A.10055, authorizing the New York State Office for the Aging to establish, operate, and maintain programs for transportation services.

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