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## The D.C. Council's sensible bill on ride-sharing services

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Despite the protest of taxi drivers, the D.C. Council passed the Vehicle-for-hire Innovation Amendment Act of 2014 [[“UberX, others closer to operating legally,”](#) Local Digest, Oct. 29]. The bill makes good sense, even though it would impose additional costs on ride-sharing companies such as Uber and Lyft.

The [legislation requires](#) background checks, annual vehicle inspections and liability insurance. It prohibits drivers from accepting street hails and “surge pricing” during states of emergency declared by the mayor.

The bill also requires the vehicles to have “distinctive trade dress” displayed while in use as a ride-sharing vehicle.

On the two issues that directly relate to safety — background checks and insurance — the bill has little effect on the policies of Uber and Lyft, which already require both.

The remaining requirements, including the ban on surge pricing during a state of emergency and the trade dress requirement, will likely have a minimal effect on the companies’ growth in the nation’s capital.

The extra costs for ride-sharing companies associated with the bill are not ideal. However, if signed into law, the legislation would allow drivers using ride-sharing technology to operate in the District without fear of citations from city officials, something supporters of innovation and competition ought to like.

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