



SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER, MD
SENATE DISTRICT 5

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Statewide Ridesharing Bill Passes Texas Legislature

Senator Schwertner guides HB 100 to a favorable 21-9 vote in the Texas Senate; legislation will take immediate effect upon receiving Governor Abbott's signature.

AUSTIN, TX -- This afternoon, Senator Charles Schwertner, MD (R-Georgetown) successfully passed HB 100 by Representative Chris Paddie (R-Marshall), fulfilling a pledge he made over a year ago to establish fair, predictable, and consistent statewide regulation of transportation networking companies like Uber and Lyft. Since HB 100 received the support of more than two-thirds of the members in both chambers of the Texas Legislature, the bill will take immediate effect upon receiving the signature of Governor Greg Abbott.

"Today, the Texas Legislature took a clear stand in support of innovation and the free market by enacting a statewide ridesharing policy that is fair, consistent, and predictable," said Senator Schwertner. "Just over one year ago, I pledged to my constituents and the people of Texas that I would bring an end to the kind of deliberately onerous and burdensome municipal regulations designed to restrict the free market, stifle innovation, and drive these companies out of business. Today, I'm proud to see that promise fulfilled."

Senator Schwertner first called for a statewide ridesharing solution in May 2016 after the Austin City Council imposed a new slate of regulations designed to negatively impact transportation networking companies like Uber and Lyft. Both companies quickly withdrew from the City of Austin. Concurrent efforts to eliminate or otherwise restrict competition from ridesharing companies led to similar conflicts in cities like Houston, Midland, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi.

"Ridesharing represents an innovative mobility solution and a valuable source of employment for countless Texans," continued Schwertner. "By eliminating the patchwork of inconsistent and anti-competitive regulations that exist in cities across Texas, this legislation will give the free market a chance to work and guarantee that all ridesharing services in Texas have a clear and consistent regulatory framework under which to operate. HB 100 will ensure that all Texans have the freedom to move around the state safely and dependably."

A medical doctor by training, Dr. Schwertner currently serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. Schwertner is currently serving his third term as the senator for Senate District 5, a ten-county region of central and east Texas.

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