

Nos. A160701, A160706

**IN THE COURT OF APPEAL  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT, DIVISION FOUR**

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**PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,**

*Appellee and Plaintiff,*

v.

**UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.; LYFT, INC.,**

*Appellants and Defendants.*

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On Appeal From The Superior Court Of San Francisco County  
Case No. CGC-20-584402;  
The Honorable Ethan Schulman, presiding

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**UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.'S  
PETITION FOR REHEARING**

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## INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, November 3, the People of California decisively approved Proposition 22. Under Prop 22, drivers who use Uber are classified as independent contractors, and the new law displaces “any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, the Labor Code” provisions on which the injunction at issue in this case is based. (Prop 22 § 1 [attached as Exhibit A] [adding Bus. & Prof. Code § 7451].)

There is no question that the injunction the trial court entered must now be vacated. It is explicitly based on the notion that Uber is violating those expressly superseded Labor Code provisions. Whether or not the injunction was proper when issued, it is a “well settled” and “established rule of law” that this Court must assess the injunction’s propriety in light of the *new* law. (*Tulare Irr. Dist. v. Lindsay-Strathmore Irr. Dist.* (1935) 3 Cal.2d 489, 527; *Kash Enters., Inc. v. City of Los Angeles* (1977) 19 Cal.3d 294, 306 fn. 6, citation omitted.)

The Court should therefore “grant[] rehearing” so it can apply “the law in effect.” (*Oberlander v. County of Contra Costa*, (1992) 11 Cal.App.4th 535, 538.) “The rationale of this rule is that it would be an idle act for this court to determine what the [defendant] must do in the future under the law as it used to be but no longer is.” (*Ibid.*) Because the injunction cannot stand in light of Prop 22, the Court should grant rehearing, vacate the injunction, and remand.

## DISCUSSION

### I. Prop 22 Eliminates the Basis for the Injunction

On Tuesday, November 3, a decisive majority of the voters approved Prop 22. The final result has not yet been officially certified, but the Secretary of State reports that Prop 22 has passed with 58.4% of the vote, and major news outlets report that it has been approved.<sup>1</sup> “Results will be certified by December 11, 2020.” (*State Ballot Measures - Statewide Results* <<https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov/returns/ballot-measures>>.)

Prop 22 will take effect on “the fifth day after the Secretary of State files the statement of the vote.” (Cal. Const. art. II, § 10, subd. (a).)

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<sup>1</sup> (*State Ballot Measures - Statewide Results* <<https://electionresults.sos.ca.gov/returns/ballot-measures>> [as of Nov. 6, 2020]; e.g., Conger, *Uber and Lyft Drivers in California Will Remain Contractors* (Nov. 4, 2020) <<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/04/technology/california-uber-lyft-prop-22.html>> [as of Nov. 6, 2020]; Said, *Proposition 22, California Gig-work Ballot Measure Backed by Uber and Lyft, Passes* (Nov. 4, 2020) <<https://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Proposition-22-California-gig-work-ballot-15699651.php>> [as of Nov. 6, 2020]; Park, *Uber, Lyft Win Approval of California Gig Worker Measure* (Nov. 4, 2020) <<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/election/article246814727.html>> [as of Nov. 6, 2020]; Luna, *California Voters Approve Prop. 22, Allowing Uber and Lyft Drivers To Remain Independent Contractors* (Nov. 3, 2020) <<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-11-03/2020-california-election-tracking-prop-22>> [as of Nov. 6, 2020].)

Prop 22 provides that “an app-based driver is an independent contractor and not an employee or agent with respect to the app-based driver’s relationship with a network company” if four conditions are met. (Prop 22 § 1 [adding Bus. & Prof. Code § 7451].) There can be no question that Uber meets all four conditions: Uber “does not unilaterally prescribe” when drivers “must be logged into the” app; it “does not require the app-based driver to accept any specific rideshare service ... request”; it “does not restrict the app-based driver from performing rideshare services” using other apps; and it “does not restrict the app-based driver from working in any other lawful occupation or business.” (*Ibid.*; see, e.g., October 22, 2020 Opinion at pp. 11–12, 28–29, 34 [reciting each of these facts about Uber].) Thus, drivers who use Uber are independent contractors, not employees.

Prop 22 explicitly displaces previous law on this point: App-based drivers are independent contractors “notwithstanding any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, the Labor Code, the Unemployment Insurance Code, and any orders, regulations, or opinions of the Department of Industrial Relations or any board, division, or commission within the Department of Industrial Relations.” (Prop 22 § 1 [adding Bus. & Prof. Code § 7451].) Prop 22’s core purpose, which the courts must “effectuate” (*id.* § 5), is “[t]o protect the basic legal right of Californians to choose to work as independent contractors with rideshare and delivery network companies throughout the state” (*id.* § 1 [adding Bus. & Prof. Code § 7450]).

The injunction cannot stand in light of the approval of Prop 22, because the injunction was explicitly based on law that has now been superseded. The injunction purports to enforce exactly the provisions that no longer apply to Uber: It prohibits Uber from classifying “Drivers as independent contractors in violation of Labor Code section 2750.3” and “from violating any provisions of the Labor Code, the Unemployment Insurance Code, and the wage orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission with regard to their Drivers.” (10AA2916–2917.) But under Prop 22, drivers are independent contractors “[n]otwithstanding” all of those sources of law. (Prop 22 § 1 [adding Bus. & Prof. Code § 7451].)

The trial court’s—and this Court’s—reasoning for enjoining Uber was also based on the standard articulated by the now-superseded AB5: The trial court reasoned that, “even if the harm to Defendants were ‘grave or irreparable,’ ... an injunction would be warranted” because “the People’s showing on the merits is very strong.” (10AA2914.) The court so concluded because it ruled that “A.B. 5 applies to Defendants[]”; “under the ABC test, Defendants’ drivers are presumptively employees, ... Defendants bear the burden to show otherwise ... [and] the Court need only decide that Defendants cannot satisfy *one* of the three prongs of the ABC test”; and “drivers do not perform work that is outside the usual course of Defendants’ business” under Prong B. (10AA2903, 10AA2906, capitalization omitted.) This Court stated that it would affirm the injunction for the same reason: Although “the harm to defendants could fairly be considered grave or irreparable,” because “it appear[ed] fairly clear that the

plaintiff will prevail on the merits,” the trial court could “legitimately decide that an injunction should issue even though the plaintiff is unable to prevail in a balancing of the probable harms.” (October 22, 2020 Opinion at p. 54, citation omitted.)

Prop 22 unequivocally provides that “an app-based driver is an independent contractor”—eliminating Plaintiff’s chance of success on the merits, and the basis for the injunction. (Prop 22 § 1 [adding Bus. & Prof. Code § 7451].)

## **II. The Injunction Must Be Vacated**

Given that Prop 22 supersedes the law upon which the injunction was premised, the injunction must be vacated.

“It is an established rule of law that on appeals from judgments granting or denying injunctions, the law to be applied is that which is current at the time of judgment in the appellate court.” (*Kash Enters.*, *supra*, 19 Cal.3d at p. 306 fn. 6, punctuation and citations omitted.) Applying this “established rule,” appellate courts regularly vacate injunctions that are based on old law and inconsistent with the law as it stands during the appeal.

For example, in *Oberlander*, the trial court granted an injunctive writ barring the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors from reducing financial aid for homeless individuals, concluding that the county had exceeded its statutory authority “by adopting the definition of a budget unit ‘which will result in drastic cuts where two or more unrelated persons live in the same housing unit.’” (11 Cal.App.4th at p. 541.) On appeal, this Court initially affirmed. (*Id.* at p. 538.) “[B]ut some 15 days”

after the court rendered its opinion “and before [it] lost jurisdiction, the Legislature ... changed the statutory scheme.” (*Ibid.*) The court “granted rehearing because ... the trial court [had] effectively granted injunctive relief” and “[a]ppeals of injunctions are governed by the law in effect at the time the appellate court renders its opinion.” (*Ibid.*) On rehearing, the court reversed the “order’s prospective application” because the county could now adopt new standards pursuant to the statutory change. (*Id.* at p. 549.)

*Oberlander* followed a long line of cases exemplified by the California Supreme Court’s decision in *Tulare Irrigation District*. There, the trial court issued “a perpetual injunction prohibiting the defendant from pumping any water from” certain sources, in accordance with “the law at the time.” (3 Cal.2d 489 at pp. 517, 524.) While the case was on appeal, “the people of this state ... changed the rule.” (*Id.* at p. 524.) The Court held that the new law, “although passed after the appeal herein was perfected,” must be applied to the appeal: In “an appeal from an injunction decree, which, by its very nature, acts on the rights of the[] parties in the future, ... the rule is well settled that ... the law in effect when the appellate court renders its opinion must be applied.” (*Id.* at pp. 526–528.) The Court, “therefore, h[e]ld that the [new] amendment [wa]s applicable to this case, and, for that reason ... , the judgment ... must be reversed.” (*Id.* at p. 529.)

The injunction here must be vacated for the same reason. “Although passed after the decree below, [Prop 22] must be given effect in deciding the appeal, since the case involves only relief by

injunction, and this operates wholly *in futuro*.” (*Id.* at p. 528, citation omitted.) There can be no question that the injunction cannot stand given the fundamental change in the law.

### **III. The Court Should Vacate the Injunction on Rehearing**

Rehearing is appropriate where “legislative changes” have taken place after the Court of Appeal has “rendered an opinion,” but “before [it] lost jurisdiction.” (*Oberlander, supra*, 11 Cal.App.4th at p. 538; see also *Bell v. Bd. of Supervisors* (1976) 55 Cal.App.3d 629, 635–636 [legislation passed after the Court of Appeal granted rehearing mooted its original opinion: “The situation with which we are now faced is materially different from that which confronted us at the time our original decision was rendered.”].)

*People v. Millan* (2018) 20 Cal.App.5th 450 illustrates the point (as does *Oberlander* itself (see, *supra*, pp. 9–10)). In *Millan*, the Court of Appeal initially affirmed the defendant’s conviction and sentencing for a drug-related offense. (20 Cal.App.5th at p. 452.) The defendant then filed a petition for rehearing on the ground that a recently passed statutory amendment would eliminate the sentencing enhancement that he had received once it took effect. (*Id.* at p. 453.) Although the amendment would not take effect until January 1, 2018, the court granted rehearing on November 21, 2017, retaining jurisdiction over the appeal. (See Order Granting Pet. for Reh’g, *Millan*, No. DO71437.) After the law became effective, the Court of Appeal reversed the trial court’s judgment and remanded the case for resentencing in light

of the amendment, which applied because it was enacted while the defendant's "case [wa]s pending on appeal, and [wa]s thus not yet final." (*Millan, supra*, 20 Cal.App.5th at p. 456; *People v. Zabala* (2018) 19 Cal.App.5th 335, 338 [same].)

Rehearing is even more clearly warranted here than it was in *Millan*. Rehearing to "address the case in light of [intervening] legislative changes" is particularly essential when the trial court "granted injunctive relief. Appeals of injunctions are governed by the law in effect at the time the appellate court renders its opinion. The rationale of this rule is that it would be an idle act for this court to determine what the [defendant] must do in the future under the law as it used to be but no longer is." (*Oberlander, supra*, 11 Cal.App.4th at p. 538, citation omitted.) When legislative changes affecting the propriety of the injunction occur before the reviewing court's decision becomes final, "the preferable procedure is to reverse the judgment with directions to the trial court to dismiss the action for having become moot prior to its final determination on appeal." (*Callie v. Bd. of Supervisors* (1969) 1 Cal.App.3d 13, 19; accord, e.g., *County of San Diego v. Brown* (1993) 19 Cal.App.4th 1054, 1090 [same].) *Callie* explained the reason for this rule:

Repeal or modification of a statute or ordinance under attack, or subsequent legislation, may render moot the issues in a pending appeal.... It is also an established rule of law that on appeals from judgments granting or denying injunctions, the law to be applied is that which is current at the time of judgment in the appellate court, because relief by injunction operates in futuro.

(1 Cal.App.3d at pp. 18–19, punctuation and citations omitted.)

Here, as in *Oberlander*, “it would be an idle act” for this Court to determine what Uber needed to do “under the law as it used to be,” rather than under Prop 22. (*Oberlander, supra*, 11 Cal.App.4th at p. 538.) Although Prop 22 will not take effect for a few weeks, it *will* take effect before the Court’s stay expires. (See October 22, 2020 Opinion at p. 70 [“The stay issued on August 20, 2020 shall expire 30 days after issuance of the remittitur in this appeal”].) The trial court’s decree, and the Court’s opinion of October 22, thus “settles nothing so far as the future rights of the[] parties are concerned,” and this “appeal from an injunction decree, which, by its very nature, acts on the rights of the[] parties in the future ... must be determined under the new statute.” (*Tulare Irr. Dist., supra*, 3 Cal.2d at pp. 527–528.)

It would be “a purely academic exercise” for the Court to decide whether the trial court erred in issuing an injunction that can never validly take effect. (*City of Los Angeles v. County of Los Angeles* (1983) 147 Cal.App.3d 952, 959.) And to require Uber and Lyft to wait until Prop 22 takes effect before asking the trial court to vacate the invalid injunction would be just as senseless: “To compel the petitioners to institute a new proceeding in the court below to reassert their position in the light of that change in the law would only be to foster unnecessary circuitry of action.” (*Renken v. Compton City Sch. Dist.* (1962) 207 Cal.App.2d 106, 116.) Rather, “the appropriate procedure is to reverse the order [granting] the preliminary injunction and remand the case to the trial court for such

proceedings as are proper in the light of the ... change in the law.” (*Cal-Dak Co. v. Sav-On Drugs, Inc.* (1953) 40 Cal.2d 492, 497.)

## CONCLUSION

Prop 22 changed the legal standard upon which the injunction was premised, and requires that the injunction be vacated.<sup>2</sup>

Dated: November 6, 2020

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<sup>2</sup> If the Court has any doubt about the proper course of action, it could grant rehearing and order supplemental briefing. However, the simplest course, and “[t]he normal procedure,” is for the Court “to issue an opinion after rehearing without further argument, as if the original opinion had never been filed.” (Eisenberg et al., *Cal. Prac. Guide: Civil Appeals and Writs* (The Rutter Group 2019) ¶ 12:72.)

**CERTIFICATION OF WORD COUNT**

Pursuant to rule 8.204(c)(1) of the California Rules of Court, the undersigned hereby certifies that the Petition for Rehearing contains 2,452 words, excluding tables and this certificate, according to the word count generated by the computer program used to produce the brief.

November 6, 2020



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Document received by the CA 1st District Court of Appeal.

# EXHIBIT A

statewide election ballot, the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this act. If this act receives a greater number of affirmative votes than another measure deemed to be in conflict with it, the provisions of this act shall prevail in their entirety, and the other measure or measures shall be null and void.

## PROPOSITION 22

This initiative measure is submitted to the people in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of Article II of the California Constitution.

This initiative measure adds sections to the Business and Professions Code and amends a section of the Revenue and Taxation Code; therefore, new provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic type* to indicate that they are new.

### PROPOSED LAW

SECTION 1. Chapter 10.5 (commencing with Section 7448) is added to Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, to read:

*CHAPTER 10.5. APP-BASED DRIVERS AND SERVICES*

*Article 1. Title, Findings and Declarations, and Statement of Purpose*

*7448. Title. This chapter shall be known, and may be cited, as the Protect App-Based Drivers and Services Act.*

*7449. Findings and Declarations. The people of the State of California find and declare as follows:*

*(a) Hundreds of thousands of Californians are choosing to work as independent contractors in the modern economy using app-based rideshare and delivery platforms to transport passengers and deliver food, groceries, and other goods as a means of earning income while maintaining the flexibility to decide when, where, and how they work.*

*(b) These app-based rideshare and delivery drivers include parents who want to work flexible schedules while children are in school; students who want to earn money in between classes; retirees who rideshare or deliver a few hours a week to supplement fixed incomes and for social interaction; military spouses and partners who frequently relocate; and families struggling with California's high cost of living that need to earn extra income.*

*(c) Millions of California consumers and businesses, and our state's economy as a whole, also benefit from the services of people who work as independent contractors using app-based rideshare and delivery platforms. App-based rideshare and delivery drivers are providing convenient and affordable transportation for the public, reducing impaired and drunk driving, improving mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities, providing new transportation options for*

*families who cannot afford a vehicle, and providing new affordable and convenient delivery options for grocery stores, restaurants, retailers, and other local businesses and their patrons.*

*(d) However, recent legislation has threatened to take away the flexible work opportunities of hundreds of thousands of Californians, potentially forcing them into set shifts and mandatory hours, taking away their ability to make their own decisions about the jobs they take and the hours they work.*

*(e) Protecting the ability of Californians to work as independent contractors throughout the state using app-based rideshare and delivery platforms is necessary so people can continue to choose which jobs they take, to work as often or as little as they like, and to work with multiple platforms or companies, all the while preserving access to app-based rideshare and delivery services that are beneficial to consumers, small businesses, and the California economy.*

*(f) App-based rideshare and delivery drivers deserve economic security. This chapter is necessary to protect their freedom to work independently, while also providing these workers new benefits and protections not available under current law. These benefits and protections include a healthcare subsidy consistent with the average contributions required under the Affordable Care Act (ACA); a new minimum earnings guarantee tied to 120 percent of minimum wage with no maximum; compensation for vehicle expenses; occupational accident insurance to cover on-the-job injuries; and protection against discrimination and sexual harassment.*

*(g) California law and rideshare and delivery network companies should protect the safety of both drivers and consumers without affecting the right of app-based rideshare and delivery drivers to work as independent contractors. Such protections should, at a minimum, include criminal background checks of drivers; zero tolerance policies for drug- and alcohol-related offenses; and driver safety training.*

*7450. Statement of Purpose. The purposes of this chapter are as follows:*

*(a) To protect the basic legal right of Californians to choose to work as independent contractors with rideshare and delivery network companies throughout the state.*

*(b) To protect the individual right of every app-based rideshare and delivery driver to have the flexibility to set their own hours for when, where, and how they work.*

*(c) To require rideshare and delivery network companies to offer new protections and benefits for app-based rideshare and delivery drivers, including minimum compensation levels, insurance to cover on-the-job injuries, automobile accident insurance, health care subsidies for qualifying drivers, protection*

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against harassment and discrimination, and mandatory contractual rights and appeal processes.

(d) To improve public safety by requiring criminal background checks, driver safety training, and other safety provisions to help ensure app-based rideshare and delivery drivers do not pose a threat to customers or the public.

#### Article 2. App-Based Driver Independence

7451. *Protecting Independence.* Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including, but not limited to, the Labor Code, the Unemployment Insurance Code, and any orders, regulations, or opinions of the Department of Industrial Relations or any board, division, or commission within the Department of Industrial Relations, an app-based driver is an independent contractor and not an employee or agent with respect to the app-based driver's relationship with a network company if the following conditions are met:

(a) The network company does not unilaterally prescribe specific dates, times of day, or a minimum number of hours during which the app-based driver must be logged into the network company's online-enabled application or platform.

(b) The network company does not require the app-based driver to accept any specific rideshare service or delivery service request as a condition of maintaining access to the network company's online-enabled application or platform.

(c) The network company does not restrict the app-based driver from performing rideshare services or delivery services through other network companies except during engaged time.

(d) The network company does not restrict the app-based driver from working in any other lawful occupation or business.

7452. *Contract and Termination Provisions.* (a) A network company and an app-based driver shall enter into a written agreement prior to the driver receiving access to the network company's online-enabled application or platform.

(b) A network company shall not terminate a contract with an app-based driver unless based upon a ground specified in the contract.

(c) Network companies shall provide an appeals process for app-based drivers whose contracts are terminated by the network company.

7452.5. *Independence Unaffected.* Nothing in Article 3 (commencing with Section 7453) to Article 11 (commencing with Section 7467), inclusive, of this chapter shall be interpreted to in any way alter the relationship between a network company and an app-based driver for whom the conditions set forth in Section 7451 are satisfied.

#### Article 3. Compensation

7453. *Earnings Guarantee.* (a) A network company shall ensure that for each earnings period, an app-based driver is compensated at not less than the net earnings floor as set forth in this section. The net earnings floor establishes a guaranteed minimum level of compensation for app-based drivers that cannot be reduced. In no way does the net earnings floor prohibit app-based drivers from earning a higher level of compensation.

(b) For each earnings period, a network company shall compare an app-based driver's net earnings against the net earnings floor for that app-based driver during the earnings period. In the event that the app-based driver's net earnings in the earnings period are less than the net earnings floor for that earnings period, the network company shall include an additional sum accounting for the difference in the app-based driver's earnings no later than during the next earnings period.

(c) No network company or agent shall take, receive, or retain any gratuity or a part thereof that is paid, given to, or left for an app-based driver by a customer or deduct any amount from the earnings due to an app-based driver for a ride or delivery on account of a gratuity paid in connection with the ride or delivery. A network company that permits customers to pay gratuities by credit card shall pay the app-based driver the full amount of the gratuity that the customer indicated on the credit card receipt, without any deductions for any credit card payment processing fees or costs that may be charged to the network company by the credit card company.

(d) For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Applicable minimum wage" means the state mandated minimum wage for all industries or, if a passenger or item is picked up within the boundaries of a local government that has a higher minimum wage that is generally applicable to all industries, the local minimum wage of that local government. The applicable minimum wage shall be determined at the location where a passenger or item is picked up and shall apply for all engaged time spent completing that rideshare request or delivery request.

(2) "Earnings period" means a pay period, set by the network company, not to exceed 14 consecutive calendar days.

(3) "Net earnings" means all earnings received by an app-based driver in an earnings period, provided that the amount conforms to both of the following standards:

(A) The amount does not include gratuities, tolls, cleaning fees, airport fees, or other customer pass-throughs.

(B) The amount may include incentives or other bonuses.

(4) “Net earnings floor” means, for any earnings period, a total amount that is comprised of:

(A) For all engaged time, the sum of 120 percent of the applicable minimum wage for that engaged time.

(B) (i) The per-mile compensation for vehicle expenses set forth in this subparagraph multiplied by the total number of engaged miles.

(ii) After the effective date of this chapter and for the 2021 calendar year, the per-mile compensation for vehicle expenses shall be thirty cents (\$0.30) per engaged mile. For calendar years after 2021, the amount per engaged mile shall be adjusted pursuant to clause (iii).

(iii) For calendar years following 2021, the per-mile compensation for vehicle expenses described in clause (ii) shall be adjusted annually to reflect any increase in inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Treasurer’s Office shall calculate and publish the adjustments required by this subparagraph.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to require a network company to provide a particular amount of compensation to an app-based driver for any given rideshare or delivery request, as long as the app-based driver’s net earnings for each earnings period equals or exceeds that app-based driver’s net earnings floor for that earnings period as set forth in subdivision (b). For clarity, the net earnings floor in this section may be calculated on an average basis over the course of each earnings period.

#### Article 4. Benefits

7454. *Healthcare Subsidy.* (a) Consistent with the average contributions required under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), a network company shall provide a quarterly health care subsidy to qualifying app-based drivers as set forth in this section. An app-based driver that averages the following amounts of engaged time per week on a network company’s platform during a calendar quarter shall receive the following subsidies from that network company:

(1) For an average of 25 hours or more per week of engaged time in the calendar quarter, a payment greater than or equal to 100 percent of the average ACA contribution for the applicable average monthly Covered California premium for each month in the quarter.

(2) For an average of at least 15 but less than 25 hours per week of engaged time in the calendar quarter, a payment greater than or equal to 50 percent of the average ACA contribution for the applicable average monthly Covered California premium for each month in the quarter.

(b) At the end of each earnings period, a network company shall provide to each app-based driver the following information:

(1) The number of hours of engaged time the app-based driver accrued on the network company’s online-enabled application or platform during that earnings period.

(2) The number of hours of engaged time the app-based driver has accrued on the network company’s online-enabled application or platform during the current calendar quarter up to that point.

(c) Covered California may adopt or amend regulations as it deems appropriate to permit app-based drivers receiving subsidies pursuant to this section to enroll in health plans through Covered California.

(d) (1) As a condition of providing the health care subsidy set forth in subdivision (a), a network company may require an app-based driver to submit proof of current enrollment in a qualifying health plan. Proof of current enrollment may include, but is not limited to, health insurance membership or identification cards, evidence of coverage and disclosure forms from the health plan, or claim forms and other documents necessary to submit claims.

(2) An app-based driver shall have not less than 15 calendar days from the end of the calendar quarter to provide proof of enrollment as set forth in paragraph (1).

(3) A network company shall provide a health care subsidy due for a calendar quarter under subdivision (a) within 15 days of the end of the calendar quarter or within 15 days of the app-based driver’s submission of proof of enrollment as set forth in paragraph (1), whichever is later.

(e) For purposes of this section, a calendar quarter refers to the following four periods of time:

(1) January 1 through March 31.

(2) April 1 through June 30.

(3) July 1 through September 30.

(4) October 1 through December 31.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prevent an app-based driver from receiving a health care subsidy from more than one network company for the same calendar quarter.

(g) On or before December 31, 2020, and on or before each September 1 thereafter, Covered California shall publish the average statewide monthly premium for an individual for the following calendar year for a Covered California bronze health insurance plan.

(h) This section shall become inoperative in the event the United States or the State of California implements a universal health care system or substantially similar system that expands coverage to the recipients of subsidies under this section.

7455. *Loss and Liability Protection.* No network company shall operate in California for more than 90 days unless the network company carries, provides, or otherwise makes available the following insurance coverage:

(a) For the benefit of app-based drivers, occupational accident insurance to cover medical expenses and lost income resulting from injuries suffered while the app-based driver is online with a network company's online-enabled application or platform. Policies shall at a minimum provide the following:

(1) Coverage for medical expenses incurred, up to at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

(2) (A) Disability payments equal to 66 percent of the app-based driver's average weekly earnings from all network companies as of the date of injury, with minimum and maximum weekly payment rates to be determined in accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 4453 of the Labor Code for up to the first 104 weeks following the injury.

(B) "Average weekly earnings" means the app-based driver's total earnings from all network companies during the 28 days prior to the covered accident divided by four.

(b) For the benefit of spouses, children, or other dependents of app-based drivers, accidental death insurance for injuries suffered by an app-based driver while the app-based driver is online with the network company's online-enabled application or platform that result in death. For purposes of this subdivision, burial expenses and death benefits shall be determined in accordance with Section 4701 and Section 4702 of the Labor Code.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "online" means the time when an app-based driver is utilizing a network company's online-enabled application or platform and can receive requests for rideshare services or delivery services from the network company, or during engaged time.

(d) Occupational accident insurance or accidental death insurance under subdivisions (a) and (b) shall not be required to cover an accident that occurs while online but outside of engaged time where the injured app-based driver is in engaged time on one or more other network company platforms or where the app-based driver is engaged in personal activities. If an accident is covered by occupational accident insurance or accidental death insurance maintained by more than one network company, the insurer of the network company against whom a claim is filed is entitled to contribution for the pro-rata share of coverage attributable to one or more other network companies up to the coverages and limits in subdivisions (a) and (b).

(e) Any benefits provided to an app-based driver under subdivision (a) or (b) of this section shall be considered amounts payable under a worker's

compensation law or disability benefit for the purpose of determining amounts payable under any insurance provided under Article 2 (commencing with Section 11580) of Chapter 1 of Part 3 of Division 2 of the Insurance Code.

(f) (1) For the benefit of the public, a DNC as defined in Section 7463 shall maintain automobile liability insurance of at least one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence to compensate third parties for injuries or losses proximately caused by the operation of an automobile by an app-based driver during engaged time in instances where the automobile is not otherwise covered by a policy that complies with subdivision (b) of Section 11580.1 of the Insurance Code.

(2) For the benefit of the public, a TNC as defined in Section 7463 shall maintain liability insurance policies as required by Article 7 (commencing with Section 5430) of Chapter 8 of Division 2 of the Public Utilities Code.

(3) For the benefit of the public, a TCP as defined in Section 7463 shall maintain liability insurance policies as required by Article 4 (commencing with Section 5391) of Chapter 8 of Division 2 of the Public Utilities Code.

#### Article 5. Antidiscrimination and Public Safety

7456. *Antidiscrimination.* (a) It is an unlawful practice, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification or public or app-based driver safety need, for a network company to refuse to contract with, terminate the contract of, or deactivate from the network company's online-enabled application or platform, any app-based driver or prospective app-based driver based upon race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, age, physical or mental disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, or military or veteran status.

(b) Claims brought pursuant to this section shall be brought solely under the procedures established by the Unruh Civil Rights Act (Section 51 of the Civil Code) and will be governed by its requirements and remedies.

7457. *Sexual Harassment Prevention.* (a) A network company shall develop a sexual harassment policy intended to protect app-based drivers and members of the public using rideshare services or delivery services. The policy shall be available on the network company's internet website. The policy shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

(1) Identify behaviors that may constitute sexual harassment, including the following: unwanted sexual advances; leering, gestures, or displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, cartoons, or posters; derogatory comments, epithets, slurs, or jokes;

graphic comments, sexually degrading words, or suggestive or obscene messages or invitations; and physical touching or assault, as well as impeding or blocking movements.

(2) Indicate that the network company, and in many instances the law, prohibits app-based drivers and customers utilizing rideshare services or delivery services from committing prohibited harassment.

(3) Establish a process for app-based drivers, customers, and rideshare passengers to submit complaints that ensures confidentiality to the extent possible; an impartial and timely investigation; and remedial actions and resolutions based on the information collected during the investigation process.

(4) Provide an opportunity for app-based drivers and customers utilizing rideshare services or delivery services to submit complaints electronically so complaints can be resolved quickly.

(5) Indicate that when the network company receives allegations of misconduct, it will conduct a fair, timely, and thorough investigation to reach reasonable conclusions based on the information collected.

(6) Make clear that neither app-based drivers nor customers utilizing rideshare services or delivery services shall be retaliated against as a result of making a good faith complaint or participating in an investigation against another app-based driver, customer, or rideshare passenger.

(b) Prior to providing rideshare services or delivery services through a network company's online-enabled application or platform, an app-based driver shall do both of the following:

(1) Review the network company's sexual harassment policy.

(2) Confirm to the network company, for which electronic confirmation shall suffice, that the app-based driver has reviewed the network company's sexual harassment policy.

(c) Claims brought pursuant to this section shall be brought solely under the procedures established by the Unruh Civil Rights Act (Section 51 of the Civil Code) and will be governed by its requirements and remedies.

7458. *Criminal Background Checks.* (a) A network company shall conduct, or have a third party conduct, an initial local and national criminal background check for each app-based driver who uses the network company's online-enabled application or platform to provide rideshare services or delivery services. The background check shall be consistent with the standards contained in subdivision (a) of Section 5445.2 of the Public Utilities Code. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, after an app-based driver's consent is obtained by a network company for an initial background check, no additional consent shall be required for the continual

monitoring of that app-based driver's criminal history if the network company elects to undertake such continual monitoring.

(b) A network company shall complete the initial criminal background check as required by subdivision (a) prior to permitting an app-based driver to utilize the network company's online-enabled application or platform. The network company shall provide physical or electronic copies or summaries of the initial criminal background check to the app-based driver.

(c) An app-based driver shall not be permitted to utilize a network company's online-enabled application or platform if one of the following applies:

(1) The driver has ever been convicted of any crime listed in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 5445.2 of the Public Utilities Code, any serious felony as defined by subdivision (c) of Section 1192.7 of the Penal Code, or any hate crime as defined by Section 422.55 of the Penal Code.

(2) The driver has been convicted within the last seven years of any crime listed in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 5445.2 of the Public Utilities Code.

(d) (1) The ability of an app-based driver to utilize a network company's online-enabled application or platform may be suspended if the network company learns the driver has been arrested for any crime listed in either of the following:

(A) Subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), or paragraph (3), of subdivision (a) of Section 5445.2 of the Public Utilities Code.

(B) Subdivision (c) of this section.

(2) The suspension described in paragraph (1) may be lifted upon the disposition of an arrest for any crime listed in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), or paragraph (3), of subdivision (a) of Section 5445.2 of the Public Utilities Code that does not result in a conviction. Such disposition includes a finding of factual innocence from any relevant charge, an acquittal at trial, an affidavit indicating the prosecuting attorney with jurisdiction over the alleged offense has declined to file a criminal complaint, or an affidavit indicating all relevant time periods described in Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 799) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code have expired.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to prevent a network company from imposing additional standards relating to criminal history.

(f) Notwithstanding Section 1786.12 of the Civil Code, an investigative consumer reporting agency may furnish an investigative consumer report to a network company about a person seeking to become an app-based driver, regardless of whether the app-based

driver is to be an employee or an independent contractor of the network company.

7459. *Safety Training.* (a) A network company shall require an app-based driver to complete the training described in this section prior to allowing the app-based driver to utilize the network company's online-enabled application or platform.

(b) A network company shall provide each app-based driver safety training. The safety training required by this section shall include the following subjects:

(1) Collision avoidance and defensive driving techniques.

(2) Identification of collision-causing elements such as excessive speed, DUI, and distracted driving.

(3) Recognition and reporting of sexual assault and misconduct.

(4) For app-based drivers delivering prepared food or groceries, food safety information relevant to the delivery of food, including temperature control.

(c) The training may, at the discretion of the network company, be provided via online, video, or in-person training.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), any app-based driver that has entered into a contract with a network company prior to January 1, 2021, to provide rideshare services or delivery services shall have until July 1, 2021, to complete the safety training required by this section, and may continue to provide rideshare services or delivery services through the network company's online-enabled application or platform until that date. On and after July 1, 2021, app-based drivers described in this subdivision must complete the training required by this section in order to continue providing rideshare services and delivery services.

(e) Any safety product, feature, process, policy, standard, or other effort undertaken by a network company, or the provision of equipment by a network company, to further public safety is not an indicia of an employment or agency relationship with an app-based driver.

7460. *Zero Tolerance Policies.* (a) A network company shall institute a "zero tolerance policy" that mandates prompt suspension of an app-based driver's access to the network company's online-enabled application or platform in any instance in which the network company receives a report through its online-enabled application or platform, or by any other company-approved method, from any person who reasonably suspects the app-based driver is under the influence of drugs or alcohol while providing rideshare services or delivery services.

(b) Upon receiving a report described in subdivision (a), a network company shall promptly suspend the app-based driver from the company's online-enabled application or platform for further investigation.

(c) A network company may suspend access to the network company's online-enabled application or platform for any app-based driver or customer found to be reporting an alleged violation of a zero tolerance policy as described in subdivision (a) where that driver or customer knows the report to be unfounded or based the report on an intent to inappropriately deny a driver access to the online-enabled application or platform.

7460.5. A network company shall make continuously and exclusively available to law enforcement a mechanism to submit requests for information to aid in investigations related to emergency situations, exigent circumstances, and critical incidents.

7461. *App-based Driver Rest.* An app-based driver shall not be logged in and driving on a network company's online-enabled application or platform for more than a cumulative total of 12 hours in any 24-hour period, unless that driver has already logged off for an uninterrupted period of 6 hours. If an app-based driver has been logged on and driving for more than a cumulative total of 12 hours in any 24-hour period, without logging off for an uninterrupted period of 6 hours, the driver shall be prohibited from logging back into the network company's online-enabled application or platform for an uninterrupted period of at least 6 hours.

7462. *Impersonating an App-Based Driver.* (a) Any person who fraudulently impersonates an app-based driver while providing or attempting to provide rideshare or delivery services shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and is punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for up to six months, or a fine of up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or both. Nothing in this subdivision precludes prosecution under any other law.

(b) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person who fraudulently impersonates an app-based driver while providing or attempting to provide rideshare services or delivery services in the commission or attempted commission of an offense described in Section 207, 209, 220, 261, 264.1, 286, 287, 288, or 289 of the Penal Code shall be sentenced to an additional term of five years.

(c) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person who fraudulently impersonates an app-based driver while providing or attempting to provide rideshare services or delivery services in the commission of a felony or attempted felony and in so doing personally inflicts great bodily injury to another person other than an accomplice shall be sentenced to an additional term of five years.

(d) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person who fraudulently impersonates an app-based driver while providing or attempting to provide rideshare services or delivery services in the

commission of a felony or attempted felony and in so doing causes the death of another person other than an accomplice shall be sentenced to an additional term of 10 years.

#### Article 6. Definitions

7463. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) “App-based driver” means an individual who is a DNC courier, TNC driver, or TCP driver or permit holder; and for whom the conditions set forth in subdivisions (a) to (d), inclusive, of Section 7451 are satisfied.

(b) “Average ACA contribution” means 82 percent of the dollar amount of the average monthly Covered California premium.

(c) “Average monthly Covered California premium” equals the dollar amount published pursuant to subdivision (g) of Section 7454.

(d) “Covered California” means the California Health Benefit Exchange, codified in Title 22 (commencing with Section 100500) of the Government Code.

(e) “Customer” means one or more natural persons or business entities.

(f) “Delivery network company” (DNC) means a business entity that maintains an online-enabled application or platform used to facilitate delivery services within the State of California on an on-demand basis, and maintains a record of the amount of engaged time and engaged miles accumulated by DNC couriers. Deliveries are facilitated on an on-demand basis if DNC couriers are provided with the option to accept or decline each delivery request and the DNC does not require the DNC courier to accept any specific delivery request as a condition of maintaining access to the DNC’s online-enabled application or platform.

(g) “Delivery network company courier” (DNC courier) means an individual who provides delivery services through a DNC’s online-enabled application or platform.

(h) “Delivery services” means the fulfillment of delivery requests, meaning the pickup from any location of any item or items and the delivery of the items using a passenger vehicle, bicycle, scooter, walking, public transportation, or other similar means of transportation, to a location selected by the customer located within 50 miles of the pickup location. A delivery request may include more than one, but not more than 12, distinct orders placed by different customers. Delivery services may include the selection, collection, or purchase of items by a DNC courier provided that those tasks are done in connection with a delivery that the DNC courier has agreed to deliver. Delivery services do not include deliveries that are subject to Section 26090, as that section read on October 29, 2019.

(i) “Engaged miles” means all miles driven during engaged time in a passenger vehicle that is not owned, leased, or rented by the network company.

(j) (1) “Engaged time” means, subject to the conditions set forth in paragraph (2), the period of time, as recorded in a network company’s online-enabled application or platform, from when an app-based driver accepts a rideshare request or delivery request to when the app-based driver completes that rideshare request or delivery request.

(2) (A) Engaged time shall not include the following:

(i) Any time spent performing a rideshare service or delivery service after the request has been cancelled by the customer.

(ii) Any time spent on a rideshare service or delivery service where the app-based driver abandons performance of the service prior to completion.

(B) Network companies may also exclude time if doing so is reasonably necessary to remedy or prevent fraudulent use of the network company’s online-enabled application or platform.

(k) “Local government” means a city, county, city and county, charter city, or charter county.

(l) “Network company” means a business entity that is a DNC or a TNC.

(m) “Passenger vehicle” means a passenger vehicle as defined in Section 465 of the Vehicle Code.

(n) “Qualifying health plan” means a health insurance plan in which the app-based driver is the subscriber, that is not sponsored by an employer, and that is not a Medicare or Medicaid plan.

(o) “Rideshare service” means the transportation of one or more persons.

(p) “Transportation network company” (TNC) has the same meaning as the definition contained in subdivision (c) of Section 5431 of the Public Utilities Code.

(q) “Transportation network company driver” (TNC driver) has the same meaning as the definition of driver contained in subdivision (a) of Section 5431 of the Public Utilities Code.

(r) “Charter-party carrier of passengers” (TCP) shall have the same meaning as the definition contained in Section 5360 of the Public Utilities Code, provided the driver is providing rideshare services using a passenger vehicle through a network company’s online-enabled application or platform.

#### Article 7. Uniform Work Standards

7464. (a) The performance of a single rideshare service or delivery service frequently requires an app-based driver to travel across the jurisdictional boundaries of multiple local governments. California has over 500 cities and counties, which can lead to

overlapping, inconsistent, and contradictory local regulations for cross-jurisdictional services.

(b) In light of the cross-jurisdictional nature of the rideshare services and delivery services, and in addition to the other requirements and standards established by this chapter, the state hereby occupies the field in the following areas:

(1) App-based driver compensation and gratuity, except as provided in Section 7453.

(2) App-based driver scheduling, leave, health care subsidies, and any other work-related stipends, subsidies, or benefits.

(3) App-based driver licensing and insurance requirements.

(4) App-based driver rights with respect to a network company's termination of an app-based driver's contract.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), nothing in this section shall limit a local government's ability to adopt local ordinances necessary to punish the commission of misdemeanor and felony crimes or to enforce local ordinances and regulations enacted prior to October 29, 2019.

#### Article 8. Income Reporting

7464.5 (a) A network company that is acting as a third-party settlement organization shall prepare an information return for each participating payee who is an app-based driver with a California address that has a gross amount of reportable payment transactions equal to or greater than six hundred dollars (\$600) during a calendar year, irrespective of the number of transactions between the third-party settlement organization and the payee. A third-party settlement organization must report these amounts to the Franchise Tax Board and furnish a copy to the payee, even if it does not have a federal reporting obligation. The information return shall identify the following:

(1) The name, address, and tax identification number of the participating payee.

(2) The gross amount of the reportable payment transactions with respect to the participating payee.

(b) Within 30 days following the date such an information return would be due to the Internal Revenue Service, a network company shall file a copy of any information return required by subdivision (a) with the Franchise Tax Board and shall provide a copy to the participating payee.

(c) A network company may fulfill this requirement by submitting a copy of Internal Revenue Service Form 1099-K or by submitting a form provided by the Franchise Tax Board that includes the same information as that on Cal-1099-K.

(d) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Participating payee" has the same meaning as provided in Section 6050W(d)(1)(A)(ii) of Title 26 of the United States Code.

(2) "Reportable payment transaction" has the same meaning as provided in Section 6050W(c)(1) of Title 26 of the United States Code.

(3) "Third-party settlement organization" has the same meaning as provided in Section 6050W(b)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code.

(e) This section shall not apply in instances where the gross amount of reportable payment transactions for a participating payee in a calendar year is less than six hundred dollars (\$600) or where the participating payee is not an app-based driver.

(f) This section shall apply to reportable payment transactions occurring on or after January 1, 2021.

#### Article 9. Amendment

7465. (a) After the effective date of this chapter, the Legislature may amend this chapter by a statute passed in each house of the Legislature by rollcall vote entered into the journal, seven-eighths of the membership concurring, provided that the statute is consistent with, and furthers the purpose of, this chapter. No bill seeking to amend this chapter after the effective date of this chapter may be passed or ultimately become a statute unless the bill has been printed and distributed to members, and published on the internet, in its final form, for at least 12 business days prior to its passage in either house of the Legislature.

(b) No statute enacted after October 29, 2019, but prior to the effective date of this chapter, that would constitute an amendment of this chapter, shall be operative after the effective date of this chapter unless the statute was passed in accordance with the requirements of subdivision (a).

(c) (1) The purposes of this chapter are described in Article 1 (commencing with Section 7448).

(2) Any statute that amends Section 7451 does not further the purposes of this chapter.

(3) Any statute that prohibits app-based drivers from performing a particular rideshare service or delivery service while allowing other individuals or entities to perform the same rideshare service or delivery service, or otherwise imposes unequal regulatory burdens upon app-based drivers based on their classification status, constitutes an amendment of this chapter and must be enacted in compliance with the procedures governing amendments consistent with the purposes of this chapter as set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b).

(4) Any statute that authorizes any entity or organization to represent the interests of app-based drivers in connection with drivers' contractual relationships with network companies, or drivers' compensation, benefits, or working conditions, constitutes an amendment of this chapter and must

be enacted in compliance with the procedures governing amendments consistent with the purposes of this chapter as set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b).

(d) Any statute that imposes additional misdemeanor or felony penalties in order to provide greater protection against criminal activity for app-based drivers and individuals using rideshare services or delivery services may be enacted by the Legislature by rollcall vote entered into the journal, a majority of the membership of each house concurring, without complying with subdivisions (a) and (b).

#### Article 10. Regulations

7466. (a) Emergency regulations may be adopted by Covered California in order to implement and administer subdivisions (c) and (g) of Section 7454.

(b) Any emergency regulation adopted pursuant to this section shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, and, for purposes of that chapter, including Section 11349.6 of the Government Code, the adoption of the regulation is an emergency and shall be considered by the Office of Administrative Law as necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and general welfare. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the emergency regulations adopted by Covered California may remain in effect for two years from the date of adoption.

#### Article 11. Severability

7467. (a) Subject to subdivision (b), the provisions of this chapter are severable. If any portion, section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, sentence, phrase, word, or application of this chapter is for any reason held to be invalid by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, that decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter. The people of the State of California hereby declare that they would have adopted this chapter and each and every portion, section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, sentence, phrase, word, and application not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any other portion of this chapter or application thereof would be subsequently declared invalid.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), if any portion, section, subdivision, paragraph, clause, sentence, phrase, word, or application of Section 7451 of Article 2 (commencing with Section 7451), as added by the voters, is for any reason held to be invalid by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, that decision shall apply to the entirety of the remaining provisions of this chapter, and no provision of this chapter shall be deemed valid or given force of law.

SEC. 2. Section 17037 of the Revenue and Taxation Code is amended to read:

17037. Provisions in other codes or general law statutes which are related to this part include all of the following:

(a) Chapter 20.6 (commencing with Section 9891) of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to tax preparers.

(b) Part 10.2 (commencing with Section 18401), relating to the administration of franchise and income tax laws.

(c) Part 10.5 (commencing with Section 20501), relating to the Property Tax Assistance and Postponement Law.

(d) Part 10.7 (commencing with Section 21001), relating to the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights.

(e) Part 11 (commencing with Section 23001), relating to the Corporation Tax Law.

(f) Sections 15700 to 15702.1, inclusive, of the Government Code, relating to the Franchise Tax Board.

(g) Article 8 (commencing with Section 7464.5) of Chapter 10.5 of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.

#### SEC. 3. Conflicting Measures.

(a) In the event that this initiative measure and another ballot measure or measures dealing, either directly or indirectly, with the worker classification, compensation, or benefits of app-based drivers shall appear on the same statewide election ballot, the other ballot measure or measures shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure. In the event that this initiative measure receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the provisions of the other ballot measure or measures shall be null and void.

(b) If this initiative measure is approved by the voters but superseded in whole or in part by any other conflicting ballot measure approved by the voters at the same election, and such conflicting measure is later held invalid, this measure shall be self-executing and given full force and effect.

#### SEC. 4. Legal Defense.

The purpose of this section is to ensure that the people's precious right of initiative cannot be improperly annulled by state politicians who refuse to defend the will of the voters. Therefore, if this act is approved by the voters of the State of California and thereafter subjected to a legal challenge which attempts to limit the scope or application of this act in any way, or alleges this act violates any local, state, or federal law in whole or in part, and both the Governor and Attorney General refuse to defend this act, then the following actions shall be taken:

(a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 12500) of Part 2 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code or any other law, the Attorney

General shall appoint independent counsel to faithfully and vigorously defend this act on behalf of the State of California.

(b) Before appointing or thereafter substituting independent counsel, the Attorney General shall exercise due diligence in determining the qualifications of independent counsel and shall obtain written affirmation from independent counsel that independent counsel will faithfully and vigorously defend this act. The written affirmation shall be made publicly available upon request.

(c) In order to support the defense of this act in instances where the Governor and Attorney General fail to do so despite the will of the voters, a continuous appropriation is hereby made from the General Fund to the Controller, without regard to fiscal years, in an amount necessary to cover the costs of retaining independent counsel to faithfully and vigorously defend this act on behalf of the State of California.

SEC. 5. Liberal Construction.

This act shall be liberally construed in order to effectuate its purposes.

**PROPOSITION 23**

This initiative measure is submitted to the people in accordance with the provisions of Section 8 of Article II of the California Constitution.

This initiative measure adds sections to the Health and Safety Code; therefore, new provisions proposed to be added are printed in *italic type* to indicate that they are new.

**PROPOSED LAW**

SECTION 1. Name.

This act shall be known as the “Protect the Lives of Dialysis Patients Act.”

SEC. 2. Findings and Purposes.

This act, adopted by the people of the State of California, makes the following findings and has the following purposes:

(a) The people make the following findings:

(1) Kidney dialysis is a life-saving process in which blood is removed from a person’s body, cleaned of toxins, and then returned to the patient. It must be done at least three times a week for several hours a session, and the patient must continue treatment for the rest of their life or until they can obtain a kidney transplant.

(2) In California, at least 70,000 people undergo dialysis treatment.

(3) Just two multinational, for-profit corporations operate or manage nearly three-quarters of dialysis clinics in California and treat more than 75 percent of dialysis patients in the state. These two multinational

corporations annually earn billions of dollars from their dialysis operations, including more than \$350 million a year in California alone.

(4) The dialysis procedure and side effects from the treatments present several dangers to patients, and many dialysis clinics in California have been cited for failure to maintain proper standards of care. Failure to maintain proper standards can lead to patient harm, hospitalizations, and even death.

(5) Dialysis clinics are currently not required to maintain a doctor on site to oversee quality, ensure the patient plan of care is appropriately followed, and monitor safety protocols. Patients should have access to a physician on site whenever dialysis treatment is being provided.

(6) Dialysis treatments involve direct access to the bloodstream, which puts patients at heightened risk of getting dangerous infections. Proper reporting and transparency of infection rates encourages clinics to improve quality and helps patients make the best choice for their care.

(7) When health care facilities like hospitals and nursing homes close, California regulators are able to take steps to protect patients from harm. Likewise, strong protections should be provided to vulnerable patients when dialysis clinics close.

(8) Dialysis corporations have lobbied against efforts to enact protections for kidney dialysis patients in California, spending over \$100 million in 2018 and 2019 to influence California voters and the Legislature.

(b) Purposes:

(1) It is the purpose of this act to ensure that outpatient kidney dialysis clinics provide quality and affordable patient care to people suffering from end-stage renal disease.

(2) This act is intended to be budget neutral for the state to implement and administer.

SEC. 3. Section 1226.7 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

*1226.7. (a) Chronic dialysis clinics shall provide the same quality of care to their patients without discrimination on the basis of who is responsible for paying for a patient’s treatment. Further, chronic dialysis clinics shall not refuse to offer or to provide care on the basis of who is responsible for paying for a patient’s treatment. Such prohibited discrimination includes, but is not limited to, discrimination on the basis that a payer is an individual patient, private entity, insurer, Medi-Cal, Medicaid, or Medicare. This section shall also apply to a chronic dialysis clinic’s governing entity, which shall ensure that no discrimination prohibited by this section occurs at or among clinics owned or operated by the governing entity.*

(b) Definitions:

Document received by the CA 1st District Court of Appeal.

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