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For Immediate Release  
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April 14, 2015  
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## **August Ridesharing Legislation Passes State Assembly**

*The bill will allow popular rideshare companies like Uber & Lyft to operate statewide.*

MADISON...Legislation authored by State Representative Tyler August (R-Lake Geneva) that will allow ridesharing companies to operate statewide passed the State Assembly today. The bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 143, will provide a framework for popular app-based ridesharing companies like Uber and Lyft to operate statewide. The legislation passed on a bi-partisan 79-19 vote.

“By allowing the free market to work, this bill will ensure Wisconsin consumers have access to this popular option when they need a ride,” said August. “Ridesharing is proven to not only create thousands of job opportunities, but also reduce drunk driving rates by up to ten percent.”

The legislation will create a statewide license for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) who connect drivers with passengers via an app on a smartphone. Ridesharing facilitated by TNCs differ from traditional taxi services as they allow drivers to use their own vehicles to provide rides. This results in a new business model that requires very little overhead and will allow TNCs to offer service virtually anywhere statewide where there is demand.

“It is important our state updates its laws to allow new businesses to operate as entrepreneurs utilize new technology concepts,” said August. “Ridesharing is not only popular, but it is a safe and often cheaper option for consumers.”

Specifically, TNCs operating in Wisconsin will be licensed by the Department of Safety & Professional Services. To be licensed, a TNC must conduct background checks and have insurance requirements that include \$1 million in commercial coverage to protect consumers.

After passing the Assembly, AB 143 will now go to the State Senate, which is expected to take action on the bill yet this month. If approved, the legislation will then need to be signed by Governor Walker before becoming law.

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