



Secure Transport Licensing

BR23-0552: Amends Chapter 17 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code to establish a licensing program for secure transportation services, pursuant to HB21-1085

BIZ Committee Presentation
Department of Excise and Licenses
May 10, 2023

Background

- In 2021, the Colorado General Assembly passed [HB 21-1085](#), requiring local jurisdictions to create and administer a new type of license for the transport of individuals suffering from a behavioral health crisis.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment adopted [rules](#) to supplement the bill in 2022.



What is secure transport?

The bill creates a
**trauma-informed
alternative**
to traditional
emergency
transportation

- “Secure transportation” means urgent transportation services provided to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
- “Behavioral health crisis” means a significant disruption in a person’s mental or emotional stability or functioning resulting in an urgent need for immediate assessment and treatment to prevent a further or serious deterioration in the person’s mental or physical health.

What is NOT considered secure transport?

- × Traditional ambulance services
- × Ubers, Lyfts, and public transportation that patients use to travel to mental health appointments
- × Emergency transportation provided by law enforcement and law enforcement contractors

Counties' Statutory Obligations

- 1. Ensure compliance with minimum standards and license all secure transportation services
- 2. Set fees for all licenses, vehicle permits and renewals
- 3. Issue separate vehicle permits for each vehicle being used by the secure transportation service
- 4. Develop and implement written complaint and investigation policy
- 5. Develop and implement process for denial, suspension or revocation of a license or vehicle permit

Why are we here?

- In order to comply with the state mandate, Denver must create this new license in **ordinance**.
- Most of the requirements for the license are in state law and rule, though we are also proposing a few **extra features** in line with the goals of the state law, such as background checks for drivers.

Licensing Details

Companies (Three-year license)

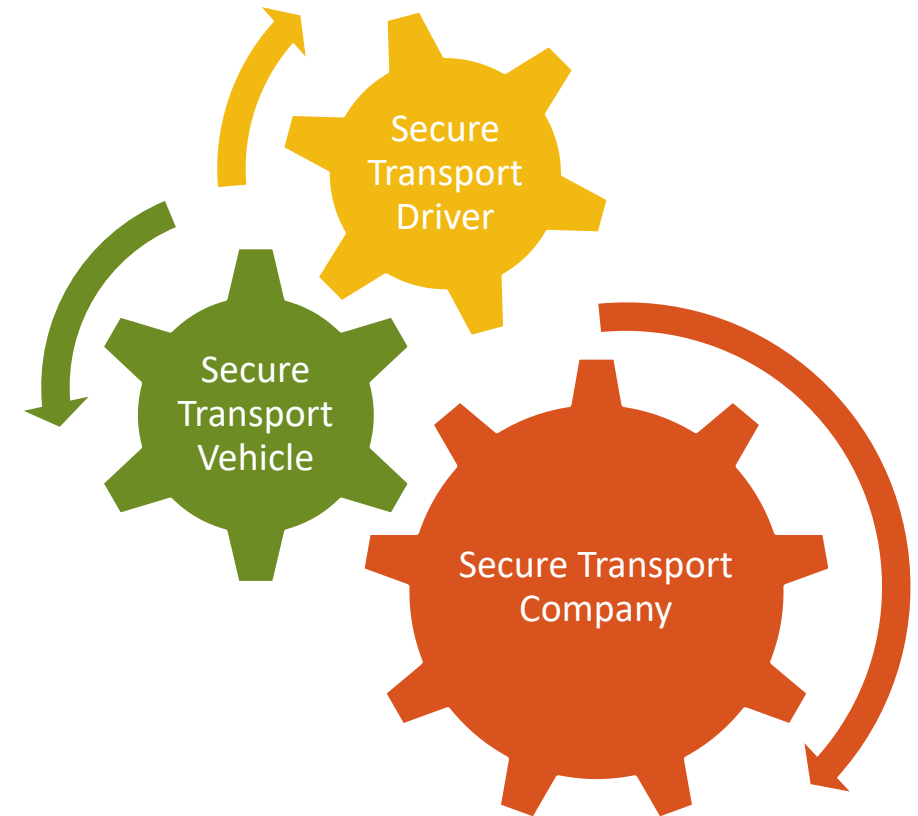
- Companies must comply with state-mandated requirements for hiring and standard operating procedures.
- State law divides companies into *two classes*: those who use physical restraint and those that do not.

Vehicles (Annual license)

- Any vehicle used to pick up patients in Denver must be permitted.
- Vehicle permits will only be issued to Secure Transport Companies.
- Vehicles must meet state-mandated inspection requirements.
- State law divides vehicles into *two types*: those that have a safety partition and those that do not.

Drivers (Annual license)

- Drivers may work for any number of Secure Transport Companies and drive any of the company's vehicles.
- If a driver is picking up patients in Denver, they must be licensed in Denver.



Licensing Details

Transferability

- None of the licenses are transferrable.

Application Requirements

- Applicants must provide written policies, procedures, and standard operating procedures.
- Applicants must include inspection reports and proof of insurance coverage for all vehicles.
- Drivers must complete a background check.

Inspections

- Companies' policies and procedures must be inspected every three years.
- Vehicles must be inspected annually for mechanical safety, as well as equipment safety.

Causes for Denial

- Noncompliance with state Secure Transport laws or rules
- Noncompliance with local laws or rules, including violations of Chapters 17 and 32
- The applicant has been convicted of a felony of moral turpitude and has not been sufficiently rehabilitated

Unlawful Acts

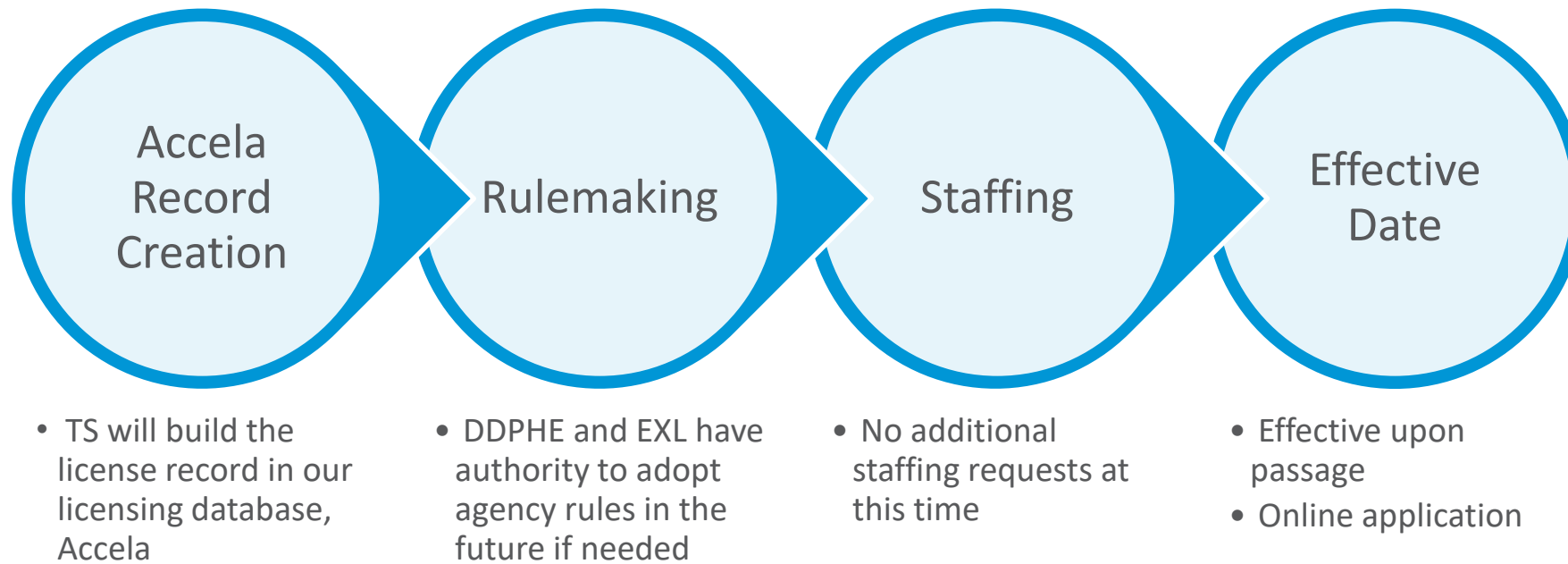
- Operating without a license
- Transporting more than one patient at a time
- Possessing weapons while performing secure transport services
- Interfering with investigations of a secure transportation service
- Noncompliance with any laws or rules relating to Secure Transport

Fees

	Application Fee	3-Year Service Licensing Fee	Annual Vehicle Permit Fee	Annual Driver Licensing Fee
Denver (proposed)	Company \$50 Vehicle \$25 Driver \$25	\$250	\$100 per vehicle	\$50

County	Application Fee	3-Year Service Licensing Fee	Annual Vehicle Permit Fee	Vehicle Inspection Fee
El Paso	Unknown	\$250	\$100	Unknown
Arapahoe	Unknown	Unknown	\$125	Unknown
Boulder	Unknown	\$200	\$125	Unknown
Archuleta	Unknown	\$400	\$100	Unknown
Prowers	Unknown	\$200	\$75	\$75
San Juan	Unknown	\$300	\$100	Unknown
Average	Unknown	\$270	\$104	\$75

Timeline and Next Steps



Questions?

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