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**A Bill – To be known as the “Rides for Cats Authorization Act” Creating a ridesharing program for students of Texas State University**

**WHEREAS:** Student government is the voice of students at Texas State University, with an obligation to protect their interests and advocate for redress of their concerns, and;

**WHEREAS:** 37% of Texas residents spend between $1,200.00 and $2,400.00 and 22% spend more than $2,400.00 on gasoline annually and;

**WHEREAS:** After housing expenses, transportation is the number one in the average annual expenditure for Texans residents, which, is higher than on health insurance, food and all other major spending categories and;

**WHEREAS:** there are more than 9000 vehicles that park on Texas State University parking lots and garages each day and;

**WHEREAS:** Due to the costs associated with expanding parking, it is essential that the University take steps to ensure that growth in the demand for parking occurs as a stable, sustainable rate and;

**WHEREAS:** Recent studies from MITsuggests that using carpooling options could reduce the number of vehicles on the road by a factor of three without significantly impacting travel time and;

**WHEREAS:** According to a study conducted by the Transportation Sustainability Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley, for each car-sharing vehicle in use, there are on average from 9 to 13 fewer cars on the road. The same study has shown that each car owned by a ridesharing service removes between 5.5 to 12.7 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

**WHEREAS:** It is estimated that ridesharing helps reduce car emissions between 34% and 41% per year per each household using these services. Scientists estimate that this contributed to the decrease of the total carbon dioxide emissions from cars by about 10% and;

**WHEREAS:** Climate change poses an existential threat to the human race, and reducing emissions is essential to ensure that the human, ecological, and economic costs of climate change are mitigated to the greatest extent possible as to ensure a habitable and prosperous Earth for generations to come and;

**WHEREAS:** Since transitioning to environmentally sustainable development will be difficult, and requires a long term effort, it is essential that gradual steps are taken proactively as to ensure continuous progress towards sustainability goals, and to maintain economic feasibility and;

**WHEREAS:** Ride sharers can use upto 255.00 pre-tax dollars per month to pay for commuting expenses, and the addition of another mode of transportation can help expand options for students who currently have more limited transportation options, thereby expanding opportunity and by extension social mobility and;

**WHEREAS:** These advantages allow ridesharing services to be a source of economic opportunity for students and;

**WHEREAS:** Other universities in the Texas State University system, notably Sam Houston State University, have shown interest in implementing a ridesharing program as well. Implementing such a measure would help Texas State University lead the way therefore;

**BE IT ENACTED:** That Texas State University Student Government code be amended to include the following;

**Subtitle I - Miscellaneous**

**Chapter 118**

**Article I - Administrative**

**§1 AUTHORIZATION.** This chapter and all of its regulations are authorized pursuant to Article III(10) (j) of the Student Government Constitution and S.G.C. V. §2 (a)(d)

**§2 Purpose.** In the interest of reducing traffic, lowering emissions, and providing students with more transportation options, the Senate seeks to enact a program to be known as “Rides for Cats” offering a ridesharing service for Texas State University students. This service is to provide the ability for students to connect with their peers and purchase or provide transportation via car.

**§3 Execution.** Texas State University student government shall seek the implementation of a ridesharing service specifically tailored to the needs of the Texas State University community based on the following objectives, that the program;

1. Provides students with the ability to offer and request rides via an app on their phone
2. Allows students to sell and buy rides on an individual basis
3. Provides rides at an affordable flat rate
4. Is responsive to demand for the service and scalable to remain efficient and effective during times of growth or contraction in the market for such services on campus

**Article II - Authorization**

The Senate hereby authorizes the creation of the “Rides for Cats” program. Student government will work with Texas State University transportation services to implement this program;

1. The student body president shall appoint a Rides for Cats task force, consisting of senators within student government
2. This task force shall work with transportation services in the implementation of the ridesharing program, and shall report progress to the senate not less than once per semester about its progress

**Article III – Sunset**

The task force authorized under Article II shall be dissolved once the student body president arrives at the conclusion that the Rides for Cats program has been fully implemented, and can continue under the direction of transportation services without assistance from student government

a) The student senate may override the president’s decision to dissolve the task force by a 2/3 vote

**BE IT FURTHER ENACTED:** That upon passage this legislation be forwarded to Student Body President Connor Clegg and Transportation Services Director Steven Herrera for further action.