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Maryland PSC Offers Prom and Wedding Season Tips for Choosing Limousine Services

(Baltimore)—Prom and wedding season increases the demand for limousines, and the Maryland Public Service Commission wants the public to be well-informed when selecting a transportation service. As the state’s regulator of limousine services, the Commission has helpful information to keep in mind when choosing a limousine or similar vehicles (known as ‘limo buses’ or ‘party buses’) for these special occasions.

The PSC licenses and regulates all limousines that operate in Maryland, which includes two annual vehicle inspections, driver background checks, verification of insurance coverage and rate filings. State law requires any company that advertises or offers limousine services in Maryland to have a PSC carrier number.

Before signing a contract, prospective limousine customers should:

- Ask for the company’s PSC carrier number.
- Inspect the vehicle personally, if possible.
- Know the difference between a limousine broker and the actual limousine company.
- Review all terms outlined in the contract.
- Contact the PSC to verify that a company is authorized and that rates quoted are correct—companies can only charge rates that are on file with the Commission.

When hiring transportation for proms, reputable limousine companies should also adhere to state laws regarding underage drinking. Families should be aware that a driver may refuse to transport students home if they appear to be drunk, are combative or have tobacco or drugs. Some companies may also have restrictions concerning what items students can bring into the vehicle, such as outside beverages, snacks or containers (other than a clutch purse).

“These events should be safe and enjoyable,” says PSC Chairman W. Kevin Hughes. “The Commission is committed to ensuring that families are equipped to select a reliable company.”

The PSC regulates taxis (Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Cumberland), limousines and for-hire transportation services. Customers can contact the Transportation Division at

410-767-8128 with questions concerning limousine service or visit the Commission's website, www.psc.state.md.us, to locate more information on limousines.

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