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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Maryland PSC Offers Advice for Choosing Limos for Prom

*Regulated Vehicles Help Ensure a Safe, Smooth Ride*

Baltimore—As prom and wedding season approaches, the Maryland Public Service

Commission wants the public to make informed, safe decisions when selecting a

transportation service. The PSC has helpful tips to keep in mind when choosing a

limousine company.

All limousines operating in Maryland are regulated by the PSC, which includes two

annual vehicle inspections, background checks on drivers, verification of insurance

coverage and rate filings. Currently, there are 560 limousines licensed by the

Commission, of which 325 hold eight passengers or more. By law, any company that

advertises or offers limousine services must have a PSC number.

Limousine brokers do not have actual vehicles, but coordinate transportation service

(as middlemen) between customers and the limousine companies. The PSC does not

regulate brokers; however, brokers must use companies authorized by the

Commission. Customers should keep in mind that photos on brokers’ websites may not

represent the actual vehicles that are used.

Prospective limousine customers should follow these strategies before signing a

contract:

• Ask for the company’s PSC number

• Inspect the vehicle personally

• Know the difference between a limousine broker and the actual limo company

• Review all terms outlined in the contract

• Contact the PSC to verify that a company is authorized and that rates quoted

are correct

*-more-*

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Reputable limousine companies also adhere to state laws regarding underage drinking.

A driver may refuse to transport students home if they appear to be drunk, are

combative, or have tobacco or drugs. It is not uncommon for limos to prohibit students

from bringing outside beverages, snacks or containers (other than a clutch purse) into

the vehicle.

“Our overarching concern is that students are able to enjoy their proms by using safe,

reliable limousine companies,” says PSC Chairman Douglas R.M. Nazarian. “We want

families to remember this night for all of the right reasons.”

The PSC regulates taxis, limousines, and for-hire transportation services. Customers

can contact the Transportation Division at 410-767-8128 with questions concerning

limousine service or visit the website at www.psc.state.md.us.

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