(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Provides that a rural public utility district may operate or provide a demand responsive transportation system, within the district's limits, for qualified recipients.

Declares that, for the purposes of this act, the following definitions apply: (1) "Demand responsive transportation system" means any transportation system other than a transportation system that operates along a prescribed route according to a fixed schedule. A demand responsive transportation system includes services provided by taxis, limousines, vans, or shuttle buses. A demand responsive transportation system does not include ambulance service.

- (2) "Disability" means an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, or working.
- (3) "Qualified recipient" means any person, including his or her personal attendants, with a disability or who is at least sixty years of age, and who because of physical or mental disability, income status, or age is unable to transport himself or herself or to purchase appropriate transportation.
- (4) "Rural public utility district" means a district located in a county with a population density of less than nine persons per square mile as determined by the office of financial management.