Explanation:
This proposed legislation will remove a significant impediment to the operations of nonprofit carshare organizations in New York. There are currently no commercial automobile insurance products available to nonprofit carshares. The bill will allow for registered Risk Retention Groups headquartered outside of the state to provide insurance for New York based nonprofits.

The transportation sector is one of the largest sources of air pollution in New York, representing 34 percent of the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions from tailpipes are also responsible for smog, soot, and other toxics that contribute to adverse health outcomes, particularly in children and those suffering from chronic illness. The achievement of New York’s emission reduction mandates will require a range of actions to reduce vehicle miles traveled. Carshare operations can play a significant role in reducing the number of vehicles on New York’s roadways.

Carshares offer mobility alternatives to vehicle ownership. They help to fill gaps in public transit and expand options for individuals that may not be able to afford to own a personal vehicle. This legislation will preserve the ability of nonprofits to offer carshare services by providing insurance options to allow for their continued operation.

Summary:
This legislation amends the vehicle and traffic law and insurance law to allow registered Risk Retention Groups to provide commercial automobile insurance for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.