BALTIMORE COUNTY LAWS GOVERNING TAXICAB DRIVERS (2003 Edition, As Amended)

ARTICLE 21. TITLE 17. VEHICLES FOR HIRE

§ 21-17-101. AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR. The Director or the Director's designee shall carry out the provisions of this title.

§ 21-17-102. Authority of the Director

§ 21-17-103. Authority of the county to regulate

§ 21-17-104. Authority of the Director

§ 21-17-105. Authority of the Director

§ 21-17-201. REQUIRED; EXCEPTION; TEMPORARY LICENSE.

(a) Required. A taxicab operator provided in this section shall be an individual who shall be licensed by the Director before the individual may operate a taxicab in the county.

(b) Exception. A taxicab licensed in another jurisdiction may transport passengers from that jurisdiction into the county and return for the same passengers, provided that the taxicab operator does not solicit passengers within the county at any time.

§ 21-17-202. QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANTS.

(a) In general. To qualify for a license, an applicant shall be an individual who meets the requirements of this section.

(b) Character reference. The applicant shall produce a driving record to the Director.

§ 21-17-203. APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSE.

(a) In general. An applicant for a license shall:

(1) Submit to the Department an application in the form prescribed by the Director.

(2) Pay to the Department the license fee as provided under § 21-17-204 of this subtitle.

(b) Photographs. (1) An applicant shall file with the application two recent color photographs that are 2 inches by 2 inches, with 1 inch border.

(2) Except as required by constitutional protections, the photographs may not include head covering.

(c) One shall be attached to the temporary license and license when issued and shall be filed in the Department.

§ 21-17-204. FEES.

(a) In general. The applicant shall pay the following fees when filing the application:

(1) Original license $34.00

(2) Renewal license $3.00

(3) Replacement license $10.00

(b) Authority of the County Administrative Officer. The County Administrative Officer may increase the fees established under this section.

§ 21-17-205. DETERMINATION.

(a) Processing. The processing of each application shall include the fingerprinting of the applicant and a review of the applicant's driving record.

(b) Refusal. The Department shall refuse to issue a license to an applicant if the results of the fingerprinting or driving record are unsatisfactory.

(c) Issuance. If the applicant has satisfied all the requirements of this section, the Department shall issue a license to the applicant in a form and type as determined by the Director.

(d) Copy to the Police Department. The Department shall issue a copy of the license to the Police Department.

§ 21-17-206. DISPLAY; DEFACEMENT; BADGE.

(a) In general. (1) The Department shall deliver to each licensed taxicab driver a badge in a form and style as the Department determines.

(2) The badge shall include the license number.

(b) The badge shall include the license number.

(c) The driver shall conspicuously display the badge when engaged in operating a taxicab.

(d) Display. The driver of a taxicab shall visibly display the license at all times that the driver is operating the taxicab.

(e) Issuance prohibited. (1) Only the license card of the dispatched driver is to be displayed in the taxicab.

(2) Any other license cards or badges found in the taxicab shall be confiscated and returned to the Department.

(3) The individual whose card or badge has been confiscated may claim the card or badge only by appearing in person at the Department.

§ 21-17-207. TERM AND RENEWAL OF A LICENSE.

(a) Term of a license. Unless a license is renewed for a 1-year period provided in this section, the license expires on the first day of May following the expiration of the license.

(b) Application for renewal. Before a license expires, the licensees periodically may renew it for an additional 1-year term by:

(1) Paying to the Department the renewal fee established under § 21-17-204 of this subtitle; and

(2) Submits to the Department:

(i) A renewal application on a form that the Department provides; and

(ii) Two updated photographs of the applicant.

(c) Original license to be obtained if not renewed for 2 years. A taxicab driver who has not renewed a license for a period of more than 2 years shall obtain an original license to operate a taxicab.

§ 21-17-208. REFUSAL, SUSPENSION, REVOCATION.

(a) Grounds. The Director may, after notice and hearing, refuse, suspend, or revoke a temporary license or license to drive a taxicab for any of the following reasons:

(1) Conviction of a violation of the criminal laws of the state;

(2) Involvement in a number of automobile accidents or conviction of a number of violations of the motor vehicle laws that indicate a lack of fitness to operate a taxicab safely;

(3) Any physical or mental disability which might render the driver unfit for the safe operation of a taxicab;

(4) The applicant has failed to return, suspend, or modify the decision of the Director.

(b) Return of card and badge. If the license or badge has been revoked, the taxicab driver’s license card and badge shall be returned immediately to the Department and the employer shall be notified immediately of the suspension or revocation.

§ 21-17-209. APPEAL.

(a) Authorized. An applicant for any license under this title whose application has been refused or a licensee whose license has been refused, suspended, or revoked may appeal the decision of the Director to the Board of Appeals within 10 days of the date of refusal, suspension, or revocation of the license.

(b) Board of Appeals action. The Board of Appeals shall conduct a hearing on the appeal and shall affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Director.

§ 21-17-210. RECORDS.

(a) Required. In accordance with Article 3, Title 8 of the Code, the Department shall keep a complete record of the license.
issued to each taxicab driver and of all renewals, suspensions, revocations, and revocations of the license.

(b) The certificate of registration shall be kept on file with the original application for the license.

(1988 Code, § 34-64) (Bill No. 72-00, § 2, 7-1-2004)

SUBTITLE 3. OPERATING REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITED ACTS; PENALTIES

§ 21-17-301. EMPLOYMENT OF DRIVER WITH SUSPENDED OR REVOKED LICENSE PROHIBITED.

A permit holder may not employ a driver whose license has been suspended or revoked until the suspension or revocation has been lifted.

(1988 Code, § 34-82) (Bill No. 72-00, § 2, 7-1-2004)

§ 21-17-302. AUTHORIZED DRIVERS; LIMITATION ON CUSTOMERS.

(a) Authorized drivers.

A taxicab operating under a permit of the Public Service Commission may be driven only by the permit holder or an employee of the permit holder.

(b) Limitation on custody.

A permit holder may not allow the taxicab to operate for more than 12 hours of any 24-hour period.

(1988 Code, § 34-83) (Bill No. 72-00, § 2, 7-1-2004)

§ 21-17-303. OPERATING REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES OF DRIVERS.

(a) General.

A licensed taxicab driver shall comply with the provisions of this section.

(b) Driver to carry a copy of the laws.

A licensed taxicab driver shall carry in the taxicab at all times:

(1) A copy of this title;

(2) Any amendments to this title; and

(3) Any regulations adopted under Subtitle 1 of this title.

(c) Acceptance of passengers generally.

A licensed taxicab driver shall accept as a passenger and convey where directed any orderly individual on request, unless the driver...

(1) Previously engaged;

(2) Unable or forbidden by the provisions of this title, other valid law, or regulation to accept the individual as a passenger.

(d) Other individuals not allowed.

Except in emergency situations, when a taxicab is in service, no individual other than the licensed driver and a fare-paying passenger or passengers may be in the taxicab.

(e) Capacity.

A licensed taxicab driver may not:

(1) Permit more than one passenger to occupy the front seat with the driver; and

(2) On the permit card.

In this subsection, a child in arms is not counted as a passenger.

(f) Trip manifest.

A licensed taxicab driver shall keep a current written record of all trips on a form approved by the State Public Service Commission, to be completed at or before reaching the destination.

(2) The driver shall hold the record for at least 1 year for inspection on request of the Chief of Police or the public service commission.

(3) The driver shall fill out the manifest in detail and include the exact address or nearest intersection of points of origin and destination, the time the trip began and ended, the numbers of passengers, and the amount of fare corresponding to meter reading.

(g) Accident reports.

(1) A taxicab operator shall report to the Department... other changes in circumstances which... the license was assigned.

(3) Record of a licensed taxicab driver shall proceed with passengers to destination by the shortest practicable route.

(h) Receipt for fare.

On request, a licensed taxicab driver shall give a receipt for fares on an authorized form.

(i) Display license card.

A licensed taxicab driver shall...

(3) Charge approved rates.

A licensed taxicab driver shall charge...

(4) Display rate schedule.

A licensed taxicab driver shall display...

(5) Protection of passenger's property.

Immediately after delivery of any property, a licensed taxicab driver shall search the taxicab for any property which may have been left by the passenger.

(2) A person having charge of a taxicab who finds any property in the taxicab which is not restored to the owner of the property within 24 hours shall deliver the property to the Chief of Police or the Chief of Police's agent to be held and disposed of as required by law in the case of lost or stolen property.

(4) Drinking or drugs on duty.

A licensed taxicab driver may not:

(1) Drink any alcoholic beverages while on duty; or

(2) Drive while intoxicated or under the influence of drugs, controlled dangerous substances, or alcohol.

(5) Inspection and protection of equipment.

A licensed taxicab driver shall:

(1) On completion of the shift...

(a) Appear before the Motor Vehicle Administration.

(3) Results in the removal of the taxicab from service for a...

(b) Occurs while the taxicab is occupied by a passenger;

(5) On a form provided by the Director, a licensed taxicab driver shall answer promptly all communications...

(6) Permit holder.

A licensed taxicab driver shall deliver all fares and all legal charges received to the permit holder, unless the driver is working under a fixed rate, in which case the driver shall pay the contract price.

(7) Operation while license suspended.

A licensed taxicab driver may not operate a taxicab while the taxicab driver's operator license or taxicab driver's license is suspended.

(8) Allowing others to be used for the fare.

A licensed taxicab driver shall...

(9) Allowing others to drive.

A licensed taxicab driver may not allow an unauthorized individual to drive the taxicab.

(10) Return of taxicab to permit holder.

A licensed taxicab driver shall drive the taxicab to the permit holder's garage on completion of the shift in which the license was assigned.

(11) Permit the director or the director's designee to inspect a taxicab under the provisions of this title; and

(12) Forms. Reports shall be made on forms provided by the Director and shall be in strict accordance with the instructions.

(13) Inspection
demands.

The driver
may not operate a taxicab according to the regulations adopted under this title.

(14) Inspection and protection of equipment.

(15) Revocation and suspension.

(a) Violation.

A license issued under this title after according the licensees opportunity to be heard in the licensees' defense.

(16) Revocation and suspension.

In addition to the fine imposed under subsection (a) of this section, on proof of any violation of any provision of this title or a regulation adopted pursuant to the authority of the Chief of Police or the Director, a violation of this section or...

(17) Required to operate a taxicab.

A licensed taxicab driver may not operate a taxicab... in an unsafe manner, or in disregard of the public general or local laws governing the operation of motor vehicles.

(18) Placards.

Placards or other obstructions to view may not be attached to or rest against the windshield or rear window, except the certificate of inspection required by the State Motor Vehicle Administration.

(19) Discharging passengers.

A taxicab driver may not receive or discharge passengers:

(20) License.

A licensed taxicab driver may not operate a taxicab recklessly, in an unsafe manner, or in disregard of the public general or local laws governing the operation of motor vehicles.

(21) Accident reports.

A taxicab driver may not receive or discharge passengers:

(22) Discharging passengers.

A taxicab driver may not receive or discharge passengers:

(23) Discharging passengers.

A taxicab driver may not receive or discharge passengers:

(24) Unlawful practices.

A licensed taxicab driver may not destruct the records

(1988 Code, § 34-64) (Bill No. 72-00, § 2, 7-1-2004)

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§ 21-17-307. ENGAGING IN BUSINESS WITHOUT A LICENSE PROHIBITED.

A person may not solicit, offer to transport, or transport a passenger for hire in the county unless:

(1) The person is licensed to transport passengers in the county under the authority of this title; and

(2) The vehicle has been issued a permit by the State Public Service Commission to operate as a taxicab.

(1988 Code, § 34-33) (Bill No. 5, 1990; § 2, Bill No. 72-00, § 2, 7-1-2004)

§ 21-17-308. PENALTIES.

(a) Misdemeanor.

A person who violates any provision of this title or a regulation adopted pursuant to the authority of the Chief of Police or the Director, a violation of this section or...

(1) Results in the removal of the taxicab from service for a...

(2) Requires the Motor Vehicle Administration.

(3) Results in the removal of the taxicab from service for a...

(1988 Code, § 34-80) (Bill No. 5, 1990; § 2, Bill No. 72-00, § 2, 7-1-2004)

§ 21-17-309. UNSAFE PRACTICES.

(a) Reckless driving.

A licensed taxicab driver may not operate a taxicab recklessly, in an unsafe manner, or in disregard of the public general or local laws governing the operation of motor vehicles.

(1) Within the limits of street intersections;

(2) When it is possible to move in the same direction to pass the taxicab and the right-hand curb; or

(3) Through the left doors of the taxicabs, except on one-

way streets.

(2) Results in the removal of the taxicab from service for a...

(a) Misdemeanor.

A person who violates any provision of this title or a regulation adopted pursuant to the authority of the Chief of Police or the Director, a violation of this section or...

(1) Results in the removal of the taxicab from service for a...

(2) Requires the Motor Vehicle Administration.

(3) Results in the removal of the taxicab from service for a...

(1988 Code, § 34-89) (Bill No. 72-00, § 2, 7-1-2004)