

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2023 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-089-2023

Chapter No. 68

Proposed and Presented by The Chair (by request – County Executive)

Introduced by Council Members Dernoga, Franklin and Hawkins

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction October 17, 2023

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Taxicabs and Limousines

3 For the purpose of repealing and reenacting with amendments provisions of the County Code
4 regulating taxicabs and limousines relating to, Taxicab Board composition, inspections,
5 licensing, taxicab driver’s licenses, fines, driver conduct, certificate registration, vehicle
6 maintenance and inspection, limits of certain cost, charges, fees or assessments, rates, meters
7 requirements, payment methods, emergency fuel cost surcharge, and generally relating to
8 taxicabs and limousines.

9 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

10 SUBTITLE 20. TAXICABS AND LIMOUSINES

11 Sections 20-101, 20-102, 20-102.01, 20-104, 20-105, 20-107, 20-108,
12 20-112, 20-113, 20-116, 20-117, 20-118, 20-120, 20-126, 20-127, 20-
13 130, 20-132, 20-133, 20-136, 20-140, 20-141, 20-142, 20-143, 20-144,
14 20-145, 20-146, 20-148, 20-149, 20-150, 20-153, 20-154, 20-156, 20-
15 159, 20-160, 20-160.01, 20-160.02, and 20-161.

16 The Prince George's County Code
17 (2019 Edition; 2022 Supplement).

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
19 Maryland, that Sections 20-101, 20-102, 20-102.01, 20-104, 20-105, 20-107, 20-108, 20-112,
20 20-113, 20-116, 20-117, 20-118, 20-120, 20-126, 20-127, 20-130, 20-132, 20-133, 20-136, 20-
21 140, 20-141, 20-142, 20-143, 20-144, 20-145, 20-146, 20-148, 20-149, 20-150, 20-153, 20-154,

1 20-156, 20-159, 20-160, 20-160.01, 20-160.02, and 20-161 of the Prince George's County Code
 2 be and the repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

3 **SUBTITLE 20. TAXICABS [AND LIMOUSINES]**

4 **DIVISION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

5 **Sec. 20-101. Applicability.**

6 The provisions of this Subtitle shall govern the operation for hire in Prince George's
 7 County of any taxicab [or limousine], excepting motor vehicles owned and operated by the
 8 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and those licensed by the Public Service
 9 Commission of the State of Maryland to operate on fixed routes and schedules and except any
 10 vehicle operated by any funeral director duly licensed by the State Board of Funeral Directors
 11 and Embalmers of Maryland, and further excepting any funeral livery service licensed as such
 12 by the Department of Motor Vehicles of Maryland while said vehicle is being operated for the
 13 purpose of funeral services or transportation incidental thereto.

14 **Sec. 20-102. Definitions.**

15 (a) Unless otherwise expressly stated, or the context clearly indicates a different intention,
 16 the following terms shall, for the purpose of this Subtitle, have the meanings indicated in tis
 17 Section:

18 (1) **Accessible Taxi.** Is a taxicab which complies with CFR Title 49-Transportation
 19 Subtitle A—Part 37 Transportation Services for Individuals with Disabilities (ADA) and all
 20 other applicable federal, state, and county standards.

21 (2) **Active Driver.** A licensed driver who has been regularly driving a taxicab in
 22 Prince George's County for minimum of eight (8) months in any calendar year, as
 23 demonstrated under 20-119 of the Code.

24 (3) **Association.** Any group of two or more holders of Certificates of Taxicab
 25 Registration operating taxicabs not under common ownership but under unified control and a
 26 common trade name and having a common uniform color scheme.

27 (4) **Board.** The Prince George's County Taxicab Board.

28 (5) **Certificate.** The Prince George's County Certificate of Registration granted to a
 29 person, including a company, operating a taxicab [or limousine] as provided in this Subtitle.

30 (6) **Certificate Holder.** Any individual or multiple owner, that has been granted a
 31 Prince George's County Certificate of Registration, as provided in this Subtitle.

1 (7) **Company.** Any corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other legal
2 business entity which holds a Certificate or Certificates and operates a taxicab pursuant to this
3 Subtitle.

4 (8) **Department.** The Department of Public Works and Transportation of Prince
5 George's County, Maryland.

6 [(8)] (9) **Destination Attraction.** A location designated by the County as an
7 attraction for economic development, tourism, or cultural enhancement.

8 [(9)] (10) **Director.** The Director of the Department of Public Works and
9 Transportation of Prince George's County, Maryland, or designee.

10 [(10)] (11) **Dispute.** Means a disagreement between a person who holds a license
11 issued under this Subtitle and company or association under whose certificate the person drives
12 over whether an action taken by the company or association to terminate, suspend or impair the
13 person's ability to drive under the company or association or to terminate, suspend or impair
14 the person's right to enjoy the resources and benefits provided by the company or association
15 on the same basis as other similarly situated company or association drivers was reasonable
16 and based upon good cause.

17 [(11)] (12) **Driver.** A person licensed to drive or operate a taxicab [or limousine] for
18 hire who can also be, but is not required to be, the Certificate Holder.

19 [(12)] (13) **Individual Owner.** Any individual or company which holds one
20 Certificate of Registration.

21 [(13)] (14) **Law Enforcement.** Includes all law enforcement agencies authorized to
22 enforce laws within the geographical boundaries of Prince George's County, Maryland, and
23 those special police who have been appointed pursuant to the provisions of [Title 4, Subtitle
24 9, Article 41, Annotated Code of Maryland] Md. Public Safety Code Ann. §3-301 et seq.

25 [(14)] (15) **Lease.** A lease agreement or other arrangement allowing the use of a
26 Certificate by a driver or company other than the one that has been issued in the name of a
27 certificate holder by the Director.

28 [(15)] (16) **License.** The taxicab [or limousine] driver's license (commonly referred
29 to as I.D. or a Face Card) issued by the Prince George's County Department of Public Works
30 and Transportation.

31 [(16)] (17) **Licensee.** See Driver. A person licensed to drive or operate a taxicab [or

1 | limousine] for hire but who does not provide taxicab [or limousine] service with the county for
 2 | at least eight (8) months in any calendar year but otherwise maintains a license.

3 | (17) **Limousine.** Any motor vehicle for hire by the hour, day, or week, designed to
 4 | carry ten (10) persons or more, including the driver, used for the purpose of accepting for
 5 | transportation members of the public for hire between such points, along the public streets, as
 6 | the passengers and the owner or operator thereof shall agree upon in writing, in advance.]

7 | (18) **Medallion.** A decal containing the number assigned by the Director used for
 8 | tracking of 31 legally authorized taxicabs [and limousines] operating under a certificate.

9 | (19) **Meter.** A mechanical or digital measuring instrument or device by which the
 10 | charge for hire of a taxicab is mechanically or electronically calculated either for distance
 11 | traveled or for waiting time, or both, and upon which such charge shall be indicated by means
 12 | of figures.

13 | (20) **Multiple Owner.** Any individual or company which holds two or more
 14 | Certificates of Registration.

15 | (21) **Operator.** See Driver.

16 | (22) **Passenger Bill of Rights.** A document approved by the Director detailing the
 17 | obligations and standards that must be met in providing service to all taxicab passengers.

18 | (23) **Personal Service.** Any service required by a passenger which necessitates the
 19 | taxicab driver leaving the taxicab.

20 | (24) **Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicle.** A vehicle as defined by the Section 11-101 of
 21 | the Transportation Article of Annotated Code of Maryland.

22 | (25) **Qualified Hybrid Vehicle.** A vehicle as defined by Section 23-202 of the
 23 | Transportation Article of Annotated Code of Maryland.

24 | (26) **Radio Dispatch Service.** A communication system operated by a central
 25 | dispatcher with a telephone answering system and/or computer that is used to receive requests
 26 | for service from the general public and to communicate those requests to duly authorized
 27 | taxicab drivers, such dispatch service being made available on a reliable and consistent basis to
 28 | both the general public and drivers during hours of operation.

29 | (27) **Sublease.** A lease agreement or other arrangement in which the certificate
 30 | holder's lease is assigned to a third party.

31 | (28) **Taxicab.** Any passenger motor vehicle for hire (other than a vehicle operated,

1 with approval of the Public Service Commission of Maryland or the Washington Metropolitan
 2 Area Transit Commission, between fixed termini or regular schedules) designed to carry nine
 3 (9) persons or less, including the driver, used for the purpose of accepting or soliciting for
 4 transportation members of the public for hire between such points, along the public streets, as
 5 the passenger may direct.

6 (29) **Taximeter.** See Meter.

7 (30) **Trunk.** [A piece of luggage having a minimum content of three cubic feet or 9"
 8 × 16" × 36".] The rear luggage compartment of the taxicab vehicle.

9 (31) **Waiting Time.** Time consumed while the taxicab is waiting and available to the
 10 passenger beginning at the time of arrival at the place to which the driver has been called or
 11 time consumed for delays or stay-overs en route to the destination at the request or direction of
 12 the passenger. Waiting time shall not include time lost on account of inefficiency of the
 13 taxicab.

14 **DIVISION 1A. TAXICAB BOARD.**

15 **Sec. 20-102.01. Board composition.**

16 (a) Established and Membership.

17 (1) A Taxicab Board is hereby created. The Board shall consist of five (5) members,
 18 all of whom shall be appointed by the County Executive subject to Council confirmation
 19 pursuant to Charter. Two (2) members shall be employed in the taxicab industry, of which one
 20 such member shall be a fulltime active taxicab driver who does not own nor control more than
 21 one Certificate of Registration, and three (3) members shall be public members, at least one of
 22 which having a disability, broadly representative of the citizens of Prince George's County,
 23 with no pecuniary interest in any business related to this trade. On the expiration of the term of
 24 any members, the County Executive shall appoint or reappoint members for terms of two
 25 years. Each member shall hold office until the expiration of his term or until a successor has
 26 been duly appointed and confirmed. Any member with three or more unexcused absences in
 27 any term or who is unable to fulfill the obligations of membership may be replaced upon
 28 recommendation of the Director and the Board.

29 (2) The Director or [his] their designee shall serve as a nonvoting ex-officio member
 30 of the Board.

31 (b) Officers, Procedures, and Administration.

1 (1) The Chairman of the Board shall be one of the public members and shall be
 2 designated, by the County Executive or their designee, as such at the time of appointment. The
 3 Board shall elect from its members a vice-chairman and secretary. In exercising its powers and
 4 duties under this Subtitle, three (3) members shall constitute a quorum. The Board shall keep
 5 minutes of its proceedings and meetings. All decisions of the Board shall be in written form
 6 with findings. For assistance in reaching decisions, the Board may request technical assistance,
 7 advice, data or factual evidence from the Department of [the Environment] Public Works and
 8 Transportation. The Board shall submit to the County Executive an annual report of its
 9 proceedings. This report shall be a public record.

10 (2) The Director shall make available to the Board such services and facilities as are
 11 necessary for the proper performance of its duties. The Board shall be subject to the County
 12 budget process and be included in the budget of the Department of [the Environment] Public
 13 Works and Transportation. The Board shall promulgate Rules of Procedure for the conduct of
 14 hearings and other duties and responsibilities, as specified in Section 20-102.02, which Rules
 15 of Procedure shall be subject to the approval of the County Executive.

16 * * * * *

17 **DIVISION 2. AUTHORITY**

18 **Sec. 20-104. Inspection of vehicle; right of entry; display of credentials.**

19 (a) Representatives of the Chief of Police and the Director are hereby authorized to make
 20 inspections under the provisions of this Subtitle. They shall have the right at any time, after
 21 identifying themselves to the driver or owner, to enter into, or upon any taxicab [or limousine]
 22 for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not any provision of this Subtitle has been violated.
 23 Refusal of the driver or owner of any such vehicle to stop the vehicle when ordered to do so by
 24 such representative, or to permit any such representative to enter into the vehicle for such
 25 purposes, or refusal to display the certificate, license, or any other document required under
 26 this Subtitle to be carried in the vehicle, upon his demand, shall constitute a violation of this
 27 Subtitle and shall be sufficient grounds for revocation, or suspension of the license or
 28 certificate.

29 (b) If, upon inspection, it is determined that the copy of the duly authorized certificate
 30 carried in the vehicle does not correspond to the vehicle, the certificate holder may be deemed
 31 to have violated Section 20-148(a) of this Subtitle and shall have his/her certificate revoked by

1 the Director.

2 (c) Where a company fails to maintain the appropriate certificate in a vehicle operating as
 3 a taxicab [or limousine] and a driver is issued a citation by law enforcement officials as a result
 4 of such failure, the driver shall provide a copy of the citation to the Director within fifteen (15)
 5 business days of receiving the violation. The Director shall keep a permanent record of all such
 6 citations received pursuant to this subsection.

7 **Sec. 20-105. Revocation or suspension of license or certificate.**

8 (a) The Director may revoke a certificate or suspend a license in case of any:

9 (1) Failure to operate the taxicabs [or limousines] in such a manner as to serve the
 10 public adequately;

11 (2) Failure to maintain the taxicabs [or limousines] in good order and repair;

12 (3) Failure to maintain insurance as required by this Subtitle;

13 (4) Failure to report any accident as required by this Subtitle;

14 (5) Failure to pay any fees or fines lawfully assessed under this Subtitle;

15 (6) Repeated and persistent violations by the licensee or certificate holder of the
 16 Prince George's County Code, including failure to maintain a copy of a duly authorized
 17 certificate in the vehicle to which it has been assigned, repeated and persistent violations of the
 18 motor vehicle laws of Maryland or surrounding jurisdictions, or a traffic record which
 19 indicates an unsafe driving pattern;

20 (7) Suspension or revocation of a licensee's driver's license issued by a State, the
 21 District of Columbia, or a United States territory;

22 (8) Failure of the licensee to maintain the trip manifest in good order as required
 23 by Section 20-119;

24 (9) Conviction of the licensee or certificate holder of any criminal offense or a
 25 conviction or a plea of nolo contendere for any traffic offense involving the use of alcohol or a
 26 controlled dangerous substance;

27 (10) Procuring or attempting to procure a license or certificate by fraud,
 28 misrepresentation, false or misleading statements, or omission of material facts on an
 29 application for a license or certificate;

30 (11) Repeated, persistent, and/or unresolved customer complaints of poor quality
 31 service:

(A) Complaints will be investigated by the Director;

(B) The Director shall require a corrective action plan be developed within thirty (30) days of investigation;

(C) The Director shall suspend the license or certificate if not resolved within sixty (60) days; and

(D) The Director shall revoke the license or certificate for continued noncompliance;

(12) If the applicant has repeated complaints for late response and failure to report to the consumer a reasonable excuse for the lateness; [or]

(13) Failure to provide proof of good standing with the State during the annual renewal process; or

[13] (14) Any other violation of this Subtitle by the licensee or certificate holder.

(b) Where the holder of a certificate is a corporation, the certificate may be suspended or revoked by the Director if the person convicted of any criminal offense remains for more than a period of one (1) month from the time of such conviction as an officer in the corporation or is a stockholder with more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the stock in the corporation.

(c) The decision of the Director on a denial, suspension, or revocation is final if it is not appealed pursuant to Section 20-106 of this Code.

(d) The violation notice or the denial, suspension or revocation of a license or certificate under this subsection shall be served on the party by personal delivery or by registered or certified mail to the last known address.

* * * * *

DIVISION 3. - DRIVER'S LICENSE (IDENTIFICATION CARD).

Sec. 20-107. Application.

(a) In order to obtain a license (I.D. Card) as a taxicab [or limousine] driver, the applicant shall be of good moral character, of sound mind, and good physical health. In addition, the applicant shall meet the following conditions:

(1) The applicant must have had at least one year of documented driving experience;

(2) The applicant must be at least 18 years of age;

(3) The applicant must be able to read, write, and speak the English language, and be knowledgeable of basic geographic locations in the County;

1 (4) The applicant must be a citizen of the United States, a legal permanent resident,
2 or otherwise possess a work permit issued by the appropriate government entity and provide
3 documentation, as required by law, to support the same;

4 (5) The applicant must satisfactorily complete a written examination to be
5 administered by the Director and which shall demonstrate understanding of the provisions of
6 this Subtitle and applicable State regulations, sufficient familiarity with the network of
7 principal roadways in Prince George's County and environs to enable a driver to carry
8 passengers to their destinations by the shortest routes practicable and, the safe transport of
9 passengers with a disability.

10 (6) The applicant must provide proof of having undergone a physical examination
11 within six (6) months immediately prior to initial application for a license and must submit to a
12 physical examination at least once every two years, or more if required by the Director for
13 cause. The applicant shall submit to the Director a certificate reporting the results of such
14 examination and signed by a licensed medical doctor. A model certificate form shall be
15 provided by the Director.

16 (7) The applicant must provide a certificate demonstrating he/she has received at
17 least six (6) hours of training on how to operate a taxicab, including training on how to use
18 dispatching service, should such service be provided, the safe transport of passengers with a
19 disability, and how to maintain a proper manifest. The Director, by regulation, may establish
20 such criteria and standards of training that may be provided to prospective taxicab drivers by
21 duly licensed Prince George's County taxicab driver or the taxicab company for whom the
22 licensee will drive.

23 (b) Any person found to have assisted the applicant in meeting the requirements of this
24 section through fraudulent means, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is
25 subject to a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisonment not to
26 exceed six (6) months, or both.

27 **Sec. 20-108. Grounds for denial.**

28 (a) The Director may refuse to issue or renew a taxicab [or limousine] driver's license to
29 any applicant who is not of good moral character, sound mind and good physical health, or
30 otherwise not a fit person to be licensed, in consideration of the public health, safety, and
31 welfare. In determining what factors may be hazardous to the public health, safety, and

welfare, the Director shall consider any one or more of the following:

(1) Repeated and persistent violations of the motor vehicle laws involving moving violations or a traffic record which indicates an unsafe driving pattern;

(2) Suspension or revocation of a driver's license issued by a state, the District of Columbia, or a United States territory;

(3) Conviction, or plea of guilty, or plea of nolo contendere to the violation of any law, any sex offense, any alcohol offense, or the illegal use, sale, or possession of a controlled dangerous substance, any gambling offense, any use of a firearm or offense involving physical violence, or any solicitation for prostitution;

(4) If the applicant is on parole or probation for a criminal or traffic offense;

(5) If the applicant has, within three years immediately preceding the date of application, been released from any penal or correctional institution;

(6) Whether or not the applicant is covered by diplomatic immunity;

(7) Whether or not the applicant has had a driver's permit, public vehicle transportation license or certificate revoked in this or any other jurisdiction;

(8) If the applicant has made a false statement to any material question upon any form required by the Director or attempts to procure or possess a license by fraud, misrepresentation, misleading statements, evasion, or suppression of material facts;

(9) If the applicant is an amputee or is subject to any other infirmity of the body or mind which, in the determination of the Health Department or a qualified medical doctor licensed in the State of Maryland, might render the applicant unfit for the safe operation of a vehicle;

(10) If the applicant has any outstanding fines or citations issued under a previous taxicab license or certificate which are not already under appeal and which remain unpaid.

(b) The above factors are not to be considered the exclusive test of qualifications. The Director is empowered to consider other relevant facts which may bear on the fitness of the applicant.

* * * * *

DIVISION 4. - VEHICLE OPERATION REQUIREMENTS; VIOLATIONS AND FINES.

Sec. 20-112. Violation of law and monetary fines.

(a) The owner of each taxicab [or limousine] shall maintain the vehicle in accordance

1 with the laws of this State, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the provisions of this Subtitle
2 and other regulations or ordinances of the County, with due regard to the safety, comfort and
3 convenience of passengers and the general public. The driver of each taxicab [or limousine]
4 shall operate it in accordance with the same laws and principles.

5 (b) The Director may issue a notice of violation, including the amount of the applicable
6 fine, to any taxicab [or limousine] owner who permits operation of his/her vehicle where the
7 vehicle fails to meet the requirements of the laws of this State, the provisions of this Subtitle,
8 and other regulations or ordinances of the County. The fine for the first such violation shall be
9 One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), for second violation shall be Two Hundred Fifty Dollars
10 (\$250) and for a third or any subsequent violation shall be Five Hundred Dollars (\$500).

11 (c) The notice shall be mailed or delivered to the responsible party(ies) or their agents and
12 shall state: the specifics of the violation; the amount of the fine; the actions required for
13 compliance; a statement that the failure to comply with the notice may result in suspension or
14 revocation of the parties' license or certificate, or other legal action; and how the person or
15 company may appeal the violation notice.

16 (d) A notice of violation may be appealed as provided in Section 20-106 of this Code.

17 (e) If a violation notice is not appealed, or is upheld upon appeal, and the person or
18 company fails to correct the violation as required by the notice, the Director may take one or
19 more of the following actions:

20 (1) Issue a citation as provided in paragraph (f) of this Section;

21 (2) Revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew the license and/or certificate;

22 (3) Seek injunctive or other appropriate legal relief to enforce the provisions of this
23 Subtitle.

24 (f) Where the continued operation of a vehicle poses an immediate or ongoing
25 compromise to the safety of the riding public or the driver, in lieu of a violation notice, the
26 Director may issue a citation pursuant to Subtitle 28, Division 3, of this Code to a person,
27 persons who operates or permits others to operate a taxicab [or limousine] in violation of any
28 of the provisions of this Subtitle. The citation shall serve as notification to the person that he
29 has committed a civil violation and must pay to the County a monetary fine, subject to the right
30 to trial under Section 28-257 of this Code. The amount of the fine shall be Five Hundred
31 Dollars (\$500.00) for each violation, and each day in which the violation remains uncorrected

1 shall constitute a separate violation. In addition to the remedies provided under Section 28-
2 258 of this Code, the Director may revoke or suspend the license and/or certificate of a person
3 who fails to pay the fine or request adjudication of a citation.

4 **Sec. 20-113. Operation without a license or while suspended.**

5 Except as provided in Section 20-159 of this Code for taxicabs from other jurisdictions, it
6 shall be unlawful for any person to operate a taxicab [or limousine] for hire within the County
7 unless the operator holds a valid taxicab [or limousine] driver's license issued by the Director.
8 Any violation of this Section is subject to the provisions of Section 20-164 of this Code.
9 Failure to properly renew a taxicab [or limousine] driver's license is punishable by a fine of
10 [Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)] Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) per day (not to exceed [\$1,500] \$1,000)
11 for each day from the date of expiration to the date the application for renewal is received by
12 the Director. Non-renewal beyond 60 days may result in revocation of license for a minimum
13 of one (1) year.

14 * * * * *

15 **Sec. 20-116. Display; certificate and license.**

16 The driver shall have permanently on display at all times while on duty a copy of the
17 original of the certificate sealed or certified by the Department of [the Environment] Public
18 Works and Transportation, issued for the operation of the taxicab [or limousine], and the
19 driver's license with photograph, and number, clearly visible to passengers.

20 * * * * *

21 **Sec. 20-117. Use of the vehicle for unlawful purposes.**

22 The owner or driver of a taxicab [or limousine] shall not permit such vehicle to be used
23 for unlawful purposes, or knowingly to transport persons therein to places for such purposes.

24 **Sec. 20-118. Length of driver's working day.**

25 For purposes of this Section, any driver who is gainfully employed in any other
26 occupation for eight (8) hours or more a day shall be deemed a part-time driver. In no event
27 shall a part-time driver operate a taxicab [or limousine] for more than eight (8) hours in any
28 consecutive 24-hour period. No full-time driver shall operate, nor shall certificate holders or
29 their agents require full-time drivers to operate, a taxicab [or limousine] for more than twelve
30 (12) hours in any consecutive twenty-four (24) hour period.

31 * * * * *

1 **Sec. 20-120. Accident reports.**

2 Within two (2) working days after any accident involving a taxicab [or limousine] in
3 which property was damaged or any person injured, the driver shall make a written report to
4 the Director on an approved form.

5 * * * * *

6 **Sec. 20-126. Solicitation.**

7 Neither a driver nor an agent of a driver or owner shall solicit patronage for any taxicab
8 [or limousine] by word, signal or otherwise, on any public street or in a public building, or on
9 public property in the County, other than at a taxicab stand.

10 **Sec. 20-127. Cruising.**

11 [Except as to a vehicle registered as a limousine, a] A driver is permitted to cruise with
12 the intention of picking up as a passenger, a person hailing a taxicab. In picking up passengers,
13 a driver operating an accessible taxi cab shall give priority to individuals with disabilities.
14 When cruising at night the cruising light of a taxicab shall be lighted. Cruising is not permitted
15 by a [limousine, nor by a] taxicab within 500 feet of a taxicab stand.

16 * * * * *

17 **Sec. 20-130. Loading and unloading.**

18 A driver shall not stop to load or unload a passenger or his belongings in the intersection
19 of any street or on any crosswalk. A taxicab [or limousine] shall not load or unload in such
20 manner that will in any way impede or interfere with the orderly flow of traffic on the streets
21 or impede or interfere with the loading or unloading of passengers from buses at established
22 bus stops. A driver shall not permit a passenger to enter or to leave any taxicab from the left
23 side except at the left curb of any one-way street, or while parked perpendicular to the curb in
24 places where such parking is permitted.

25 * * * * *

26 **Sec. 20-132. Rates.**

27 A schedule of rates and charges approved by the County Council shall be displayed inside
28 each taxicab in a manner to be plainly visible to any passenger therein. The driver shall, upon
29 request of a passenger, give a receipt showing the operator's name, date, the time and place of
30 origin, destination, and the amount of the fare on an authorized form. [(Fares for limousines
31 are not regulated by the approved taxicab rates.)]

* * * * *

Sec. 20-133. Deception of passengers.

A driver shall not deceive or attempt to deceive a passenger who may ride in a taxicab [or limousine,] or who may desire to ride in such vehicle, as to the destination of the driver, or the rate of fare to be charged. The driver shall not convey any passenger, or cause him to be conveyed, to a place other than as directed by the passenger.

* * * * *

Sec. 20-136. Restriction on number of passengers.

A driver shall not permit to be carried in a taxicab, [or limousine,] at any one time, more persons, including the driver, but excepting children in arms, than the indicated seating capacity of the taxicab, [or limousine,] as rated by the automobile manufacturer.

* * * * *

Sec. 20-140. Found property.

In the event personal property is left in a taxicab [or limousine] by a passenger, the driver shall, within twenty-four (24) hours, notify the Director, giving a description of the property and the time it was left in the cab and other circumstances within the knowledge of the driver.

Sec. 20-141. Driver's conduct and appearance.

(a) Loud conversation, yelling, or calls to and from drivers of taxicabs [or limousines] is prohibited. The sounding of horns or other mechanical devices for purposes other than lawful traffic signals is prohibited.

(b) Drivers shall refrain from the use of profane, loud, insulting, or derogatory language and insulting or intimidating conduct while driving or operating a taxicab [or limousine].

(c) Drivers shall present a neat and clean appearance at all times while on duty and shall maintain good personal hygiene.

(d) Any violation of this Section shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of a license.

Sec. 20-142. Smoking and use of tobacco.

(a) A driver shall not smoke cigarette(s), cigars, or a pipe while in a taxicab [or limousine].

(b) A passenger shall not smoke in a taxicab [or limousine].

(c) All taxicabs [or limousines] shall display a "Smoking is Prohibited" sign at all times.

1 (d) violation of this Section shall be a misdemeanor subject to a One Hundred Dollar
2 (\$100.00) fine.

3 **Sec. 20-143. Alcohol and controlled dangerous substances.**

4 (a) At no time while on duty shall the driver of a taxicab use or possess alcoholic
5 beverages, controlled dangerous substances, or other habit-forming drugs. The transportation
6 of alcoholic beverages in possession of a paying passenger is permitted, provided that the
7 alcoholic beverages are transported in the trunk of the vehicle. Transportation of narcotic drugs
8 for delivery that are prescribed by a licensed medical doctor is allowed in the custody of the
9 driver if the driver obtains a receipt upon delivery, such receipt to include the signature of the
10 recipient and the identification of the drugs. If the intended recipient refuses to sign the receipt,
11 the driver shall refuse delivery and shall notify the Police Department as soon as possible and
12 give possession of the narcotic drug to the police.

13 (b) Any driver convicted of a traffic-related offense involving the use of alcohol or a
14 controlled dangerous substance, whether on or off duty, shall be subject to an immediate
15 suspension or revocation of his license.

16 (c) Passengers shall not use alcoholic beverages or controlled dangerous substances or
17 other habit-forming drugs while being transported in a taxicab.

18 [(d) A limousine operator and passengers may possess alcohol for consumption by the
19 passengers.]

20 **Sec. 20-144. Alcohol or controlled dangerous substance testing.**

21 (a) A driver must submit to a test if the Director or a police officer has reasonable grounds
22 to believe that the driver has been or is drinking alcoholic beverages or has used or is using a
23 controlled dangerous substance while on duty. The failure to submit to a test shall be sufficient
24 grounds for suspension or revocation of a license.

25 (b) The Director may authorize the initiation of random drug testing of drivers of taxicabs
26 [and limousines]. Any driver who fails to submit to random drug testing may be subject to the
27 immediate suspension or revocation of license.

28 **DIVISION 5. - VEHICLE DESIGN, EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND**
29 **INSPECTION.**

30 **Sec. 20-145. Design and equipment.**

31 (a) No taxicab [or limousine] shall be operated or allowed to be operated unless it

1 conforms to the following requirements [exceptions applying to registered limousines are
2 specifically indicated]:

3 (1) The vehicle shall be either of the built-for-the-purpose, or of the closed or sedan
4 type, and shall be equipped with at least four doors. Passenger doors must be so constructed
5 that they will remain securely fastened during normal operation, but may be readily opened by
6 a passenger in case of emergency.

7 (2) The vehicle shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide for the safety of
8 the travelling public, and continuous operation with minimum noise and vibration. It shall be
9 structurally sound as to all its parts, and shall not have missing, broken, or cracked fenders or
10 bumpers or glass.

11 (3) The vehicle shall be painted to give reasonable protection to its surface, and in a
12 color scheme approved by the Director as set forth in Section 20-153 of this Code.

13 (4) The vehicle shall be equipped with an engine adequate to enable it to operate
14 effectively and efficiently.

15 (5) The vehicle shall be equipped with a jack and safe tires, including a spare tire,
16 with sufficient tread in accordance with the State of Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
17 vehicle inspection standards. In no case shall the required tires have a tread depth of less than
18 three thirty-seconds of an inch.

19 (6) The vehicle shall have operating windshield wipers and windshield washer
20 equipment. The vehicle shall be equipped with approved safety glass in the windshield and all
21 windows. The center partition, if any, between the driver's compartment and the passenger's
22 compartment shall be of this type of glass or plastic.

23 (7) The vehicle shall have one set of operating seat belts for each passenger and the
24 driver.

25 (8) The vehicle shall be equipped with a standard speedometer, properly installed,
26 maintained in good working order and exposed to view. No vehicle shall be operated in service
27 if the speedometer is out of repair or disconnected.

28 (9) The vehicle shall be equipped with a heater sufficient to heat the interior
29 adequately in cold weather and air conditioning sufficient to cool the interior adequately during
30 hot weather.

31 (10) The vehicle shall not be equipped with any lights or signal devices except as allowed

1 by the Motor Vehicle Laws for the State of Maryland, and as approved by the Director.

2 (11) The vehicle shall not be equipped with shades or curtains which can be manipulated
3 in such a way as to shield the occupants or the driver from observation, or obstruct the rear
4 view window.

5 (12) The vehicle shall be equipped with a frame for the proper display of the certificate
6 and the license[, which, except in the case of a limousine,] shall face the passengers and be so
7 located as to be at all times in plain view of such passenger(s). The card frame shall be subject
8 to approval of the Director.

9 (13) With exception of a "kick" strip not exceeding seven inches in height at the bottom
10 of doors, no upholstery covering or interior lining shall be permitted in any licensed taxicab
11 unless such upholstery or lining is made of leather or similar nonabsorbent, washable material.
12 The rear cushion shall be removable. Floor mats shall be required in all licensed taxicabs and
13 shall be made of rubber, leather, or metal chain, or a similar, nonabsorbent, washable material
14 and shall be easily removable. [The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to licensed
15 limousines.]

16 (14) The vehicle shall be kept clean and in a sanitary condition. At least once every seven
17 days, the exterior shall be washed and the interior shall be cleaned thoroughly with a suitable
18 antiseptic solution.

19 (15) Except as provided in Sec. 20-145(a)(16), no taxicab shall continue in service which
20 is:

21 (a) as of January 1, 2018, more than eight (8) model years old unless an annual
22 waiver is granted by the Director. An annual waiver shall be based upon a written finding that
23 such vehicle has passed an inspection which ensures that such vehicle is safe and in good
24 operating condition.

25 (b) as of January 1, 2019, more than seven (7) model years old unless an annual
26 waiver is granted by the Director. An annual waiver shall be based upon a written finding that
27 such vehicle has passed an inspection which ensures that such vehicle is safe and in good
28 operating condition.

29 (c) as of January 1, 2020, more than six (6) model years old unless an annual waiver
30 is granted by the Director. An annual waiver shall be based upon a written finding that such
31 vehicle has passed an inspection which ensures that such vehicle is safe and in good operating

1 condition.

2 (15.1) No taxicab which is a Qualified Hybrid Vehicle or Plug-in Electric Drive Vehicle,
3 or accessible taxi shall continue in service which is:

4 (a) as of January 1, 2018, more than nine (9) model years old unless an annual waiver
5 is granted by the Director. An annual waiver shall be based upon a written finding that such
6 vehicle has passed an inspection which ensures that such vehicle is safe and in good operating
7 condition.

8 (b) as of January 1, 2019, more than eight (8) model years old unless an annual
9 waiver is granted by the Director. An annual waiver shall be based upon a written finding that
10 such vehicle has passed an inspection which ensures that such vehicle is safe and in good
11 operating condition.

12 (c) as of January 1, 2020, more than seven (7) model years old, unless an annual
13 waiver is granted by the Director. An annual waiver shall be based upon a written finding that
14 such vehicle has passed an inspection which ensures that such vehicle is safe and in good
15 operating condition.

16 (16) All taxicabs shall be equipped with flashing emergency lights approved by the
17 Director.

18 (17) Each taxicab shall have a medallion issued by the Director displayed on the driver
19 side front panel and rear trunk for that taxicab.

20 **Sec. 20-146. Maintenance and inspection.**

21 (a) The certificate holder shall insure that the taxicab [or limousine] is inspected at a duly
22 licensed Maryland state inspection station, at least twice during a twelve (12) month period.
23 An inspection shall be performed not more than six (6) months from the previous inspection.

24 (b) On an annual basis and as scheduled during the year, the Director shall inspect the
25 condition and general maintenance of all taxicabs for conformance with the requirements of
26 this Subtitle.

27 (c) If a taxicab [or limousine] is found to be unclean or unfit at any time, but otherwise in
28 safe condition, the Director may give the driver and certificate holder a reasonable time to
29 remedy the condition, after which the Director shall reinspect the vehicle. Violations of
30 cleanliness or maintenance requirements or failure to submit vehicle for inspection or
31 reinspection shall be cause for suspension or revocation of the certificate.

1 (d) An accessible taxi found to be unfit must be repaired within ten days of failing an
2 inspection. Failure to submit the vehicle for inspection or reinspection, or operation of the
3 vehicle in violation of this provision shall be cause for suspension or revocation of the
4 certificate.

5 (e) The certificate holder shall ensure that every taxicab satisfactorily passes an emissions
6 control test administered by the State of Maryland or an authorized test station on a biennial
7 basis.

8 * * * * *

9 **DIVISION 6. - CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION FOR TAXICABS [AND**
10 **LIMOUSINES].**

11 **Sec. 20-148. Application for required certificate.**

12 (a) Any owner of a taxicab [or limousine], including owners who are also drivers, shall
13 not drive or allow the same to be driven within the County, on or off-duty, unless such owner
14 has a valid certificate for each such taxicab [or limousine] issued under the provisions of this
15 Division.

16 (b) Application for a certificate to authorize the use of a vehicle as a taxicab [or
17 limousine] shall be made under oath by the prospective certificate holder to the Director upon a
18 form provided by the Director. The applicant shall provide the following information:

19 (1) The full name and the home and business address and telephone numbers of the
20 applicant. If the applicant is a corporation, a certified copy of the articles of incorporation shall
21 be provided.

22 (2) The trade name and the telephone number(s) under which the applicant does, or
23 proposes to do, business.

24 (3) A sworn statement of the financial status and responsibility of the applicant
25 including evidence of the ability to acquire and maintain the vehicle(s) for which the
26 certificates and registration authority is sought.

27 (4) Each criminal conviction, guilty plea, or plea of nolo contendere of the applicant,
28 or agents or officers of the applicant.

29 (5) The names of all drivers, their license numbers, and home addresses.

30 (6) The ownership, seating capacity, design and proposed color scheme, and make
31 and serial number of each vehicle.

1 (7) The make and number of each meter in each vehicle[, excepting limousines].

2 (8) The nature and location of depots, terminals, and garages to be used, if any.

3 (9) A description of the communications system to be used, if any.

4 (10) The specific experience of the applicant in the transportation of passengers for
5 hire.

6 (11) Description of service(s) to be rendered, including time(s) of operation.

7 [(12) For limousines, a schedule of fares.]

8 [(13)] (12) Evidence of insurance as set forth hereinafter.

9 [(14)] (13) A copy of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration vehicle registration
10 indicating new certificate holder as owner of the taxicab.

11 [(15)] (14) A Certificate of Good Standing from the State of Maryland.

12 [(16)] (15) A copy of any contract, fee structure, leasing or rental rates or other
13 operating agreement between a certificate holder and driver. The certificate holder or
14 applicant shall provide to the Director within three (3) business days any change in
15 such document provided.

16 [(17)] (16) Such other information as the Director may require in order to administer
17 these regulations.

18 **Sec. 20-149. Investigation of applicant.**

19 (a) The Director or his agent shall have an investigation made of the information
20 furnished in the application for a certificate. A memorandum of the investigative findings shall
21 be kept on file as a public record.

22 (b) Any vehicle which has not been operated for hire as a taxicab [or limousine] in Prince
23 George's County, Maryland, for a period of more than six (6) months prior to the date of the
24 application for a certificate shall be inspected at a duly licensed Maryland State Inspection
25 Station before the applicant can be issued a certificate of registration. The inspection shall
26 include all items which are normally required prior to transfer of title of a motor vehicle under
27 the provisions of the Transportation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The applicant
28 for a certificate of registration shall deliver to the Director a report signed by an authorized
29 vehicle inspector certifying the results of the inspection. If any such vehicle is found to be in
30 an unsafe condition, the applicant shall have the necessary repairs made to the vehicle and
31 shall have the vehicle certified as satisfactory by an authorized state inspector before the

1 applicant can be issued a certificate of registration.

2 **Sec. 20-150. Insurance requirements.**

3 (a) Before issuing any certificate under this Subtitle, the Director shall ascertain, as to
4 each vehicle, that the owner has insurance or surety bond for the vehicle covering bodily injury
5 or death to any passenger or other person in one accident in the amount of Twenty-five
6 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), multiple deaths or injury in one accident in the amount of Fifty
7 Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), and property damage in one accident in the amount of Ten
8 Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or the amounts required by the financial responsibility laws of the
9 State of Maryland, whichever are higher, and further that such insurance or surety covers the
10 full period for which the vehicle is to be licensed.

11 (b) Each taxicab [or limousine] must contain sufficient copies of a summary of insurance
12 information, in a form approved by the Director, that may be given to passengers, members of
13 the public, and law enforcement officers. The summary must include the following
14 information:

- 15 (1) the name and address of the vehicle owner;
- 16 (2) the vehicle's license tag number;
- 17 (3) the name, address, office hours and telephone number of the insurance claims
18 office responsible for adjusting any insurance claim arising from use of the vehicle; and
- 19 (4) the name, address, and telephone number of the Department and any other
20 governmental agency where complaints regarding insurance claims handling may be filed.

21 * * * * *

22 **Sec. 20-153. Color scheme and insignia.**

23 (a) Every vehicle [other than a limousine] covered by a certificate shall have a color
24 scheme, insignia and cruising light of a design approved by the Director. Each such color
25 scheme shall be clearly distinguishable from that used by other associations or owners.

26 (b) The Director shall designate a color scheme exclusively for vehicles that have met the
27 standards required as of January 1, 2020.

28 (c) Changes in color scheme, insignia, cruise light design, or the addition of advertising or
29 advertising devices or bumper stickers, shall have prior approval of the Director.

30 (d) The name of the taxicab company, owner or association shall be clearly painted on
31 both sides of all taxicabs in letters at least three (3) inches in height. [Limousines are

1 exempt from this requirement.]

2 (e) A medallion issued by the Director and the number of the certificate [, except for
3 limousines,] preceded by the "PG" designation shall be displayed on the driver side front
4 panel and rear trunk of the vehicle. The certificate number shall be displayed in figures at
5 least three (3) inches in height, and contrasting in color from the background colors as
6 follows: PG 900.

7 (f) The Director shall issue a medallion in a color scheme to differentiate between an
8 individual owner certificate and multiple owner certificate required under Sec. 20-152 of
9 this Subtitle.

10 **Sec. 20-154. - Termination of service.**

11 The certificate holder of a vehicle permanently removed from service must notify the
12 Director of such action in writing within forty-eight (48) hours, indicating whether the owner
13 "junks" the vehicle, sells it or transfers title to it, no longer uses it for hire, or whether the tags
14 have been stolen, or the registration of the vehicle has been revoked by the Maryland Motor
15 Vehicle Administration. When the vehicle is so out of service, all registration cards and other
16 papers issued by the Director to the owner shall be returned by the owner with notice that the
17 vehicle is out of service. The certificate holder shall paint out all identifying marks and
18 numbers indicating that the vehicle was used as a taxicab. The Director shall hold the
19 certificate until its normal expiration date, or until the holder applies for transfer of the
20 certificate to another vehicle prior to such date and within a period of ninety (90) days. If a
21 vehicle is not placed in service under the certificate within ninety (90) days, the certificate may
22 be revoked. The certificate holder shall notify the Director when any taxicab [or limousine]
23 covered by a certificate is temporarily taken out of service for a period longer than five (5)
24 days, explaining why the vehicle is out of service.

25 * * * * *

26 **Sec. 20-156. Limitation on number of certificates.**

27 (a) The Director shall issue to the owner for each taxicab [and for each limousine] a
28 certificate containing the information required by this Subtitle. The number of valid certificates
29 is limited at any given time to one thousand forty four (1,044), of which fifteen (15)
30 certificates shall be designated for taxicabs specially equipped for the transportation of
31 passengers in wheelchairs[, and fifty (50) for limousines]. The Director may issue an additional

1 fifteen (15) certificates for taxicabs equipped to transport passengers in wheelchairs and an
2 additional one hundred (100) certificates each calendar year beginning on October 1, 2011
3 pursuant to subsection (b) below, unless the number of valid certificates would exceed a ratio
4 of one per thousand (1/1,000) population in the County, as computed in the most recent
5 decennial U.S. Census or update published by the appropriate federal agency. The County
6 Council shall, annually review by July 15th, with consultation with the Director and Taxicab
7 Board, the allocation the total number of certificates by the appropriate class under Sec. 20-
8 152 of this Subtitle.

9 (b) The Director shall maintain a list, available to the public in alphabetical order, for the
10 lottery for certificates. In any calendar year, whenever there are less than the maximum
11 permitted number of such certificates outstanding, the Director shall conduct a lottery and
12 issue certificates to those drivers chosen by the lottery. The number of certificates available in
13 the annual lottery shall equal the maximum number permitted under subsection (a) above. To
14 participate in the lottery, applicants shall pay an annual fee of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00)
15 and complete a registration form, under oath, provided by the Department. Participation in the
16 lottery is limited to active drivers who have been licensed as drivers in the County for a period
17 of at least two years and who have not been issued a certificate. Certificates cannot be
18 subleased and may only be transferred pursuant to Sec. 20-155 of this Subtitle.

19 (c) The Director shall restrict the number of individual owner and multiple owner
20 certificates such that:

21 (1) the number of individual owner certificates will be no lower than twenty-five
22 percent (25%) and no higher than seventy-five percent (75%) of the total number of certificates
23 issued; and

24 (2) the number of multiple owner certificates will be no lower than twenty-five
25 percent (25%) and no higher than seventy-five percent (75%) of the total number of certificates
26 issued.

27 * * * * *

28 **Sec. 20-159. Taxicabs from other jurisdictions and other unauthorized vehicles.**

29 (a) The right of a taxicab [or limousine] operator, whose vehicle is duly registered in any
30 other jurisdiction of this State or in any other state or the District of Columbia, to bring a
31 passenger or passengers into this County when the trip has originated in the other jurisdiction

1 is hereby recognized. If the engagement of a taxicab has been what is known as a "waiting
 2 time" agreement the passenger or passengers so brought into this County may be taken there
 3 from by the same taxicab and operator, provided that the operator shall enter the facts as to the
 4 trip upon his manifest and shall have included the waiting time in his charge for the trip, and
 5 that the operator shall remain with the taxicab at the place of discharge of passengers until the
 6 return trip is begun.

7 (b) Operators of taxicabs [or limousines] registered in another jurisdiction shall have no
 8 rights to solicit business or transport other passengers in this County. The County Executive
 9 may enter into reciprocal agreements regarding taxicab service with other jurisdictions subject
 10 to County Council approval by resolution. Law enforcement authorities shall give full force
 11 and effect to the provisions of this subsection by issuing a citation to all taxicabs that operate
 12 in violation of these provisions. This requirement shall apply to all locations within Prince
 13 George's County where taxicab service is provided. The fine for each such violation shall be
 14 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

15 **DIVISION 7. - RATES AND METERS.**

16 **Sec. 20-160. - Rates.**

17 (a) Regular Taxicab Rates. The regular rates to be charged by taxicab drivers are as
 18 follows:

19 (1) Three Dollars (\$3.00) up to the first one-seventh (1/7) of a mile or part thereof
 20 traveled. In addition, a One Dollar (\$1.00) per trip surcharge is imposed on any trip that
 21 originates between the hours of 8:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.

22 (2) Thirty cents (\$.30) for each additional one-seventh (1/7) of a mile or part thereof,
 23 the first five cents (\$.05) of which shall be paid directly and in its entirety to the driver, and
 24 shall not be subject to the provisions of any agreement between the driver and any Certificate
 25 Holder, Company or Association.

26 (3) One Dollar (\$1.00) for each additional passenger traveling to any point; provided,
 27 however, that one child less than six (6) years old traveling with an adult, and senior citizens
 28 aged sixty (60) and over and attendants providing physical assistance to handicapped
 29 individuals shall not be charged. The driver shall have the right to require proof of age from
 30 senior citizens.

31 (4) In addition to the mileage charge, there shall be a time charge for any time that

1 the vehicle is stopped or operating at a speed of under twelve (12) miles per hour at a rate of
2 Twenty-five Cents (\$.25) for each sixty (60) seconds.

3 (5) Pets may be transported at the discretion of the driver; provided, however, that the
4 driver shall transport any assistance dog or any licensed guide dog for the handicapped free of
5 charge.

6 (6) At the discretion of the driver, an appropriate fare can be demanded before
7 departure.

8 (7) A service charge of One Dollar (\$1.00) shall be levied by the taxicab driver for
9 any personal service rendered by the driver. However, there shall be no personal service charge
10 levied on any person who is confined to a wheelchair, or is aged sixty (60) and over, or
11 physically handicapped. There shall be no personal service charge for the removal and carrying
12 of luggage or the use of the trunk of the taxicab, provided the passenger is physically
13 handicapped.

14 (8) The charge for the hiring of a taxicab and driver shall be Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00)
15 per hour plus mileage.

16 (9) No fee shall be charged for transporting hand-carried luggage or packages. The
17 charge for using the trunk of the taxicab shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) in addition to all other
18 fares.

19 (10) During snow emergency conditions a Three Dollar (\$3.00) per trip surcharge is
20 imposed. Snow emergency conditions shall be determined by the County Executive.

21 (11) A One Dollar (\$1.00) per trip surcharge may be imposed for trips originating
22 from a Destination Attraction.

23 (b) The County Council may establish a fixed charge for trips by taxicabs that originate
24 within the County to destination points within and outside of the County, notwithstanding
25 federal or state laws or regulations.

26 [(c) Limousine Rates. A limousine duly registered under the provisions of this Subtitle
27 shall carry passengers at rates set forth in an agreement with users.]

28 [(d)] (c) On or before July 1 of each year, the Director shall perform a rate survey and
29 submit recommendations to the County Executive for taxicab rate adjustments. The Director's
30 review shall take into account any information relative to proposed rate adjustments submitted
31 by representatives of the taxicab industry on or before May 1 of each year. Information

1 submitted by representatives of the taxicab industry should compare current cost of taxicab
 2 operations prior to the adoption of the last rate adjustment and shall contain information as to
 3 the current profitability of the taxicab industry.

4 [(e)] (d) Prior to September 1 of each odd-numbered year, the County Executive shall
 5 transmit to the County Council his recommendations for any such taxicab rate
 6 adjustments.

7 **Sec. 20-160.01. Emergency Fuel Cost Surcharge.**

8 (a) If the County Executive finds that the average retail price of regular gasoline fuel in
 9 the region has exceeded the price of \$3.00 per gallon, the County Executive may declare a Fuel
 10 Cost Emergency and may authorize the Director of [the Environment] Public Works and
 11 Transportation to establish a Fuel Cost Emergency Surcharge.

12 (b) During the emergency, the Director shall set an amount which shall be charged per
 13 trip in addition to the rates established in Section 20-160 of the Code.

14 (c) The fuel cost emergency surcharge shall be \$1.00 for each fare.

15 (d) The fuel cost emergency surcharge may not be charged to any person who is sixty (60)
 16 years and over.

17 (e) The fuel cost emergency surcharge may not be charged for any fare pursuant to a
 18 County contract.

19 **Sec. 20-160.02. Payment Methods.**

20 (a) Except as provided in Section 20-159 of this Code for taxicabs from other
 21 jurisdictions, cash and credit cards shall be acceptable forms of payment for all taxicabs [and
 22 limousines] operating in Prince George's County by January 1, 2017.

23 (b) Rates for credit card usage are established under Sec. 20-160. No additional fees or
 24 surcharges shall be imposed on a passenger.

25 **Sec. 20-161. - Meter requirements.**

26 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a taxicab, or to cause a taxicab to be
 27 operated for hire, or to accept any passenger for hire, or to carry any paying passenger within
 28 the County unless such vehicle shall be equipped with a taximeter which shall have been
 29 sealed by the County and which shall be in operation at all times while any paying passenger is
 30 riding in such taxicab. This Subsection shall not apply to a taxicab which displays a sign
 31 clearly visible from outside the vehicle, reading, "Not in Service" or "Out of Service" and

1 which taxicab is in fact "Out of Service."

2 (b) The Board may recommend and the Director shall approve the types of taximeters to
 3 be used on taxicabs in conformity with specifications and tolerances as set by the National
 4 Bureau of Standards. The Director shall road test the taximeter for accuracy and conformity
 5 with approved rates at least once each calendar year. The meter shall be sealed after testing.
 6 Regulations concerning the use and maintenance of taximeters, not inconsistent with this
 7 Section, as may be necessary to promote the purpose hereof, shall be promulgated by the
 8 Director with recommendations from the Board.

9 (c) Taximeters must register the fare upon illuminated counters plainly visible to a
 10 passenger.

11 (d) It shall be unlawful for any person:

12 (1) To use any taximeter until the same shall have been inspected, found to be
 13 accurately set to operate at approved rates, and sealed by a County Inspector;

14 (2) To operate any vehicle with a taximeter unsealed or not having its access port
 15 intact;

16 (3) To carry passengers for hire except while operating the taximeter in accordance
 17 with the provisions of this Subtitle, provided, however, that the Director may grant a waiver to
 18 this provision for a contract with a government agency filed with the Department of [the
 19 Environment] Public Works and Transportation that permits discounted rates or rates lower
 20 than those computed by the taximeter upon a written determination by the Director that the
 21 contract provisions will not result in a significant reduction of service to the general public or
 22 impact a licensee's ability to earn a living while maintaining the integrity of the contractual
 23 services;

24 (4) To make any charge for the transportation of a passenger other than as provided
 25 under this Subtitle; or

26 (5) To make any change in the mechanical, electrical, or electronic condition of a
 27 taxicab or its meter with intent to cause false registration by the meter of the fare to be charged
 28 a passenger.

29 **SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED** that the provisions of this Act are hereby
 30 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
 31 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of

1 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
2 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
3 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
4 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
5 or section.

6 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
7 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this 14th day of November, 2023.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

* * * * *