

ORDINANCE NO. **10498**

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AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs, for-hire vehicles and for-hire driver licensing and enforcement and prescribing penalties, authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Seattle and the Port of Seattle to establish regional cooperation and coordination of governmental regulations regarding the taxicab industry, setting of taxicab rates, repealing Ordinance 1120, Sections 1 through 48, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.010 through K.C.C. 6.64.570, and adding new sections.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

**I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. Ordinance 1120, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.010 are each hereby repealed, and the following is substituted:

Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter and unless the context plainly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

A. "Affiliated Representative" means the individual within the service organization who has the authority to file special rates and contract agreement rates and charges for a group of affiliated taxicabs, and who is designated as the individual responsible for the receipt of any correspondence or notices pertaining to the service organization or the taxicabs or for-hire vehicles operating within the service organization.

B. "Affiliated Taxicab" means a taxicab associated with a service organization.

C. "Alcohol" means a mixture containing no less than eighty-five percent methanol, ethanol or other alcohols, in any combination, by volume.

D. "Alternative fuel" means a means for propulsion by other than gasoline or diesel fuel and shall include:

1. Alcohol.
2. Dual energy.
3. Electricity.

- 1 4. Natural gas.
- 2 5. Propane.
- 3 6. Human powered.

4 E. "Approved mechanic facility" means a garage or repair  
5 facility who employs mechanics who have successfully passed the  
6 examinations of, and met the experience requirements prescribed by  
7 the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, and who  
8 have been awarded Certificates in Evidence of Competence  
9 satisfactory to the director, and who are Authorized Emission  
10 Specialists certified by the Washington Department of Ecology, and  
11 none of whom are the owner, lessee, or driver of a taxicab, or  
12 for-hire vehicle or the employee of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
13 company, and none of whom have a financial interest in a taxicab  
14 or for-hire vehicle or taxicab or for-hire vehicle company.

15 F. "Contract Agreement Rate" means the rate specified in a  
16 written agreement signed by both parties in advance of the  
17 dispatch of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle for the services  
18 identified in the contract.

19 G. "Director" means the director of the King County  
20 department of executive administration and his duly appointed  
21 representatives.

22 H. "Dual energy" means capable of being operated using an  
23 alternative fuel and gasoline or diesel fuel.

24 I. "Engage in the business of operating a taxicab or vehicle  
25 for hire" means the pickup and transportation of any fare paying  
26 passenger from a point within the geographical confines of  
27 unincorporated King County, whether or not the vehicle is  
28 dispatched from a taxicab stand or office within any other  
29 municipal corporation, and whether or not the ultimate destination  
30 or route of travel is within the confines of unincorporated King  
31 County; provided, that nothing in this chapter shall be construed  
32 to apply to taxicabs or for-hire vehicles licensed by any other  
33 municipal corporation and transporting passengers from a point

1 within the licensing municipality to a destination outside  
2 thereof, whether or not the ultimate destination or route traveled  
3 is within unincorporated King County.

4 J. "For-hire driver" means any person in control of,  
5 operating or driving a taxicab or for-hire vehicle and includes a  
6 lease driver, owner/operator, or driver of taxicabs or for-hire  
7 vehicles as an employee.

8 K. "For-hire vehicle" means and includes every motor vehicle  
9 used for the transportation of passengers for hire, and not  
10 operated exclusively over a fixed and definite route, except:

11 1. taxicabs;

12 2. passenger vehicles carrying passengers on a  
13 noncommercial enterprise basis;

14 3. vehicles or operators expressly exempt by  
15 R.C.W. from county regulation;

16 4. operators of charter boats.

17 L. "He" means and includes in all references either he or  
18 she.

19 M. "His" means and includes in all references either his or  
20 her.

21 N. "Independent taxicab" means a taxicab that is not  
22 affiliated with a service organization.

23 O. "Lease driver" means a for-hire driver who is an  
24 independent contractor/sole proprietor and who has a taxicab for-  
25 hire vehicle lease contract or other form of agreement with a  
26 taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner or service organization.

27 P. "Lessor" means an owner of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
28 who leases, by contract or other form of agreement, to a lease  
29 driver as defined in this section.

30 Q. "Licensee" means all applicants, including for-hire  
31 drivers, vehicle owners, and service organizations including the  
32 affiliated representative required to license under the provisions  
33 of this chapter.

1 R. "Motor vehicle" means every motorized vehicle by or upon  
2 which any person may be transported or carried upon a public  
3 street, highway or alley; provided, that vehicles used exclusively  
4 upon stationary rail tracks or propelled by use of overhead  
5 electric wires shall not come under the provisions of this  
6 chapter.

7 S. "Service organization" means a group of taxicabs owned or  
8 operated by the same or various owners and using the same color  
9 scheme, trade name, dispatch services, and having an affiliated  
10 representative.

11 T. "Special rate" means discounted rates for senior citizens  
12 and disabled.

13 U. "Taxicab" means every motor vehicle used for the  
14 transportation of passengers for hire, where the route traveled or  
15 destination is controlled by a customer and the fare is based on  
16 an amount recorded and indicated on a taximeter, or on a special  
17 fare rate or contracted agreement as permitted by this chapter.

18 V. "Taxicab vehicle owner" means the registered owner of the  
19 vehicle as defined by RCW 46.04.460 as now or hereafter amended.

20 W. "Taximeter" means any instrument or device by which the  
21 charge for hire of a passenger carrying vehicle is measured or  
22 calculated either for the distance traveled by such vehicle or for  
23 waiting time, or for both, and upon which such calculated charges  
24 shall be indicated by means of figures.

25 SECTION 2. Ordinance 1120, Sections 2 through 48, as  
26 amended, and King County Codes 6.64.020 through 6.64.570 are each  
27 repealed.

28 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. Purpose. The purpose of this  
29 ordinance is to further for the public the safety, reliability,  
30 and economic viability and stability of privately operated taxicab  
31 transportation services within King County. These matters are  
32 matters of public concern, and accordingly, this ordinance is  
33 intended to protect the public as a whole and shall not be

1 construed to create a duty toward any particular individual or  
2 groups of individuals.

3 NEW SECTION. SECTION 4. Scope of authority. Unless  
4 otherwise specifically stated, binding provisions shall apply to  
5 all licensees operating in the unincorporated areas of King County  
6 and other jurisdictions or public agencies authorized to contract  
7 for services with King County under the authorities provided in  
8 the Interlocal Agreement Act, RCW 39.34, as amended; provided,  
9 that should provisions herein conflict with those contained in any  
10 such interlocal agreement, the interlocal agreement shall  
11 supercede in all cases.

12 NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. Interlocal agreement. A. The  
13 executive may execute an interlocal agreement with the City of  
14 Seattle and/or the Port of Seattle for the purposes of  
15 coordinating and consolidating for-hire driver, taxicab and for-  
16 hire vehicle licensing, administration and enforcement, reducing  
17 duplication of licensing functions, and a sharing of license fees  
18 as agreed to by the city and county. The agreement may authorize  
19 the city to accept and investigate applications for and issue  
20 taxicab and for-hire vehicle licenses and license renewals on  
21 behalf of the county, provided that the city uses the requirements  
22 of this chapter for taxicab and for-hire vehicle licenses. The  
23 agreement may authorize the county to accept and investigate  
24 applications for and issue for-hire driver licenses and license  
25 renewals and/or taxicab vehicle licenses and license renewals on  
26 behalf of the city, provided that the city agrees to the  
27 requirements of this chapter for driver licenses and/or taxicab  
28 licenses.

29 B. The Executive is directed to begin negotiating an  
30 interlocal agreement with the City of Seattle and with the Port of  
31 Seattle to accomplish the objectives stated in Section 5(A) of  
32 this ordinance. The Executive shall report to the Council no  
33 later than April 1, 1994 on the status of negotiating an

1 interlocal agreement with the City of Seattle and the Port of  
 2 Seattle regarding regional taxicab and for-hire vehicle  
 3 regulation.

4 NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. Fees. A. The following non-  
 5 refundable fees shall apply:

6 A. Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Fees

7 1. Taxicab or For-hire Vehicle License

	Regional (Seattle & King Co.)	County
8 County/City	\$225.00	\$140.00
9 Late Fee	22.50	14.00
10 Vehicle Equipment Charge	50.00	25.00
11 Change of Owner: Sept/Feb	225.00	140.00
12 Mar/Aug	112.50	140.00
13 Replace Taxicab Plate	10.00	10.00
14 Vehicle Inspection	10.00	10.00

15 2. For-Hire Driver

16 For-Hire License	50.00	50.00
17 Late Fee	10.00	10.00
18 ID Photo	2.00	2.00
19 Fingerprinting	17.00	17.00
20 Replacement License	2.00	2.00
21 Training Reschedule Fee	per contract	

22 B. During the years 1991 through 1996, the fee will be  
 23 waived for those taxicabs and for-hire vehicles which, upon  
 24 inspection by the director, are found to operate on alternative  
 25 fuel.  
 26

27 C. The Regional fees specified in Section 6(A) of this  
 28 ordinance shall not go into effect until such time as King County  
 29 and the City of Seattle have executed an interlocal agreement as  
 30 contemplated in Section 5 of this ordinance.

31 **II. TRADE NAME AND COLOR SCHEME REGISTRATION**

32 NEW SECTION. SECTION 7. Service organization registration.

33 A registration shall be filed by the affiliation representative

1 with the director annually on or before August 31 on forms  
2 provided for same and shall be sworn to and notarized and include  
3 the following:

4 A. The name, business address, and business phone number of  
5 the service organization;

6 B. Ownership information including the names, home  
7 addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, social security numbers  
8 of any owner, or if a corporation or other business entity, of the  
9 officers and registered agent, true legal name, state of  
10 incorporation and Washington business license number, and any  
11 other information which may be reasonably required;

12 C. The color scheme the taxicabs in the service organization  
13 will be operating under and two (2) 2" X 2" sample color chips;

14 D. The name, address, phone number and date of birth of the  
15 affiliated representative;

16 E. The taxicab number and the name of each taxicab vehicle  
17 owner operating under the service organization;

18 F. Any other information as may be required by the director.

19 NEW SECTION. SECTION 8. Color scheme. The director shall,  
20 in the interest of protecting the public from being deceived or  
21 confused, have the exclusive control in the granting of permission  
22 to use any color scheme, design, or monogram by any taxicab and/or  
23 taxicab service organization.

24 NEW SECTION. SECTION 9. Independent color scheme.  
25 Independent taxicab owners shall file the color scheme the taxicab  
26 will be operating under on forms provided for same including two  
27 (2) 2" x 2" sample color chips.

### 28 **III. VEHICLE LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS**

29 NEW SECTION. SECTION 10. Taxicab and for-hire license  
30 required. It is unlawful to own or operate, advertise, or engage  
31 in the business of operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle in  
32 unincorporated King County without first having obtained, for each  
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1 and every vehicle so used, a taxicab or for-hire vehicle license.  
2 (Class M)

3 NEW SECTION. SECTION 11. Application. An application shall  
4 be filed by the registered owner of the vehicle to be used as a  
5 taxicab or for-hire vehicle on forms provided by the director.  
6 The application shall be signed and sworn to by the applicant and  
7 shall include:

8 A. The full name of the applicant, date of birth, social  
9 security number, business address, home address, phone number, and  
10 any other applicant information as may be reasonably required;

11 B. If the applicant is a corporation, the corporation name,  
12 corporation's business address and telephone number, full names,  
13 titles, dates of birth, social security numbers, home addresses  
14 and phone numbers of each officer, and the name, address, date of  
15 birth, and phone number of the registered agent of the  
16 corporation, and any other corporation information as may be  
17 reasonably required;

18 C. Vehicle information including the name and number the  
19 taxicab or for-hire vehicle will be operating under, the make,  
20 model, year, vehicle identification number, Washington State  
21 license number, and any other vehicle information as may be  
22 reasonably required;

23 D. Whether or not the applicant(s) have ever had a license  
24 suspended, revoked or denied and for what reason;

25 E. Criminal history information of the applicant, or if a  
26 corporation, each officer and registered agent.

27 NEW SECTION. SECTION 12. Required Documents. In addition  
28 to the application required in Section 11, the applicant for a  
29 taxicab or for-hire vehicle license shall submit the following:

30 A. State of Washington For-Hire Certificate;

31 B. State of Washington vehicle registration;

32 C. Certificate of insurance as required in Section 15;

33 D. Certificate of safety as required in Section 16;



1 E. City of Seattle Weights and Measures vehicle inspection  
2 approval;

3 F. Other documents as may be reasonably required.

4 NEW SECTION. SECTION 13. Applicant Requirements. No  
5 person, or if the applicant is a corporation, no officer or  
6 registered agent, shall be issued a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
7 license unless the following minimum applicant qualifications are  
8 met;

9 A. Must be eighteen years of age or older;

10 B. Must present documentation, as required by the United  
11 States Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization  
12 Service, that the applicant is authorized to work and/or own a  
13 business in the United States.

14 NEW SECTION. SECTION 14. Vehicle Requirements. No person,  
15 or if the applicant is a corporation, no officer or registered  
16 agent, shall be issued a taxicab or for-hire vehicle license  
17 unless the following minimum vehicle requirements are met:

18 A. Must meet a color scheme approved by the director;

19 B. Must be properly insured as required in Section 15;

20 C. Must meet the safety standards as required in Section 16;

21 D. Must meet the vehicle standards as required in Section

22 17.

23 NEW SECTION. SECTION 15. Insurance Required.

24 A. The applicant shall file a certificate of insurance  
25 providing proof of compliance with R.C.W. Chapter 46.72, as now or  
26 hereafter amended, for each taxicab or for-hire vehicle to be  
27 licensed. The certificate shall also provide that the insurer  
28 notify the director of any cancellation, in writing, at least  
29 thirty days prior to cancellation of the policy;

30 B. Such certificate shall be issued by a company authorized  
31 to carry on an insurance business in the State of Washington;

32 C. King County shall be named as a certificate holder;

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1           D. In addition, all applicants shall maintain a policy of  
2 underinsured motorist coverage which runs to the benefit of  
3 passengers; provided, that a certificate of self-insurance issued  
4 pursuant to RCW 46.29.630 may be filed with the director in lieu  
5 of such policy. Proof of compliance will be a certificate of  
6 insurance indicating a minimum coverage of ten thousand dollars  
7 per person, and twenty thousand dollars per accident;

8           E. If an insurance policy is cancelled, proof of a new  
9 policy must be filed prior to the date of cancellation or the  
10 taxicab or for-hire vehicle license is automatically suspended and  
11 must be surrendered to the director.

12           NEW SECTION. SECTION 16. Certificate of Safety. The  
13 certificate of safety required in Section 12 shall be performed by  
14 an approved mechanic facility as defined in this chapter. Such  
15 inspection shall ensure the mechanical and structural integrity of  
16 the vehicle and shall include:

17           A. Adequate braking system including emergency or auxiliary  
18 as per the manufacturer's allowable tolerance;

19           B. Adequate suspension system to prevent excessive motion  
20 when the vehicle is in operation;

21           C. Adequate steering system as per the manufacturer's  
22 allowable tolerance;

23           D. Exhaust system that is free of leaks, defects, or  
24 tampering and that meets State of Washington motor vehicle  
25 emissions standards;

26           E. No fluid leaks, including but not limited to motor oil,  
27 antifreeze, transmission fluid, and brake fluid;

28           F. Air conditioning system free of CFC leaks, if the vehicle  
29 has such system;

30           G. No excessive noise;

31           H. Mechanically sound;

32           I. Front end aligned.  
33

1            NEW SECTION. SECTION 17. Vehicle Standards. No taxicab or  
2 for-hire vehicle shall be operated unless it meets the minimum  
3 vehicle standards as prescribed in this section. Each taxicab or  
4 for-hire vehicle shall be inspected by the director before it is  
5 placed into service and thereafter semi-annually. No taxicab or  
6 for-hire vehicle shall be operated without having passed  
7 inspection within the last six months. The inspection required by  
8 this section and the vehicle operating standards shall include the  
9 following:

10            A. Current taxicab vehicle plate or for-hire vehicle decal  
11 displayed as prescribed by the director; (Class I)

12            B. Rate posting, numbers and letters displayed as prescribed  
13 by the director; (Class I)

14            C. Color scheme, decals, and insignias as approved by the  
15 director; (Class I)

16            D. Windshield wiping blades, switch and defroster, all fully  
17 operational; (Class I)

18            E. Mirrors, rear and side view (2), adjustable, and free of  
19 cracks or defects; (Class I)

20            F. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle must be equipped with  
21 four doors, and all door latches shall be operable from both the  
22 interior and exterior of the vehicle; (Class I)

23            G. The windshield shall be without cracks, chips or defects  
24 that could interfere with the driver's vision. All other windows  
25 shall be intact and able to be opened and closed as intended by  
26 the manufacturer. The windows and windshield shall be maintained  
27 in a clean condition so as not to obstruct visibility; (Class I)

28            H. Adequate emergency braking system; (Class I)

29            I. Headlights shall be operable on both high and low beam.  
30 Taillights, parking lights, signal lights, back-up lights, license  
31 plate lights, emergency flashers, and interior lights shall all be  
32 operable and properly covered with factory equivalent lenses;  
33 (Class I)

1 J. Tires, including spare, shall be properly inflated, and  
2 have a minimum tread depth of 2/32 inches as determined by gauge,  
3 on all surfaces contacting the road, and free of visible defects;  
4 (Class I)

5 K. No loose items on the taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
6 dashboard or rear shelf; (Class I)

7 L. Horn fully operational; (Class I)

8 M. Interior panels free of rips or tears, interior lights,  
9 dashboard instruments and lights operating properly; (Class I)

10 N. Floor covering on all floor areas, no metal showing, and  
11 no torn or ripped floor mats; (Class I)

12 O. Upholstered area and headliner to have no rips, torn  
13 seams, holes, or burns; (Class I)

14 P. Seats shall be unbroken, fastened securely, and have no  
15 exposed springs, wires, or framework; (Class I)

16 Q. Seat belts shall be functional and readily available for  
17 passenger use; (Class I)

18 R. Pedals shall have rubber pads with no metal showing;  
19 (Class I)

20 S. The trunk or luggage area must be covered either with a  
21 factory covering or a floor carpet. This covering or carpet shall  
22 be maintained in a clean condition, free of foreign matter,  
23 offensive odors, and litter. The trunk or luggage area shall  
24 contain only the following items:

25 1. A spare tire (inflated);

26 2. Those tools or accessories necessary for the safe  
27 operation of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle;

28 3. Those items necessary for vehicle cleaning and  
29 passenger safety and/or convenience;

30 4. A serviceable tire jack. (Class I)

31 T. Bumpers and body molding must be in good condition and  
32 properly attached as the manufacturer intended; (Class I)

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1 U. General body is to be free of noticeable dents, rust or  
2 holes which would impair the appearance or serviceability of the  
3 vehicle. A violation of this section is deemed to have occurred  
4 any time one or more of the following exists:

5 1. There are any visible dents which exceed three (3)  
6 square feet in any single area of the exterior surface of the  
7 taxicab or for-hire vehicle, provided, that the deepest point of  
8 depression is three-quarters of an inch deep or greater, or;

9 2. There are any visible dents which exceed four square  
10 feet of the total exterior surface of the taxicab or for-hire  
11 vehicle, provided that the deepest point of depression is three-  
12 quarters of an inch deep or greater, or;

13 3. There are any visible dents which exceed six lineal  
14 feet of the total exterior surface of the taxicab or for-hire  
15 vehicle, provided that the deepest point of depression is three-  
16 quarters of an inch deep or greater, or;

17 4. There are any areas of the exterior surface of the  
18 taxicab or for-hire vehicle that contain a hole larger than six  
19 square inches, or;

20 5. There is a visible dent which exceeds twelve inches  
21 square, provided that the deepest point of depression is more than  
22 two inches. (Class I)

23 V. Wheels and rims straight and aligned properly. Wheels  
24 must have hubcaps or covers. Rims are to be of uniform color;  
25 (Class I)

26 W. Two-way radio dispatch or telephone operational; (Class  
27 I)

28 X. Meter sealed and functioning per ordinance requirements;  
29 (Class I)

30 Y. Functional heater, defroster, and fan; (Class I)

31 Z. Consumer information board included as prescribed by the  
32 director; (Class I)

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1 AA. Decals, posters, or any other material shall not be  
2 placed on the windows or windshield so as to obscure the driver's  
3 or passenger's view; (Class I)

4 BB. A toplight that is activated by the use of the meter,  
5 size of the toplight and activation as prescribed by the director;  
6 (Class I)

7 CC. Other reasonable requirements as may be determined by  
8 the director.

9 NEW SECTION. SECTION 18. License expiration. Taxicab and  
10 for-hire vehicle licenses. All taxicab and for-hire licenses  
11 shall expire on August 31st of each year.

12 NEW SECTION. SECTION 19. Taxicab and for-hire vehicle  
13 license plate. The director shall furnish with each taxicab or  
14 for-hire vehicle issued one or more plates, decals, or tags,  
15 bearing the taxicab or for-hire vehicle number, as assigned by the  
16 director, and the expiration year of the license. All plates,  
17 decals or tags shall remain the property of the director.

18 NEW SECTION. SECTION 20. Taximeter.

19 A. Each taxicab shall be equipped with a taximeter as  
20 prescribed by the director;

21 B. Every taximeter shall be installed at the right side of  
22 the driver, either adjoining the cowl or dashboard of the taxicab,  
23 and, except for special service vehicles, shall contain only one  
24 fare rate;

25 C. The reading face of the taximeter shall at all times be  
26 well lighted and distinctly readable to passengers;

27 D. Upon satisfactorily passing the meter inspection, a  
28 written notice shall be plainly posted and a security seal  
29 attached to the taximeter as prescribed by the director;

30 E. The taximeter shall conform to the requirements  
31 prescribed in Weights and Measures Handbook #44 as now or  
32 hereafter amended.  
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1 F. The taximeter must have the capacity of storing the  
2 following information:

- 3 1. Total trips;
- 4 2. Total paid miles;
- 5 3. Total miles operated;
- 6 4. Total number of fare units and/or fare dollars;
- 7 5. Total number and/or dollars for extras.

8 NEW SECTION. SECTION 21. Consumer information board. Each  
9 taxicab or for-hire vehicle shall be equipped with a consumer  
10 information board, the size, material, and placement to be  
11 prescribed by the director. Such board shall include, at a  
12 minimum, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle name and number, the  
13 driver's for-hire driver's license number, the taxi hotline number  
14 and consumer survey and complaint cards.

15 NEW SECTION. SECTION 22. Taxicab and for-hire owner.  
16 Responsibilities. It is the responsibility of each taxicab or  
17 for-hire vehicle owner to ensure that the following conditions or  
18 requirements are met and continually maintained:

19 A. Proof of insurance as required in Section 15 is on file  
20 with the director; (Class M)

21 B. Any person driving, operating, in control of or any  
22 lessee of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle has been issued a for-  
23 hire driver's license and such license is valid; (Class M)

24 C. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the safety  
25 standards as set forth in Section 16 at all times the vehicle is  
26 operating; (Class I or M)

27 D. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the vehicle  
28 standards as set forth in Section 17 at all times the vehicle is  
29 operating; (Class I or M)

30 E. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner shall maintain a  
31 business address and a mailing address where he can accept mail,  
32 and a business telephone in working order that can be answered  
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1 during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, and during  
2 all hours of operation. (Class I)

3 NEW SECTION. SECTION 23. Standards for denial. Taxicab or  
4 for-hire vehicle owner.

5 A. The director shall deny any taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
6 owner license application if he determines that the applicant, or  
7 if a corporation, any of the officers or registered agent:

8 1. has made any material misstatement in the application  
9 for a license;

10 2. fails to meet any of the applicant or vehicle  
11 requirements of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner licensee;

12 3. has had a bail forfeiture or conviction for crimes  
13 pertaining to alcohol or controlled substances within five years  
14 of the date of application where such crime involved the use of a  
15 taxicab.

16 B. The director may deny any taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
17 owner license application if he determines that the applicant:

18 1. has had a bail forfeiture or conviction involving crimes  
19 reasonably related to the applicant's ability to operate a taxicab  
20 or for-hire business, including but not limited to prostitution,  
21 gambling, fraud, larceny, extortion, income tax evasion, provided  
22 that such bail forfeiture or conviction was within five years of  
23 the date of application;

24 2. has been found to have exhibited past conduct in driving  
25 or operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle or operating a taxicab  
26 or for-hire business which would lead the director to reasonably  
27 conclude that the applicant will not comply with the provisions of  
28 the chapter related to vehicle requirements and the safe operation  
29 of the vehicle;

30 3. engaged in the business of operating any taxicab or for-  
31 hire vehicle for which a license is required while unlicensed or  
32 while such license was suspended or revoked.

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1                    NEW SECTION. SECTION 24. Standards for  
2 suspension/revocation. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner.

3                    A. A taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner's license shall be  
4 immediately suspended if:

5                    1. at any time the insurance as required in Section 15  
6 expires, lapses, is cancelled or revoked;

7                    2. the taximeter security seal is missing, broken, or  
8 tampered with;

9                    3. the director places the vehicle out-of-service for a  
10 violation of a vehicle standard which is found to be an immediate  
11 safety hazard as further defined in this chapter;

12                   4. the vehicle owner fails to comply with a written Notice  
13 of Violation or Notice of Correction within the prescribed time;

14                   5. it is discovered after license issuance that the  
15 applicant; or if a corporation, any of the officers or registered  
16 agent, failed to meet the applicant qualifications, or that the  
17 vehicle failed to meet the vehicle qualifications, at the time the  
18 license was issued:

19                   B. The director may suspend or revoke a taxicab or for-hire  
20 vehicle owner's license if he determines that the licensee has:

21                   1. received a conviction or bail forfeiture for a crime  
22 which would be grounds for denial as set forth in Section 23 of  
23 this chapter;

24                   2. been found to have exhibited a record which would lead  
25 the director to reasonably conclude that the taxicab or for-hire  
26 vehicle owner licensee would not comply with the provisions of the  
27 chapter related to vehicle standards or operating requirements;

28                   3. allowed the operation of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
29 that does not meet the safety standards and the vehicle standards  
30 as set forth in this chapter;

31                   4. submitted a safety inspection form that was not  
32 completed by an approved mechanic facility as defined in this  
33 chapter;

1           5. provided false information in connection with the annual  
2 industry reporting required in this chapter.

3           NEW SECTION. SECTION 25. Destruction, replacement,  
4 retirement of a taxicab.

5           A. The taxicab vehicle owner shall notify the director  
6 within five working days whenever a taxicab is destroyed, rendered  
7 permanently inoperable, or is sold.

8           B. A replacement vehicle must be placed in service within  
9 sixty days of the date the original vehicle is removed from  
10 service unless prior written permission has been obtained from the  
11 director. It is the intent of this section that the director in  
12 granting such permission gives due consideration to the operating  
13 situation of the permit holder on a case-by-case basis. The  
14 following guidelines are to be used in granting permission for a  
15 permit holder to take longer than sixty days in placing a  
16 replacement vehicle in service:

17           1. The licensee must submit a written request for an  
18 extension of time, stating the specific reason additional time is  
19 required and identifying a plan and timetable for placing the  
20 replacement vehicle in service. Written documents sufficient to  
21 substantiate the factual information contained in the request  
22 should also be submitted;

23           2. The plan and timetable submitted must reflect a  
24 reasonable approach for placing the vehicle in service within the  
25 shortest possible time frame;

26           3. An additional period of time not to exceed sixty  
27 calendar days may be granted to a permit holder in case of severe  
28 personal illness or other similar hardship;

29           4. An additional period of time not to exceed thirty  
30 calendar days may be granted to a licensee in case of extensive  
31 vehicle repairs or other similar reason;

32           5. No extensions will be granted to any permit holder who  
33 is unable to meet the basic operational costs, including liability

1 insurance, regulatory fees, and normal maintenance and repairs of  
2 operating a taxicab vehicle;

3 6. No more than one extension in time will be granted for  
4 each vehicle permit during its license year (September 1 through  
5 August 31).

6 C. When a permit holder permanently retires any taxicab  
7 vehicle from service and does not replace it within 60 days, the  
8 permit for each retired vehicle shall be considered abandoned and  
9 null and void. The permit holder shall immediately surrender each  
10 related taxicab plate to the director. Such abandoned permits may  
11 not be restored or transferred by any means.

12 NEW SECTION. SECTION 26. Surrender of vehicle license.  
13 When a vehicle has been placed out-of-service, or a taxicab or  
14 for-hire vehicle license has been suspended or revoked, the  
15 operation of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle must cease, and the  
16 vehicle license plate or decal and taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
17 license surrendered immediately to the director. (Class M)

#### 18 **IV. FOR-HIRE DRIVER REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS**

19 NEW SECTION. SECTION 27. For-hire driver's license  
20 required. It is unlawful for any person to drive, be in control  
21 of, or operate a taxicab in the unincorporated areas of King  
22 County without first having obtained a valid for-hire driver's  
23 license. (Class M)

24 NEW SECTION. SECTION 28. Application. The applicant shall  
25 file an application on a form furnished by the director, which  
26 shall be signed and sworn to by the applicant and shall include:  
27 Name, height, weight, color of hair and eyes, residence address,  
28 place and date of birth, social security number, Washington State  
29 driver's license number, aliases, criminal history information,  
30 whether or not the applicant has ever had a license suspended,  
31 revoked, or denied and for what cause, and such other information  
32 as may be reasonably required.  
33

1            NEW SECTION. SECTION 29. Investigation. All applicants for  
2 a for-hire driver's license shall be referred to the King County  
3 Department of Public Safety for fingerprinting, and all  
4 applications shall be referred for a criminal background check.

5            NEW SECTION. SECTION 30. Qualifications. No person shall  
6 be issued a for-hire driver's license unless he possesses the  
7 minimum following qualifications as further defined in this  
8 chapter;

9            A. Must be twenty-one years of age or older;

10           B. Must possess a valid State of Washington driver's  
11 license;

12           C. Must submit a physician's certification certifying his  
13 fitness as a for-hire driver upon initial application and every  
14 three years thereafter;

15           D. Must submit a letter from the taxicab vehicle owner which  
16 has been approved by the service organization, if applicable,  
17 which indicates which taxicab(s) the applicant is authorized to  
18 operate;

19           E. Must have completed a training program offered or  
20 approved by the director;

21           F. Must successfully complete a written exam as further  
22 defined in this chapter;

23           G. Must present documentation, as required by the United  
24 States Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization  
25 Service, that the applicant is authorized to work in the United  
26 States.

27           NEW SECTION. SECTION 31. Temporary permit. A. Upon  
28 application for a for-hire driver's license and successful  
29 completion of the written examination, the director may, at his  
30 discretion, issue a temporary permit which shall entitle the  
31 applicant to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle pending final  
32 action upon his application for a period not to exceed 60 days  
33 from the date of the application.

1 B. The temporary permit shall not be transferable or  
2 assignable and shall be valid only for the taxicab(s) or for-hire  
3 vehicle(s) to which it was originally issued.

4 C. The temporary permit shall be immediately null and void  
5 should at any time the applicant's Washington State driver's  
6 license become expired, suspended or revoked, or following the  
7 denial of an application. The permit shall remain null and void  
8 pending the resolution of any appeal as provided.

9 D. In cases where the applicant fails to complete the  
10 license issuance process, a temporary license will not be issued,  
11 unless the incomplete license application was filed at least two  
12 years preceding the application under consideration.

13 NEW SECTION. SECTION 32. Application Null and Void. All  
14 applications for for-hire driver's licenses shall become null and  
15 void after sixty days from the date of filing if the applicant,  
16 for any reason, fails or neglects to complete the application  
17 process or obtain a license.

18 NEW SECTION. SECTION 33. Medical Certification.

19 A. The medical certification examination required under  
20 Section 30 of this chapter shall be performed by a licensed  
21 physician who shall certify the applicant's fitness as a for-hire  
22 driver.

23 B. The scope of the examination and the certificate form  
24 shall be prescribed by the director.

25 C. The examination shall be required upon initial  
26 application, and every three years thereafter; provided, however,  
27 the director may at any time at his discretion require any for-  
28 hire licensee or applicant to be re-examined if it appears that  
29 the licensee has become physically or mentally incapacitated to a  
30 degree so as to render the applicant or licensee unfit as a for-  
31 hire driver.

32 NEW SECTION. SECTION 34. Training Program.  
33

1           A. All for-hire driver applicants are required to complete a  
2 training program providing information about the history and  
3 geography of the Puget Sound area, incentives for defensive  
4 driving and personal safety, and enhancement of driver/passenger  
5 relations, appearance and communication skills.

6           B. Such training shall be required upon initial application  
7 and every two years thereafter.

8           C. The director shall assure that this training is offered  
9 by the county and/or offered by another public or private entity.  
10 If training offered by a non-county entity, certification for  
11 purposes of obtaining or renewing a license pursuant to this  
12 chapter is contingent upon the director's approval that contents  
13 and training staff capability are equivalent to what would be  
14 provided through the county.

15           NEW SECTION. SECTION 35. Written examination.

16           A. An applicant for an initial for-hire license shall be  
17 required to complete a written examination.

18           B. The examination will test the applicant's knowledge of  
19 the chapter requirements dealing with fare determination, driver-  
20 passenger relations, conduct including the applicant's ability to  
21 understand oral and written directions in the English language,  
22 vehicle safety requirements and driver regulations, and a  
23 satisfactory geographical knowledge of King County and surrounding  
24 areas. The content of the examination will be prescribed by the  
25 director.

26           C. The temporary license issued pursuant to Section 31 of  
27 this chapter will not be issued until successful completion of the  
28 written examination.

29           D. The written examination is not required for the renewal  
30 of a for-hire driver's license unless the applicant's license has  
31 remained expired for more than one year.

32           NEW SECTION. SECTION 36. Driving Record. Each applicant  
33 for a for-hire driver's license shall authorize the director to

1 obtain a current copy of his driving record from the Washington  
2 State Department of Licensing.

3 NEW SECTION. SECTION 37. Standards for denial of a license.  
4 For-hire driver.

5 A. The director shall deny any for-hire driver license  
6 application if he determines that the applicant:

7 1. has made any material misstatement in the application  
8 for a license;

9 2. fails to meet any of the qualifications of a for-hire  
10 driver;

11 3. has had a bail forfeiture or conviction for crimes  
12 pertaining to alcohol or controlled substances within five years  
13 of the date of application;

14 4. is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to  
15 R.C.W. 9A.44.130.

16 B. The director may deny any for-hire driver license  
17 application if he determines that the applicant:

18 1. has had a bail forfeiture or conviction involving  
19 crimes pertaining to prostitution, gambling, physical violence, or  
20 other crimes reasonably related to the applicant's honesty and  
21 integrity, including but not limited to fraud, larceny, burglary,  
22 extortion and/or reasonably related to his ability to operate a  
23 taxicab, provided that such bail forfeiture or conviction was  
24 within five years of the date of application;

25 2. has been found to have exhibited past conduct in  
26 driving or operating a taxicab which would lead the director to  
27 reasonably conclude that the applicant will not comply with the  
28 provisions of the chapter related to driver/operator conduct and  
29 the safe operation of the vehicle;

30 3. has been found to have exhibited a past driving record  
31 which would lead the director to reasonably conclude that the  
32 applicant would not operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle in a  
33 safe manner.

1           NEW SECTION. SECTION 38. Standards for  
2 suspension/revocation. For-hire driver.

3           A. A for-hire driver's license shall be immediately  
4 suspended/null and void if:

5           1. at any time his Washington State driver's license  
6 expires, is suspended or revoked;

7           2. it is discovered after license issuance that he fails  
8 to meet the qualifications of a for-hire driver;

9           3. he is found to be in possession of controlled  
10 substances or alcohol while in control of or while operating any  
11 taxicab or for-hire vehicle;

12           B. The director may suspend or revoke a for-hire driver's  
13 license if he determines that the licensee has:

14           1. received a conviction or bail forfeiture for a crime  
15 which would be grounds for denial as set forth in Section 37 of  
16 this chapter;

17           2. failed to comply with the driver standards as set forth  
18 in this chapter;

19           3. been found to have exhibited a driving record which  
20 leads the director to reasonably conclude that the applicant would  
21 not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle in a safe manner.

22           NEW SECTION. SECTION 39. License issuance. The director  
23 may obtain such other information concerning the applicant's  
24 character, integrity, personal habits, past conduct and general  
25 qualifications as will show the applicant's ability and skill as a  
26 driver of a motor vehicle for hire and his honesty, integrity and  
27 character for the purposes of determining whether the applicant is  
28 a suitable person to drive a motor vehicle for hire. If the  
29 director is satisfied that the applicant for a for-hire driver's  
30 license possesses the qualifications and is a suitable person to  
31 drive a motor vehicle for hire under the provisions of this  
32 chapter, he shall issue him a for-hire driver's license.  
33



1           NEW SECTION. SECTION 40. License Expiration. For-hire  
2 driver. All for-hire driver's licenses shall expire one year from  
3 the date of application.

4           NEW SECTION. SECTION 41. For-hire Driver Operating  
5 Standards. No driver shall operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
6 in violation of any of the for-hire driver standards as set forth  
7 in this chapter.

8                                   Vehicle Safety Standards

9           NEW SECTION. SECTION 42. A driver, before starting each  
10 shift, shall check the lights, brakes, tires, steering, seat  
11 belts, taximeter seal, and other vehicle equipment to see that  
12 they are working properly. The driver shall also ensure that the  
13 State for-hire certificate, the county and/or city taxicab or for-  
14 hire vehicle license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance  
15 card are in the vehicle. (Class I)

16           NEW SECTION. SECTION 43. A driver shall maintain the  
17 interior and the exterior of the taxicab or the for-hire vehicle  
18 in a clean condition and good repair. (Class I)

19           NEW SECTION. SECTION 44. A driver shall not transport more  
20 passengers than the number of seat belts available nor more  
21 luggage that the taxicab capacity will safely and legally allow.  
22 (Class I)

23           NEW SECTION. SECTION 45. A driver shall not drive, be in  
24 control of or operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that does not  
25 meet the vehicle standards as set forth in this chapter. (Class  
26 I)

27           NEW SECTION. SECTION 46. A driver shall allow the director  
28 to inspect the taxicab or for-hire vehicle at any reasonable time  
29 or place. (Class M)

30                                   Conduct Standards

31           NEW SECTION. SECTION 47. A driver shall not drink any  
32 alcoholic beverage while on duty or eight hours prior to going on  
33

1 duty nor have in his possession an open or unsealed container of  
2 any alcoholic beverage. (Class M)

3 NEW SECTION. SECTION 48. A driver shall, at the end of each  
4 trip, check his vehicle for any article that is left behind by his  
5 passenger(s). Such articles are to be reported as found property  
6 on the TAXI Hotline, as well as to the service organization, and  
7 such property is to be returned to the service  
8 organization/affiliated representative at the end of the shift or  
9 sooner if possible. Unaffiliated taxicabs or for-hire vehicles  
10 shall deposit said items at the King County Business License  
11 Section. (Class M)

12 NEW SECTION. SECTION 49. A driver shall have in his  
13 possession a valid for-hire driver's license at any time he is  
14 driving, in control of or operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
15 and such license shall be displayed as prescribed by the director.  
16 (Class I)

17 NEW SECTION. SECTION 50. A driver shall comply with any  
18 written Notice of Violation or Notice of Correction by the  
19 director including removal from service. (Class M)

20 NEW SECTION. SECTION 51. A driver shall not operate a  
21 taxicab or for-hire vehicle when such taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
22 has been placed out-of-service by order of the director. (Class  
23 M)

24 NEW SECTION. SECTION 52. A driver shall immediately  
25 surrender the vehicle license plate or decal to the director upon  
26 written notice that such vehicle is out-of-service. (Class M)

27 NEW SECTION. SECTION 53. A driver shall not be in control  
28 of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle for more than twelve (12)  
29 consecutive hours nor for more than twelve (12) hours spread over  
30 a total of fifteen (15) hours in any 24-hour period. Thereafter,  
31 such driver shall not drive any taxicab until eight (8)  
32 consecutive hours have elapsed. (Class I)

33

1           NEW SECTION. SECTION 54. A driver shall not drive, operate,  
2 or be in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle other than that  
3 designated on his temporary for-hire permit. (Class I)

4           NEW SECTION. SECTION 55. A driver shall not drive, be in  
5 control of or operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle where the  
6 customer information board, as required under the vehicle  
7 standards section of this chapter, is not present and contains the  
8 required information. (Class I)

9           NEW SECTION. SECTION 56. A driver shall operate the taxicab  
10 or for-hire vehicle with due regard for the safety, comfort and  
11 convenience of passengers. (Class I)

12           NEW SECTION. SECTION 57. A driver shall not solicit for  
13 prostitution nor allow the vehicle to be used for such unlawful  
14 purpose. (Class M)

15           NEW SECTION. SECTION 58. A driver shall not knowingly allow  
16 the taxicab or for-hire vehicle to be used for the illegal  
17 solicitation, transportation, or sale, or any other activity  
18 related to controlled substances. (Class M)

19           NEW SECTION. SECTION 59. A driver shall deposit all refuse  
20 appropriately and under no circumstances, litter. (Class I)

21           NEW SECTION. SECTION 60. A driver shall not use offensive  
22 language, expressions, or gestures to any person while driving,  
23 operating, or in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle. (Class  
24 I)

25                                   Taxicab Meter/Rates Standards

26           NEW SECTION. SECTION 61. A driver shall not operate a  
27 taxicab that has a taximeter which is not sealed, in good working  
28 order, or accurate. (Class M)

29           NEW SECTION. SECTION 62. A driver must activate the  
30 taximeter at the beginning of each trip and deactivate the  
31 taximeter upon completion of the trip. Beginning of a trip means  
32 the point where the passenger is seated and the forward motion of  
33 the vehicle begins. (Class I)

1           NEW SECTION. SECTION 63. A driver shall assure that the  
2 meter reading is visible from a normal passenger position at all  
3 times. (Class I)

4           NEW SECTION. SECTION 64. A driver shall not operate a  
5 taxicab or for-hire vehicle that does not have the rate posted as  
6 prescribed by the director. (Class I)

7           NEW SECTION. SECTION 65. A driver shall not ask, demand or  
8 collect any rate or fare other than as specified on the meter,  
9 required by ordinance, or pursuant to special rates or contract  
10 rates on file with the director. (Class M)

11           NEW SECTION. SECTION 66. A driver shall complete tripsheets  
12 and shall show all trips in an accurate and legible manner as each  
13 trip occurs. (Class I)

14           NEW SECTION. SECTION 67. A driver shall complete all items  
15 on tripsheets including:

- 16           A. Driver's name and for-hire license number;  
17           B. Company name and vehicle name and number;  
18           C. Vehicle for-hire license number;  
19           D. Beginning and ending odometer reading;  
20           E. Beginning and ending time of each shift worked;  
21           F. Date, time, place or origin, and dismissal of each trip;  
22           G. Fare collected;  
23           H. Number of passengers;  
24           I. "No shows";  
25           J. Contract rates or special rates. (Class I)

26           NEW SECTION. SECTION 68. A driver shall allow the director  
27 to inspect the daily trip sheet at any time while driving, in  
28 control of or operating a taxicab.

29                           Driver-Passenger Relations Standards

30           NEW SECTION. SECTION 69. A driver shall wear suitable  
31 clothes that are neat and clean, and the driver shall be well  
32 groomed at all times while on duty. The term "well groomed" shall  
33 refer to that state of personal hygiene, body cleanliness and

1 absence of offensive body odor normally associated with bathing or  
2 showering on a regular basis, and shall mean that hair is neatly  
3 trimmed, beards and mustaches groomed and neatly trimmed at all  
4 times in order not to present a ragged appearance, and scalp and  
5 facial hair combed and brushed. The term "neat and clean" as it  
6 relates to clothes shall mean that all clothing is clean, free  
7 from soil, grease and dirt and without unrepaired rips or tears.  
8 The term "suitable clothes" shall mean full length pants, collared  
9 shirt, and shoes. It shall not be permissible for any driver to  
10 wear as an outer garment any of the following: undershirt or  
11 underwear, tank tops, body shirts (see-through mesh), swimwear,  
12 jogging or warm-up suits or sweatshirts or similar attire, shorts  
13 or trunks (jogging or bathing), sandals, or any similar clothing.  
14 (Class I)

15 NEW SECTION. SECTION 70. A driver shall provide his  
16 customer with professional and courteous service at all times.  
17 (Class I)

18 NEW SECTION. SECTION 71. A driver shall not refuse a  
19 request for service because of the driver's position in line at a  
20 taxicab zone; a passenger may select any taxicab in line. (Class  
21 M)

22 NEW SECTION. SECTION 72. A driver shall at all times assist  
23 a passenger by placing luggage or packages (under fifty (50)  
24 pounds) in and out of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle. (Class I)

25 NEW SECTION. SECTION 73. A driver shall not refuse to  
26 transport in the taxicab or for-hire vehicle any passenger's  
27 wheelchair which can be folded and placed in either the passenger,  
28 driver, or trunk compartment of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle,  
29 an assist dog or guide dog to assist the disabled or handicapped,  
30 groceries, packages or luggage when accompanied by a passenger.  
31 (Class M)

32 NEW SECTION. SECTION 74. A driver shall provide each  
33 passenger a receipt upon payment of the fare. The receipt shall

1 accurately show the date and time, the amount of the fare, the  
2 taxicab name and number, and the printed name and for-hire driver  
3 license number of the for-hire driver. (Class I)

4 NEW SECTION. SECTION 75. A driver shall use the most direct  
5 available route on all trips unless the passenger specifically  
6 requests to change the route. (Class M)

7 NEW SECTION. SECTION 76. A driver shall not permit a non-  
8 fare paying passenger, or pets, to ride in the taxicab or for-hire  
9 vehicle. Validly licensed trainees, when approved by the  
10 passenger, are exempt from this requirement. (Class I)

11 NEW SECTION. SECTION 77. A driver shall not refuse to  
12 transport any person except when:

13 A. The driver has already been dispatched on another call;

14 B. The passenger is acting in a disorderly or threatening  
15 manner, or otherwise causes the driver to reasonably believe that  
16 his health or safety, or that of others, may be endangered;

17 C. The passenger cannot, upon request, show ability to pay  
18 fare. (Class M)

19 NEW SECTION. SECTION 78. A driver shall not smoke while the  
20 taxicab or for-hire vehicle is occupied without the consent of all  
21 passengers. (Class I)

22 NEW SECTION. SECTION 79. A driver shall be able to provide  
23 a reasonable and prudent amount of change, and if correct change  
24 is not available, no additional charge will be made to the  
25 passenger in attempting to secure the change. (Class I)

26 Soliciting and Cruising Standards

27 NEW SECTION. SECTION 80. A driver shall not cruise at Sea-  
28 Tac airport. (Class M)

29 NEW SECTION. SECTION 81. A driver shall not drive, be in  
30 control of, or operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle on the  
31 passenger or check-in drives at Sea-Tac airport without having on  
32 display a Port of Seattle authorized permit, when available for-  
33 hire. (Class I)



1 C. The director may, at his discretion, issue taxicab  
2 licenses to special service vehicles used to provide  
3 transportation to disabled persons defined in K.C.C. 6.64.010.

4 D. The Executive shall formulate and forward to the Council  
5 for its approval a methodology for apportioning taxicab licenses  
6 when the total number of taxicab licenses in effect is less than  
7 the maximum number allowed. The Executive shall submit this  
8 information to the Council no later than April 1, 1994.

9 NEW SECTION. SECTION 90. Transfer of permit. Transfer  
10 (sale) of a permit to any other person is authorized. Application  
11 for transfer of a permit to another person shall include the name  
12 of the transferee, and the trade name and color scheme under which  
13 the vehicle will be operated, the sales price and other  
14 information required by the director. The transferee shall comply  
15 with all requirements of this chapter. Any transfer of a taxicab  
16 license shall be for the transfer of all licenses issued to said  
17 vehicle. If the transfer is for one vehicle license only, the  
18 remaining taxicab license shall be considered abandoned,  
19 nonrenewable or non-transferable.

20 NEW SECTION. SECTION 91. Industry Reporting.

21 A. Beginning January 1, 1993, the following information must  
22 be collected for each licensed taxicab:

- 23 1. Total number of trips.
- 24 2. Total paid miles.
- 25 3. Total miles driven.
- 26 4. Amount of fares collected and number of fare units.
- 27 5. Vehicle lease or rental income.
- 28 6. Costs, including:
  - 29 a. Equipment depreciation
  - 30 b. Equipment purchases
  - 31 c. Repair and maintenance costs
  - 32 d. Fuel and oil costs
  - 33 e. Other supplies



- 1 f. Leases and service contract costs  
2 g. License fees and taxes  
3 h. Insurance  
4 i. Labor costs (driver salary paid or lessee income  
5 retained by lessee)  
6 j. Other relevant costs,

7 This information must be provided annually to the director on  
8 or before January 30th of each calendar year to cover the period  
9 from January 1 to December 31 of the prior year.

10 Failure of an owner to report as required shall result in the  
11 owner being required to purchase and install a taximeter  
12 conforming to the requirements of Section 20 of this ordinance.  
13 Said taximeter shall be capable of issuing receipts to customers.

14 B. Information stored on meters as required in Section 20 of  
15 this chapter shall be collected at official county or city taxicab  
16 testing stations a minimum of two times per year. Other  
17 information required to be reported under this section shall be  
18 reported in a manner established by the director.

19 C. The director may verify operating cost information  
20 reported by the industry as required in this section of this  
21 chapter through special audits performed on a random sample basis.  
22 Failure to submit information required for a special audit to  
23 document the costs reported pursuant to this section of this  
24 chapter within two weeks of the director's request shall result in  
25 the owner being required to purchase and install a taximeter  
26 conforming to the requirements of Section 20 of this ordinance.  
27 Said taximeter shall be capable of issuing receipts to customers.

28 D. Providing data verified to be false is grounds for the  
29 suspension or revocation of the license.

30 NEW SECTION. SECTION 92. Response times. The director  
31 shall establish a schedule of optimum average taxicab response  
32 times to requests for taxicab service at selected points within  
33

1 the county. The director shall periodically thereafter survey  
2 actual taxicab response times.

3 A comparison of average actual response times to the optimum  
4 average taxicab response times shall be used as an indicator of  
5 taxicab industry performance and may be used as one criterion in  
6 evaluating and recommending rate and entry changes.

7 The director shall publish a draft report of the optimum  
8 response times and shall provide a ten-day comment period on the  
9 schedule before finalizing the schedule. Comments received by the  
10 director shall be included in the annual report submitted to the  
11 council pursuant to Section 94 of this chapter.

12 NEW SECTION. SECTION 93. Annual report.

13 A. On or before April 1st of each year, beginning April 1,  
14 1993, the director shall file an annual report with the King  
15 County council based upon data, collected pursuant to Section 92  
16 of this chapter for the period between January 1 and December 31  
17 of the preceding calendar year.

18 B. These reports shall include but not be limited to the  
19 following:

20 1. Number of taxicabs licensed in Seattle/King County  
21 during the reporting period and during the preceding year.

22 2. Number of drivers licensed in Seattle/King County during  
23 the reporting period and during the preceding year.

24 3. Numbers and nature of complaints.

25 4. Results of a survey of taxicab response times, changes  
26 in response times from previous reporting periods, and  
27 relationship of the actual response times to the optimum average  
28 response time established by the director pursuant to Section 95  
29 of this chapter.

30 5. Results of annual industry reporting including total net  
31 profit as reported.

32 6. Results of meter readings as required in Section 91.  
33

1           7. Any other recommendations deemed appropriate by the  
2 director.'

3           NEW SECTION. SECTION 94. Determination of fares and number  
4 of licenses.

5           A. King County finds and declares that fair and reasonable  
6 rates for the taxi industry should be established in the public  
7 interest and measured in terms of the taxi industry's need for  
8 revenue and the need for adequate service provided to the public  
9 as reflected by taxi service response times and other factors  
10 affecting the public's safety and welfare.

11           NEW SECTION. SECTION 95. Rates.

12           A. The rates for taxicabs licensed to operate in King County  
13 shall be established by the King County council.

14           B. In reviewing rates the council may take into account,  
15 among other things, and with the objective of prescribing a just  
16 and reasonable rate, the following factors:

17                 1. The recommendations of the director pursuant to Section  
18 93, if any;

19                 2. The public need for adequate taxi service at the lowest  
20 level of charges consistent with the provision, maintenance and  
21 continuation of such service;

22                 3. The rates of other licensees operating in similar areas;

23                 4. The effect of such rates upon transportation of  
24 passengers by other modes of transportation;

25                 5. The licensee's need for revenue of a level which under  
26 honest, efficient and economical management is sufficient to cover  
27 the cost (including all operating expenses, depreciation accruals,  
28 rents, license fees and taxes of every kind) of providing adequate  
29 taxi service, plus an amount equal to such percentage of the cost  
30 as is reasonably necessary for the replacement of deteriorated  
31 taxicabs and a reasonable profit to the licensee.

32           C. No taxicab shall have more than one rate on its meter.  
33

1 D. Except for special or contract rates as provided for in  
 2 this chapter or any per trip fee established by the Port of  
 3 Seattle and set forth in any operating agreement or tariff, it  
 4 shall be unlawful for anyone operating a taxicab licensed by King  
 5 County to charge, demand or receive any greater or lesser rate  
 6 than the following:

7 Meter rate

- 8 1. Drop charge: For passengers for first  
 9 1/9 mile \$1.80  
 10 2. Per mile: For each 1/9 mile or fraction  
 11 thereof after the first 1/9 mile .20  
 12 3. For every one minute of waiting time .50  
 13 4. Extra charge for passengers over two  
 14 excluding children under 12 .50

15 E. Special rates and contract rates.

- 16 1. Special rates as defined in this chapter shall be  
 17 calculated as a percentage of the meter rate.  
 18 2. All special rates must be filed with the director on  
 19 forms furnished by the director.  
 20 3. All special rates and/or contract rates shall be filed  
 21 once a year at the time of application by the affiliated  
 22 representative of a service company or the vehicle licensee in the  
 23 case of an independent owner.  
 24 4. Licensees may change the special rates filed no more  
 25 than once a year.  
 26 5. Rates for new contracts acquired or changed during the  
 27 license year shall be filed within two weeks of securing such  
 28 contract and prior to implementing the contracted rate.  
 29 F. Every for-hire vehicle licensee shall, before commencing  
 30 operating, file all rates and charges with the director. All  
 31 rates and charges shall be conspicuously displayed inside the for-  
 32 hire vehicle so as to be readily discernible to the passenger.  
 33 The manner of such posting will be prescribed by the director.

1 G. The rates specified in this section shall not apply to  
2 transportation of persons provided pursuant to a written contract  
3 which establishes a fare at a different rate for specified  
4 transportation and has been previously filed with the director;  
5 provided, that no contract may include any provision the effect of  
6 which is to directly or indirectly require exclusive use of the  
7 transportation services of the contracting taxicab vehicle.

8 H. It is unlawful to make any discriminatory charges to any  
9 person, or to make any rebate or in any manner reduce the charge  
10 to any person unless such is in conformity with the  
11 discounts/surcharges contained in the filed rates.

12 I. It is unlawful under the Americans with Disabilities Act  
13 to charge a special service vehicle rate which is different from  
14 the taxicab rates adopted in Section 95(D) of this ordinance,  
15 except in those instances where the transportation of disabled  
16 persons is pursuant to a written contract as specified in Section  
17 95(G) of this ordinance.

18 NEW SECTION. SECTION 96. Rate study. The director shall  
19 study the effects of rates and their impact on income of drivers,  
20 owners, and service companies, the effects of any rate increases  
21 on lease costs to drivers, study the varying markets and rate  
22 structures for service companies and independent operators, and  
23 study the scarcity or monopoly value of license. Such information  
24 shall be forwarded to the council by April 1, 1994.

25 **IV. PENALTIES**

26 NEW SECTION. SECTION 97. Infraction.

27 A. Violation of any provisions identified in this chapter as  
28 a (Class I) shall be designated as an infraction.

29 B. Any person cited for an infraction shall be subject to  
30 the Justice Court Rules of Procedures.

31 C. Any person found guilty of committing an infraction shall  
32 be assessed a monetary penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00.

33

1 D. A finding that an infraction has been committed shall not  
2 give rise to any other legal disability which is based upon  
3 conviction of a crime.

4 NEW SECTION. SECTION 98. Misdemeanors. Violation of any of  
5 the provisions identified in this chapter as a (Class M) shall be  
6 designated as a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished  
7 by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment in the  
8 county jail for not more than 90 days, or both.

9 NEW SECTION. SECTION 99. Civil penalty. In addition to or  
10 as an alternative to any other penalty provided herein or by law,  
11 any person who violates any provision of any business license  
12 ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to  
13 exceed \$1,000 per violation to be directly assessed by the  
14 director. The director, in a reasonable manner, may vary the  
15 amount of the penalty assessed to consider the appropriateness of  
16 the penalty to the size of the business of the violator; the  
17 gravity of the violation; the number of past and present  
18 violations committed and the good faith of the violator in  
19 attempting to achieve compliance after notification of the  
20 violation. All civil penalties assessed will be enforced and  
21 collected in accordance with the procedure specified under this  
22 title.

#### 23 VII. MISCELLANEOUS

24 NEW SECTION. SECTION 100. Consumer Complaint Hotline. The  
25 director may establish, in conjunction with the City of Seattle  
26 and the Port of Seattle, a shared consumer complaint telephone  
27 number and complaint process.

28 NEW SECTION. SECTION 101. Passenger Complaint Process.

29 A. Upon receiving a written complaint involving the conduct  
30 of the for-hire driver, the route of transportation, the rate  
31 charged for the transportation, passenger injury or property  
32 damage not arising from a vehicle accident, the director shall  
33 cause the following to be performed:

1           1. Issue a Notice of Complaint to the for-hire driver and  
2 vehicle owner, and company, if applicable, advising such person of  
3 the allegation(s) made in the complaint;

4           2. Require the for-hire driver, vehicle owner, and company  
5 if applicable, to respond, in writing, to the allegation(s) in the  
6 Notice of Complaint within ten days of receipt of the Notice of  
7 Complaint;

8           3. Investigate the allegation(s) in the written complaint  
9 and the response submitted by the for-hire driver, vehicle owner,  
10 and company, if applicable;

11           4. Make a finding as to the validity of the allegation(s)  
12 in the written complaint. If it is found to be a valid complaint  
13 the director shall issue a Notice and Order pursuant to the  
14 process described in K.C.C. 6.01.130.

15           B. Failure to respond, in writing, to a Notice of Complaint  
16 within ten days shall constitute a waiver of the for-hire  
17 driver's, vehicle owner's, and company's, if applicable, right to  
18 contest the allegation(s) in the written complaint and shall be  
19 prima facie evidence that the allegation(s) are valid.

20           C. Failure to comply with any Notice and Order issued as a  
21 result of the above process will result in the revocation of the  
22 license(s) involved. Such revocation will last one year from the  
23 date the license(s) is surrendered.

24           NEW SECTION. SECTION 102. Renewal of license, registration,  
25 or permit - Late penalty. A late penalty shall be charged on all  
26 applications for renewal of a license, registration or permit  
27 received later than ten working days after the expiration date of  
28 such license, registration or permit as set forth in the  
29 respective resolution or ordinance establishing the expiration  
30 date of such license, registration or permit.

31           The amount of such penalty is fixed as follows:  
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For a license, registration or permit requiring a fee of fifty cents or more, but less than fifty dollars, twenty percent of the required fee;

For a license, registration or permit requiring a fee of fifty dollars or more, but less than one thousand dollars, ten percent of the required fee;

For a license, registration or permit requiring a fee of one thousand dollars or more, five percent of the required fee.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 103. Severability. Should any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this chapter be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this chapter.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 13th day of November, 1990.

PASSED this 17th day of August, 1992.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

*Cathleen Sullivan*  
VICE Chair

ATTEST:

*Donald A. Peterson*  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 28th day of August, 1992

*Don Hill*  
King County Executive