

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: 11/23/99

Reference No.: CB-56-1999

Proposer: Hendershot

Draft No.: 2

Sponsors: Hendershot

Item Title: An Act to amend the provisions of the Code regulating taxicabs; to change terms and duties of Taxicab Board Members and to amend requirements for Certificates of Registration

Drafter: Frank A. Porter, Director
Public Safety & Fiscal
Management

Resource Carol B. White
Personnel: Legislative Aide

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: 9/7/99

Executive Action: __/__/__ __

Committee Referral: 9/7/99 PSFM

Effective Date: __/__/__

Committee Action: 10/21/99 FAV(A)

Date Introduced: 10/26/99

Public Hearing: 11/23/99 11:15 A.M.

Council Action: 11/23/99 RECOMMITTED

Council Votes: JE:A, DB:A, IG:A, TH:A, WM:A, RVR:A, AS:A, PS:A, MW:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

PUBLIC SAFETY & FISCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT Date: 10/21/99

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 3-0-1, (In favor: Council Members Wilson, Hendershot and Scott. Abstained: Russell).

This bill will amend certain definitions, amend provisions of the code regulating taxicabs and limousines, change various fees and fines, mandate insurance coverage in the amount required by State law, increase the permitted age of cabs to 10 model years and 300,000 miles subject to annual waiver, amend the requirements for transfers of certificates and other related regulations of taxicabs and limousines in the County.

A proposed Draft 2 of the legislation was prepared which included recommendations from the sponsor of the legislation and the Office of Law. There was a lengthy discussion of Draft 2 during the Public Safety and Fiscal Management Committee worksession. Some highlights of the worksession were:

1. Page 3, line 10, delete “twelve” and “less” and insert “ten” and “more”.
2. Page 3, line 25, delete “seven” and insert “nine”.
3. Page 6, line 1, require only one year of driving experience instead of three years.
4. Page 11, line 24, provides the Directors with the authority to initiate random drug testing of drivers.
5. Page 16, lines 6-8, changes the requirements to comply with the requirements of the State of Maryland.
6. Page 6, lines 24, 25 and 28, requires that the certificate be held for three years instead of two years before being transferred.
7. Page 18, line 19, increases the amount of the transfer fee to be paid to the County from \$500 to \$1,000.
8. Page 19, lines 7-9 were deleted.
9. Page 19, lines 20-29: Taxicab drivers expressed the desire to retain the waiting list instead of an annual lottery for obtaining available certificates.

The Prince George’s Chamber of Commerce submitted a letter of support applauding the efforts of both Councilman Hendershot and the taxicab industry in attempting to upgrade and improve the product and service offered by this segment of the business community.

The fiscal impact on the County will be positive as a result of the increase in the amounts of fees, fines, citations and certificates (annual and transfers). Also, an amount will be realized as a result of the 5% increase each year in the number of certificates available in FY2001 through FY2005. Based on the increases in certificates and additional licenses issued (due to more certificates being available), the positive amount would be as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2000 – 01	\$ 127,400
2001 – 02	137,300
2002 – 03	147,700
2003 – 04	158,600
2004 – 05	170,000

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This bill will amend the provisions of the Code regulating taxicabs, change the terms and duties of Taxicab Board Members, amend requirements for Certificates of Registration, change various fee and fine structures, limit the permissible age and mileage of cabs and otherwise relate to the

regulation of taxicabs.

CODE INDEX TOPICS: