

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2001 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-18-2001

Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Hendershot

Introduced by Council Member Hendershot

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction October 9, 2001

**BILL**

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Taxicabs and Limousines

3 For the purpose of requiring the installation and use of driver safety systems in each taxicab  
4 licensed by the County.

5 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

6 SUBTITLE 20. TAXICABS AND LIMOUSINES.

7 Section 20-145,

8 The Prince George's County Code

9 (1999 Edition, 2000 Supplement).

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
11 Maryland, that Section 20-145 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby  
12 repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

13 SUBTITLE 20. TAXICABS AND LIMOUSINES.

14 DIVISION 5. VEHICLE DESIGN, EQUIPMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND  
15 INSPECTION.

16 Sec. 20-145. Design and equipment.

17 (a) No taxicab or limousine shall be operated or allowed to be operated unless it conforms  
18 to the following requirements (exceptions applying to registered limousines are specifically  
19 indicated):

20 (1) The vehicle shall be either of the built-for-the-purpose, or of the closed or sedan  
21 type, and shall be equipped with at least four doors. Passenger doors must be so constructed that

1 they will remain securely fastened during normal operation, but may be readily opened by a  
2 passenger in case of emergency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (9) The vehicle shall be equipped with a heater sufficient to heat the interior  
25 adequately in cold weather and air conditioning sufficient to cool the interior adequately during  
26 hot weather, unless purchased without air conditioning prior to July 1, 2000.

27 (10) The vehicle shall not be equipped with any lights or signal devices except as  
28 allowed by the Motor Vehicle Laws for the State of Maryland, and as approved by the Director.

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

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

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

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

15 (15) No taxicab which is more than ten (10) model years old, or which has traveled  
 16 more than three hundred thousand (300,000) miles, whichever comes first, shall continue in  
 17 service after September 1, 2001, unless an annual waiver is granted by the Director. This waiver  
 18 shall be based upon a written finding that such vehicle has passed a thorough safety inspection  
 19 which ensures that such vehicle is in good operating condition, and is not in any manner a  
 20 detriment to the safety or convenience of any passenger or the public.

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

23 (b) All taxicabs, but not limousines, shall be equipped with a shield between the driver and  
 24 passengers that, in the opinion of the Director, meet the following standards:

25 (1) The shield shall conform to the interior of the vehicle and extend from side to side  
 26 and from the top of the "transmission hump" to the ceiling;

27 (2) The shield shall be made of steel of at least 14 gauge except for transparent parts  
 28 that shall be made of polycarbonate plastic (Lexan or equivalent) of at least 3/8 of an inch in  
 29 thickness;

30 (3) If a driver requests a waiver of this requirement in writing that the installation of a  
 31 shield physically interferes with the driver's comfort, the Director may waive the requirement for

1 a shield if either a driver safety camera recording system or a driver-operated flashing light  
 2 system is installed.

3 (c) A driver-operated flashing light system shall, in the opinion of the Director, meet the  
 4 following standards:

5 (1) The light system shall include lights on the roof or the front and rear of the  
 6 vehicle which are distinct in color, frequency, and shape from other lights used to identify a  
 7 taxicab;

8 (2) The light shall be visible from the air from a height of 5,000 feet and from the  
 9 ground from a distance of 10,000 feet;

10 (3) Once activated, the light system cannot be cancelled or disabled without stopping  
 11 the vehicle's engine and using a keyed switching device.

12 (4) The system will be able to communicate with 911 law enforcement and track a car  
 13 in case of emergency and be camera compatible.

14 (d) A driver safety camera recording system shall, in the opinion of the Director, meet the  
 15 following standards:

16 (1) The camera system shall operate continuously to record moving or still pictures of  
 17 the interior of the taxicab;

18 (2) The camera system shall be capable of recording pictures under the ambient light  
 19 levels of the taxicab;

20 (3) The camera system shall store recorded images in a device that is located outside  
 21 of the passenger cabin of the taxicab and shall have a storage capacity of at least two hours for  
 22 moving picture images and at least four hours of still picture images;

23 (4) Still camera systems shall capture and store a clear image at least every eight  
 24 seconds;

25 (5) Camera systems shall be activated at all times the taxicab is in operation; and

26 (6) Each taxicab shall display a sign in a form approved by the Director that informs  
 27 passengers that they are being recorded by an automatic camera system while in the taxicab.

28 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that each certificate holder shall purchase and  
 29 install a required or alternative driver safety device prior to the first renewal of the certificate  
 30 following the effective date of this Act.

1       SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED upon the showing of an economic hardship by  
2 the holder of the certificate, the Director shall loan, from County funds, the cost of the product  
3 and installation of the required or alternative driver safety device provided in the Act in a manner  
4 to be repaid to the County in not more than twelve months.

5       SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)  
6 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald V. Russell  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce T. Sweeney  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne K. Curry  
County Executive

KEY:  
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.