

## Prince George's County Council Agenda Item Summary

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**Meeting Date:** 7/5/2011  
**Reference No.:** CB-003-2011  
**Draft No.:** 2  
**Proposer(s):** Campos  
**Sponsor(s):** Campos  
**Item Title:** An Act concerning taxicabs and limousines for the purpose of amending provisions of the County Code regulating taxicabs relating to the transfer of and number of certificates of registration and driver's licenses.

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**Drafter:** Todd M. Turner, Legislative Officer  
**Resource Personnel:** Alonzo Washington, Legislative Aide

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### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

<b>Date Presented:</b>	3/8/2011	<b>Executive Action:</b>	7/13/2011 S
<b>Committee Referral:</b>	3/8/2011 - THE	<b>Effective Date:</b>	8/29/2011

**Committee Action:** 4/13/2011 - HELD  
5/24/2011 - NR(A)

**Date Introduced:** 5/24/2011  
**Public Hearing:** 6/21/2011 - 10:00 AM

**Council Action (1)** 7/5/2011 - ENACTED  
**Council Votes:** WC:A, MRF:A, AH:A, LJ:-, ML:N, EO:N, OP:A, IT:N, KT:A  
**Pass/Fail:** P  
**Remarks:**

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### AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

20-107, 20-155, 20-156

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### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING & THE ENVIRONMENT

**Date 5/24/2011**

#### Committee Votes:

- (1) To Substitute Proposed Draft 2 with amendment for Draft 1 – 5-0 (In favor: Members Olson, Toles, Lehman, Patterson and Turner)
- (2) No Recommendation on Draft 2 with amendment – 3-2 (In favor: Council Members Toles, Patterson and Turner/Opposed: Olson and Lehman)

The Legislative Officer provided a summary of the Proposed Draft 2 of the bill and comments that were received, including from the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) in a letter dated May 23, 2011, and an April 2011 report of the Prince George's County Taxicab Worker's Alliance, entitled Moving Million\$: Cab Companies, Competition & the Prince George's County Taxicab Industry. CB-3-2011 Proposed Draft 2 amends provisions of the County Code regulating taxicabs related to the number of certificates, the transfer of certificates, the ratio of

ownership of certificates between individual and multiple owners and the issuance of driver's licenses. Staff provided additional information to the Committee in response to questions by members.

Mr. Brad Frome, Deputy Chief of Staff, offered the following amendment to the Committee to support a recent Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) capital grant opportunity for additional handicapped accessible vehicles in Prince George's County:

On page 3, starting at line 3, adding that the Director may issue "an additional fifteen (15) certificates for taxicabs equipped to transport passengers in wheelchairs".

Mr. Patterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Turner, to substitute Proposed Draft 2, with the County Executive's proposed amendment, for Draft 1 of CB-3-2011. During discussion, Chair Olson offered the following amendments, seconded by Ms. Lehman:

- (1) Amendment #1 – on page 2, lines 16-17 and 19-20 - substituting a 45% to 55% ownership ratio for individual and multiple certificate owners. Motion failed 2-3 (In favor: Council Members Olson and Lehman/Opposed: Toles, Patterson and Turner).
- (2) Amendment #2 – on page 1, line 20 through page 2, line 7 – removing the brackets related to issuance of driver's licenses. Motion failed 2-2-1 (In favor: Council Members Olson and Lehman/Opposed: Toles, Patterson /Abstained: Turner).
- (3) Amendment #3 – on page 2, line 26 through line 27 – removing the brackets related to the transfer of certificates between individual and multiple owners. Motion failed 2-2 (In favor: Council Members Olson and Lehman/Opposed: Toles and Patterson/Absent: Turner).
- (4) Amendment #4 – starting on page 2, line 30 through page 3, line 7 – deleting brackets and removing new underlined language related to the number of certificates and new certificates to be issues. Motion failed 2-2 (In favor: Council Members Olson and Lehman/Opposed: Toles and Patterson/Absent: Turner)

The Committee adopted the substitution of Proposed Draft 2 with the amendment as reflected in Draft 2.

## **TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING & THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Date 4/13/2011**

Committee Action: Held

The Legislative Officer provided a summary of the bill and responses to committee member questions. CB-3-2011 amends provisions of the County Code regulating taxicabs related to the number of certificates authorized and the transfer of certificates of registration.

Council Member Campos provided a PowerPoint presentation and handout to the Committee identifying several factors in support of CB-3-2011, including comparisons with regional jurisdictions and personal observations.

The Committee heard from Mr. John Lally, Esq. and Mr. Wayne Curry, Esq. on behalf of several taxicab companies, Ms. Aurora Vasquez, Esq. on behalf of the Prince George's County Taxicab Worker's Alliance and drivers and from Mr. Brad Frome, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Mr. Behdad Kashanian, Acting Associate Director of DER, on several aspects of CB-3-2011.

The County Executive, through Mr. Frome, indicated support for CB-3-2011 with the several amendments as follows: (1) to increase authorized certificates to 1,044, representing 785 certificates pre-dating the adoption of CB-36-2010, 254 certificates issued pursuant to CB-38-2010 to date and the additional 5 certificates for handicapped accessible vehicles authorized in CB-38-2010; (2) establishing a certificate ownership ratio of 25% to 75% between individual and multiple owner certificates; and (3) to establish a new Task Force to review taxicab operations in the County, with outside and independent reviews.

The Committee held CB-3-2011 for additional discussion.

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:**

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

The bill seeks to amend provisions of the County Code regulating taxicabs relating to the transfer of and number of certificates of registration to be issued by the Director of the Department of Environmental Resources. The County Council adopted CB-36-2010 which implemented several recommendations of the Taxicab Service Task Force Report issued in May 2010.

6/21/2011: Public hearing held; final action deferred.

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**CODE INDEX TOPICS:**

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**INCLUSION FILES:**

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