
A G E N D A I T E M S U M M A R Y

Reference No: CB-97-1991

Draft No: 3

P r i n c e G e o r g e ' s

Meeting Date: 11/26/91

C o u n t y C o u n c i l

Requester: CO. EXEC.

Item Title: An Act to clarify definitions, increase regular taxicab rates, and provide for discounted rates in certain circumstances

Sponsors CA D B C

Date Presented 10/15/91 **Executive Action** 12/11/91 S
Committee Referral (1) 10/15/91 FP&GO **Effective Date** 1/27/92
Committee Action (1) 10/28/91 FAV(A)
Date Introduced 10/29/91
Pub. Hearing Date (1) 11/19/91 1:30 PM

Council Action (1) 11/26/91 Enacted
Council Votes CA: A_, B_: A_, C_: A_, D_: A_, F_: A_, MC: A_,
M_: A_, P_: A_, WI: A_, __: __, __: __, __: __

Pass/Fail P

Remarks _____

Drafter: Barbara L. Holtz **Resource** Edmund W. Smallwood
Office of Law **Personnel:** Taxicab Board

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Fiscal Policy and Government Operations Date: October 28, 1991
Committee Report

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 5-0-2 (In favor: Council Members Wineland, Castaldi, Del Giudice, Fletcher and MacKinnon; Abstain: Council Members Casula and Mills)

The proposed rate increase recommended by the County's Taxicab Board will put this County more in line with the rates authorized or proposed in some of the Washington Metropolitan area.

Section 20-161 (3) will permit the Director of DER to grant waivers in certain instances involving contracts thereby enabling the County to continue the voucher system program now serving the elderly and other citizens having chronic illnesses.

Lislative Officer expressed his concerns that this legislation does not indicate that the recommended rate adjustments are based upon the recommendations of the Taxicab Board pursuant to Sec. 20-160 (c) or that the Board recommendations were produced in accordance with Sec. 20-102.1 (b) (1). He recommended that the prescribed rate - setting procedures be followed.

Patricia Lusk, Department of Health stated that the cost for transporting the individuals is reimbursed to the agency from the State of Maryland. 35% of the patients transported are elderly with the rest being made up of mothers and children. The County transports about 192 people daily. The County would need 62 vans to carry this number of individuals to 138 different destinations in the County. Under the voucher system, the present cost for transporting individuals is the amount on the taxicab meter minus 21%.

Ed Smallwood, Chairman Taxicab Board said this was the second rate increase in ten years. This legislation is the result of the public hearings conducted during the fall of 1990. He expressed his concerns for Section 20-161 which was not submitted to or approved by the Taxicab board prior to submission to the Council. He expressed a number of concerns with the enforcement mechanism of this section.

Stanley Bretner, President of Blue Bird Cab Company stated that he has over 200 cab drivers in his company. He supports the fare increase and strongly supports the service for the elderly and disabled.

David Archer, member of Taxicab Board and an independent cab driver expressed his concerns with Section 20-161. He said the cab drivers on the street opposes this section but accepts it due to the present economic conditions.

The amendments approved by the committee were:

- (1) On page 3, line 24 after "contract", insert "with a government agency".
- (2) On page 3, line 26 after "determination", insert by the Director.

Any negative fiscal impact on the County as a result of adopting CB-97-1991 would be relatively minor.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT

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

This bill will clarify definitions, increase the regular taxicab rates, and provide for discounted rates in certain circumstances.