

ARTICLE XIX. TAXICABS

Sec. 9-1900. LICENSE REQUIRED, TAXICAB.

No person, firm or corporation shall operate a taxicab within the city limits until a license has been obtained for each vehicle and unless there has been compliance with all other regulations in this article.

CROSS REFERENCE: License fee, see Sec. 9-1907 this Article.

Sec. 9-1901. LICENSE REQUIRED, OPERATOR.

Each natural person who shall operate a taxicab within the city limits shall obtain a City of Montpelier Taxicab Operator's License.

Sec. 9-1902. DRIVER CONDUCT.

All operators of taxicabs shall be neat, clean and courteous at all times when operating a cab for hire. No taxicab operator shall drive about the streets or other public places seeking business, nor soliciting passengers with a loud voice or in a rude, rough, or boisterous manner.

Sec. 9-1903. DEFINITIONS.

(a) "Taxicab" is a motor vehicle used for transporting passengers for hire within the city of Montpelier but shall not include those vehicles operating on regularly scheduled routes and times in intertown and interstate transportation which are subject to state or federal regulation.

(b) "Operator" is the individual driver of a taxicab.

Sec. 9-1904. INSURANCE REQUIRED.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or drive a taxicab, or permit the same to be driven or operated on the streets of the city unless the owner or operator thereof shall have first procured and filed with the city clerk proof of purchase for the license year of a liability insurance policy which terms and conditions thereof shall be such as to provide protection for all persons suffering injury, loss or damage to person or to property by reason of the operation of such taxicab. Every such insurance policy shall be executed by an insurance company authorized to do business in the state and acceptable to the city council and shall be in the penal sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for injury or death to any one person, in the penal sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) for injury or death to all persons caused by any one accident, and in the penal sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for damage to property resulting from any one accident, and each of such penal sums shall remain in full force and shall be undiminished during the license year. Every such

insurance policy shall contain a provision whereby every company executing the same shall obligate itself to notify the City Clerk in writing at least thirty (30) days before any alteration, modification or cancellation of such policy is to become effective. No permit shall be issued to operate any taxicab unless and until evidence of purchase of such liability insurance policy is filed with the City Clerk, and failure of the owner or operator of such taxicab to procure and keep on file with the City Clerk at all times such evidence of purchase for the license year of a liability insurance policy in the penal sums aforesaid shall be grounds for the revocation or suspension of the operator's permit for such taxicab.

STATE LAW REFERENCE: Compulsory Liability Insurance on Vehicles for Hire, V.S.A., T. 23, Sec. 841.

Sec. 9-1905. APPLICATION FOR LICENSES.

The taxicab license may be granted by the City Council upon application for same, filed with the City Clerk. The application must be accompanied by the required fee and proof of insurance. The taxicab operator license application must be accompanied by the required fee. Application forms are supplied by the City Clerk's Office.

Sec. 9-1906. DISCRETIONARY GRANT OF LICENSES.

The City Council may refuse to grant a taxicab license if in its judgment there are already in operation within the City limits a sufficient number of licensed taxicabs to meet the needs of the inhabitants, subject to the approval of the Chief of Police.

Sec. 9-1907. LICENSE FEES.

The annual license fee for each individual taxicab vehicle shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The license shall be required for each individual vehicle so operated with a capacity of not more than five passengers, and thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for vehicles with a capacity of more than five passengers. The annual fee for each individual operator of a taxicab shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

Sec. 9-1908. TEMPORARY LICENSES.

The City Clerk shall have the power to issue a temporary license to operate a taxicab after due application which shall be valid until the next regular meeting of the City Council, provided said application has been approved by the Mayor and the Chief of Police.

Sec. 9-1909. SALE OR TRANSFERENCE OF LICENSE.

A taxicab license may not be sold or assigned, but may be transferred to another vehicle of the same owner upon proper application therefor and approval of the City Council.

Sec. 9-1910. DISPLAY OF LICENSES.

Every taxicab operator shall at all times post his license, the vehicle's license and a card which bears the name and address of the owner of such vehicle in the vehicle he is operating so that these are readily seen by any passenger seated in said vehicle. Said operator shall have his picture attached to his said posted license. Said picture shall be of date recent enough to identify the taxicab operator to whose license it is attached and the chief of police, if not satisfied with the likeness of any picture, may order any taxicab operator to attach to his license a picture which identifies said taxicab operator to the satisfaction of the chief of police.

Sec. 9-1911. VEHICLES MARKED.

Each and every taxicab operated in the city of Montpelier shall be clearly marked as such on the exterior of the vehicle.

Sec. 9-1912. RATES OF FARE.

Rates of fare to be charged by taxicab operators for the conveyance of passengers and baggage shall be set from time to time, upon due notice to all owners of licensed taxicabs, by the city council.

Sec. 9-1913. NOTICE OF RATES OF FARE.

All rates of fare applying to taxicabs shall be available upon any request by customers; copies of the current applicable rate schedules are available to the taxi operators in reasonable number from the city clerk.

Sec. 9-1914. OVERCHARGES.

No person shall charge or attempt to charge any passenger a greater rate of fare than that to which the operator is entitled.

Sec. 9-1915. DISPUTES.

All disputes as to the local rate of fare shall, upon request of either the operator or passenger, be determined by the police, either by the nearest officer or at the police station. Failure to comply with such determination by the police shall subject the offender to a charge of disorderly conduct.

Sec. 9-1916. SEATING CAPACITY.

No taxicab shall carry more adult passengers than its seating capacity is designed to permit.

Sec. 9-1917. REFUSAL OF PASSENGERS.

No taxicab operator shall neglect or refuse the application of a person for carriage in his text when the same is not entirely occupied and the fare, upon demand therefor, it is tendered.

Sec. 9-1918. REFUSAL TO PAY FARE.

A person who refuses to pay or attempts to avoid payment of fare shall be fined not more than ten dollars (\$10.00).

Sec. 9-1919. STOPS.

No taxicab operator shall allow his taxi to stop in a street or other public place, other than in places assigned as taxi stands, for more than fifteen (15) consecutive minutes.

Sec. 9-1920. OBEDIENCE TO POLICE OFFICERS.

A taxicab operator shall obey the direction of any police officer respecting the stand of his taxicab and his own position while waiting for passengers, and the route to be taken in going to and from the place of standing.

Sec. 9-1921. CONVEYANCE OF DISEASED PERSONS.

No taxicab operator shall receive or permit to be placed in a taxi, nor convey in or upon the same, a person ill with an infectious or contagious disease, or the body of a person deceased from such disease.

Sec. 9-1922. PROPERTY LEFT IN A TAXICAB.

A taxicab operator shall immediately after delivering a passenger, search his taxicab for property which may have been left therein, and if any be found, he shall return the same to the owner thereof if the owner be known; but if the owner be not known, he shall immediately deliver the property to the chief of police and take his receipt therefor; provided, however, that nothing herein shall relieve such operator of his duty under the law relating to lost property. The chief of police shall deliver such property to its rightful owner when ascertained.

Sec. 9-1923. INSPECTION OF VEHICLES.

It shall be the duty of the operator of each taxicab engaged and used in the transportation of persons for hire within the city, to submit such taxicab to the chief of police at the police station every three months beginning in March of each year and during June, September and December, for the purpose of having the currency of the State safety inspection sticker verified and the interior of the vehicle checked for cleanliness, lack of excessive wear to seats and other interior accouterment; check of the obvious safety defects and conditions which in the chief's opinion would probably endanger the safety, health or dignity of occupants; verification that licenses and notification as to ownership are prominently displayed; the foregoing shall not be construed to affect the liability of the owner and operator of the taxi towards passengers or the general public and shall not limit inspections to months indicated; the chief of police shall have the authority to stop a taxicab on the street any any time to check for compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 9-1924. TAXISTANDS.

Application may be made in writing to the chief of police for a taxistand on the public street or right-of-way. The chief shall refer with recommendation such application to the city council who may designate said taxistand as to number of spaces and location; such designation is in the council's sole discretion and shall be subject to change at any time.

Sec. 9-1925. STANDING.

Each taxicab operator shall remain near his taxicab while it is unemployed upon a taxistand, unless he is necessarily absent therefrom in the course of his duty or business.

Sec. 9-1926. TAXISTAND FEE.

The fee for such taxistand on public property shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per parking space for one vehicle. The fee shall be nonrefundable for any cause and shall be in lieu of parking meter fees.

STATE LAW REFERENCE: Council shall have power to regulate taxis, V.S.A., T. 24, Sec. 2031.

Sec's. 9-1927 to 9-1999. Reserved.

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