



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**Ordinance 19700**

**Proposed No.** 2023-0231.3

**Sponsors** von Reichbauer

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs and for-hire vehicles  
 2 and fees related to the for-hire transportation industry;  
 3 amending Ordinance 2165, Section 6, as amended, and  
 4 K.C.C. 2.98.060, Ordinance 2165, Section 8, as amended,  
 5 and K.C.C. 2.98.080, Ordinance 18398, Section 8, as  
 6 amended, and K.C.C. 4A.601.025, Ordinance 10498,  
 7 Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.750.100, Ordinance  
 8 18230, Section 79, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.01.150, and  
 9 Ordinance 18230, Section 16, as amended, and K.C.C.  
 10 20.22.070 and adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 6 and  
 11 prescribing penalties.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 13 1. The county desires to continue comprehensively regulating for-hire  
 14 transportation industries, including taxicabs and for-hire vehicles.
- 15 2. The county has implemented new policies over the last few years to help  
 16 the operators of taxicabs and for-hire vehicles navigate the loss of business  
 17 during the COVID pandemic and subsequent economic recession.
- 18 3. Industry participants have requested legislation to modernize licensing  
 19 and operating requirements and align them with the county's vision to make  
 20 King County a welcoming community where all people can thrive.

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21           4. The county desires to allow for regional operation of all licensed taxicabs  
22           and for-hire vehicles, implement new taximeter technology, offer the option  
23           to apply for an enhanced for-hire driver’s license, and convert all for-hire  
24           vehicles into taxicabs.

25           5. Requiring transitional regional dispatch agencies or regional dispatch  
26           agencies to implement new taximeter technology could result in increased  
27           deductions for dispatch services that negatively impact a driver's ability to  
28           earn a living wage and capping such deductions at ten percent of the fare  
29           paid by the passenger could protect driver payments from unrestricted  
30           deductions for dispatch services and support a living wage.

31           6. The county is committed to ensuring that drivers benefit from new  
32           regulations and experience equitable opportunities for compensation within  
33           the for-hire transportation industry.

34           7. The county is a leader on establishing practices that support economic  
35           security and contribute to a fair, healthy, and vibrant economy.

36           8. The county partners with the city of Seattle to regulate the broader for-  
37           hire transportation industry and desires to maintain that partnership under  
38           common regulations in the future.

39           9. Due to changes in state law governing the regulation of transportation  
40           network companies, establishing a new King County Code chapter to  
41           regulate taxicabs and for-hire vehicles and amending an existing King  
42           County Code chapter to continue to regulate the transportation network

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43 industry provides the best approach to implement the county's policy  
44 objectives for these industries.

45 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

46 SECTION 1. Sections 2 through 53 of this ordinance should constitute a new  
47 chapter in K.C.C. Title 6.

48 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2.

49 A. This chapter is an exercise of King County's power to regulate the for-hire  
50 transportation industry. That exercise includes the power to license and regulate taxicabs,  
51 for-hire vehicles, taxicab and for-hire vehicle drivers, transitional regional dispatch  
52 agencies, and regional dispatch agencies. Some of its regulatory purposes are to increase  
53 the safety, reliability, cost-effectiveness, and economic viability and stability of privately  
54 operated for-hire vehicle and taxicab services within King County.

55 B. The obligation of complying with this chapter belongs to the licensee or  
56 applicant for a license. Neither a provision of, nor a term used in, this chapter is intended  
57 to impose any duty whatsoever upon the county or any of its officers or employees, for  
58 whom the implementation or enforcement of this chapter shall be discretionary and not  
59 mandatory.

60 C. This chapter is not intended to be and shall not be construed to create or form,  
61 the basis for any liability on the part of the county or its officers, employees, or agents,  
62 for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of a licensee or applicant for license to  
63 comply with this chapter, or by reason or in consequence of any act or omission in  
64 connection with the implementation or enforcement of this chapter on the part of the  
65 county by its officers, employees, or agents.

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66 D. This chapter is intended to reduce regulatory complexity, promote equity and  
67 innovation, improve transportation and integration of the for-hire transportation industry,  
68 and ensure consumer protection and public safety. To fulfill these purposes, King  
69 County:

70 1. Establishes reciprocal licensing privileges for city of Seattle medallion  
71 owners to operate within King County. This reciprocity authorizes medallion owners to  
72 operate in both King County and the city of Seattle;

73 2. Establishes regional operating privileges for taxicab and for-hire vehicle  
74 drivers licensed by the city of Seattle to operate within King County. This license allows  
75 the driver to operate in both King County and the city of Seattle;

76 3. Consolidates the regulatory classifications of taxicabs and for-hire vehicles  
77 into a single taxicab standard. When a for-hire vehicle transitions to a taxicab, the  
78 reciprocal operating privilege will follow;

79 4. Consolidates the regulatory classifications of taxicab associations and for-hire  
80 vehicle companies into a single, regional dispatch agency license that is subject to a  
81 common set of operating rules and standards;

82 5. Establishes regional licensing privileges for taxicab associations and for-hire  
83 vehicle companies licensed by the city of Seattle to operate in King County. When a  
84 taxicab association or for-hire vehicle company transitions to a regional dispatch agency,  
85 the regional license will follow; and

86 6. Establishes a requirement for each regional dispatch agency to adopt a smart  
87 taximeter system.

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88           NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. This chapter applies to taxicab associations, for-  
89 hire vehicle companies, taxicabs, for-hire vehicles, and drivers of those vehicles. K.C.C.  
90 chapter 6.64 applies to transportation network companies, transportation network  
91 company drivers, and transportation network company vehicles. Regulation of  
92 transportation network companies, transportation network company drivers, or  
93 transportation network company endorsed vehicles remains in K.C.C. chapter 6.64.

94           NEW SECTION. SECTION 4. The executive may execute an interlocal  
95 agreement with either the city of Seattle or the Port of Seattle, or both, for the purposes of  
96 coordinating and consolidating the regulation of the for-hire transportation industry under  
97 this chapter.

98           NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. The executive or designee may enter into  
99 agreements with any other city, town, county, or port district for the joint regulation of  
100 for-hire and taxicab drivers in a manner consistent with the provisions of this chapter.  
101 Agreements may provide for, but are not limited to, the granting, revocation, and  
102 suspension of taxicab and for-hire driver licenses, or the sharing of enforcement  
103 responsibilities.

104           NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. For the purposes of this chapter and unless the  
105 context plainly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

106           "Abnormal disruption of the market" means any change in the market, whether  
107 actual or imminently threatened, resulting from stress of weather, convulsion of nature,  
108 failure or shortage of electric power or other source of energy, strike, civil disorder, war,  
109 military action, national or local emergency, or any other cause.

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110 "Application dispatch system" means technology that allows consumers, via the  
111 Internet using devices such as, but not limited to, smartphone and tablet applications to:

- 112 1. Directly request dispatch of regional for-hire drivers for trips; and  
113 2. Accept payments for those trips.

114 "Approved mechanic" means a mechanic or technician on a list maintained by the  
115 director. The list shall contain the name each mechanic or technician that has been  
116 approved by director because they:

- 117 1. Have met all requirements of the National Institute for Automotive Service  
118 Excellence;  
119 2. Have been awarded a Certificate in Evidence of Competence satisfactory to  
120 the director; and  
121 3. Do not own, lease, or drive a taxicab, for-hire vehicle, or transportation  
122 network company endorsed vehicle.

123 "Automated driving system" means hardware and software that are collectively  
124 capable of performing the entire dynamic driving task on a sustained basis, regardless of  
125 whether it is limited to a specific operational design domain and regardless of the  
126 presence of a driver.

127 "Autonomous operation" means the performance of the entire dynamic driving  
128 task by an automated driving system, beginning upon performance of the entire dynamic  
129 driving task by an automated driving system and continuing until the automated driving  
130 system is disengaged.

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131 "Autonomous vehicle" means a vehicle with a level 3, level 4, or level 5  
132 automated driving system as provided in the Society of Automotive Engineering  
133 International's J3016 standard.

134 "Certificate of safety" means a document from an approved mechanic certifying  
135 that a particular vehicle meets all vehicle safety standards set forth in this chapter,  
136 including the vehicle safety inspection, and rules adopted by the director in accordance  
137 with this chapter.

138 "Citation" means an enforcement action taken by the director that imposes  
139 monetary penalties when a person violates a requirement of this chapter.

140 "Contract rate" means the rate specified in a written agreement signed by both  
141 parties before the dispatch of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle for the services identified in the  
142 contract.

143 "Director" means the director of the records and licensing services division of the  
144 department of executive services, or the director's designee.

145 "Disability" has the same meaning as in K.C.C. 12.22.020.

146 "Dispatch system" means a system that allocates requests for trips to available  
147 drivers and that facilitates communication between a dispatcher and driver. A dispatch  
148 system may be integrated into a smart taximeter system.

149 "Egregious" means any moving violation that posed an immediate threat to the  
150 safety of the driver, any passengers in the vehicle, or to others.

151 "Fare" means anything of economic value that is provided, promised, or donated  
152 primarily in exchange for services rendered.

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153 "For-hire transportation services" means services provided by licensees under this  
154 chapter.

155 "For-hire vehicle" means any motor vehicle used for the transportation of  
156 passengers for hire, and not operated exclusively over a fixed and definite route, except:

- 157 1. Taxicabs;
- 158 2. School buses operating exclusively under a contract to a school district;
- 159 3. Ride-sharing vehicles under chapter 46.74 RCW;
- 160 4. Limousine carriers licensed under chapter 46.72A RCW;
- 161 5. Vehicles used by nonprofit transportation providers solely for elderly or  
162 handicapped persons and their attendants under chapter 81.66 RCW;
- 163 6. Vehicles used by auto transportation companies licensed under chapter 81.68  
164 RCW;
- 165 7. Vehicles used to provide courtesy transportation at no charge to and from  
166 parking lots, hotels, and rental offices;
- 167 8. Vehicles licensed under, and used to provide "charter party carrier" and  
168 "excursion service carrier" services as defined in, and required by, chapter 81.70 RCW;  
169 and
- 170 9. Transportation network company endorsed vehicles as defined in K.C.C.  
171 chapter 6.64 and transportation network company vehicles as defined in chapter 46.72B  
172 RCW.

173 "For-hire vehicle company" means a person that represents or owns for-hire  
174 vehicles licensed by the county that use the same color scheme, trade name, and dispatch  
175 services.



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176 "Lessee" means a person who has a regional for-hire driver's license that leases a  
177 taxicab or for-hire vehicle required to be licensed under this chapter.

178 "Lessor" means a person who has leased a taxicab or for-hire vehicle to a lessee.

179 "License action" means an enforcement action taken by the director against a  
180 licensee that is a suspension, summary suspension, denial, or revocation of the license.

181 "Licensee" means any person required to be licensed under this chapter.

182 "Medallion" means a license issued by the director as a plate, decal, or other  
183 physical representation, that is evidence that a taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion is  
184 intangible property.

185 "Medallion owner" means a person who owns a taxicab medallion, a wheelchair  
186 accessible taxicab medallion, or a for-hire vehicle medallion, issued by the director.

187 "Medallion reciprocity endorsement" means a designation on a medallion issued  
188 by the city of Seattle, or alternatively in the director's record of the medallion owner,  
189 which permits a vehicle to operate in King County.

190 "Medallion system" means the system that deems a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
191 medallion to be intangible property that may be used as collateral to secure a loan from a  
192 bank or any other financial institution.

193 "Motor vehicle" means every motorized vehicle by or upon which any person  
194 may be transported or carried upon a public street, highway, or alley. Vehicles used  
195 exclusively upon stationary rail tracks or propelled by use of overhead electric wires are  
196 not considered motor vehicles for purposes of this chapter.

197 "Operate" or "operating" means owning, leasing, advertising, driving, parking in a  
198 taxicab zone, having a top light on, occupying, or otherwise being in control of a taxicab

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199 or for-hire vehicle that is available to transport, en route to pick up a passenger, or  
200 transporting any passenger for a fare from a point in unincorporated King County or any  
201 jurisdiction that has an interlocal agreement with King County for for-hire regulatory  
202 services. A taxicab association, for-hire vehicle company, transitional regional dispatch  
203 agency, or regional dispatch agency is "operating" if it represents or dispatches any  
204 taxicab or for-hire vehicle that at any time transports any passenger for a fare from a  
205 point within unincorporated King County or any jurisdiction that has an interlocal  
206 agreement with King County for for-hire regulatory services.

207 "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, corporation, firm,  
208 institution, or other entity, whether or not operated for profit. "Person" does not include:

- 209 1. A governmental entity of or within the United States;  
210 2. An entity operating exclusively under contract with a government entity; or  
211 3. That portion of an entity that is operating exclusively under contract with a  
212 government entity.

213 "Regional dispatch agency" means a person licensed under this chapter who  
214 represents or owns for-hire vehicles, until March 31, 2026, or taxicabs licensed by King  
215 County that use the same trade name and dispatch services.

216 "Regional dispatch agency representative" means a person who a transitional  
217 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency has authorized to:

- 218 1. File applications and other documents on behalf of the agency; and  
219 2. Receive and accept all correspondence and notices from the director  
220 pertaining to the agency or its taxicabs, taxicab owners, for-hire vehicles, for-hire vehicle  
221 owners, or regional for-hire drivers affiliated with the regional dispatch agency.

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222 "Regional for-hire driver" means any person in physical control of a taxicab or  
223 for-hire vehicle who is required to be licensed under this chapter and includes a lessee,  
224 owner/operator, or employee, who drives taxicabs or for-hire vehicles.

225 "Regional for-hire driver's license" means a license issued to an applicant for a  
226 regional for-hire driver's license who meets all criteria under this chapter for a regional  
227 for-hire driver's license.

228 "Regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement"  
229 means an endorsement applied to a regional for-hire driver's license that demonstrates  
230 that the driver has successfully completed required training regarding the special needs of  
231 passengers in wheelchairs, including but not limited to, loading and tie-down procedures  
232 and door-to-door service.

233 "Smart taximeter" means a system of hardware and software that integrates a  
234 taximeter and other components together to perform functions required by this chapter.

235 "Smart taximeter system" means the system a regional dispatch agency uses to  
236 dispatch trips to, communicate with, and track the location of, affiliated vehicles and  
237 drivers through the smart taximeter. A smart taximeter system may include an  
238 application dispatch system.

239 "Taxicab" means every motor vehicle required to have a taxicab medallion to be  
240 used for the transportation of passengers for a fare, where the route traveled or  
241 destination is controlled by the passenger, and the fare is based on an amount recorded  
242 and indicated on a taximeter, smart taximeter, or on an application dispatch system.

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243 "Taxicab association," means a person that represents or owns taxicabs licensed  
244 by King County that use the same uniform color scheme, trade name, and dispatch  
245 services.

246 "Taximeter" means any instrument or device by which the fare for a trip provided  
247 in a taxicab is measured or calculated either for the distance traveled by the taxicab or for  
248 waiting time, or for both, and upon which such calculated charges shall be indicated by  
249 means of figures.

250 "Transitional regional dispatch agency" means taxicab associations and for-hire  
251 vehicle companies, or other persons that meet the requirements of a transitional regional  
252 dispatch agency in this chapter that do not have a regional dispatch agency license.

253 "Transparent" means the trip fare, the fare range, and other pricing variables, are  
254 made readily available to a passenger before the passenger commits to taking the trip.

255 "Transportation network company" means the same as it is defined in K.C.C.  
256 chapter 6.64.

257 "Transportation network company endorsed vehicle" means the same as it is  
258 defined in K.C.C. chapter 6.64.

259 "Transportation network company vehicle endorsement" means the same as it is  
260 defined in K.C.C. chapter 6.64.

261 "Uniform color scheme" means the color or colors used by vehicles affiliated with  
262 a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency and approved by the  
263 director for exclusive use.

264 "Voluntarily converted wheelchair accessible vehicle" means a director-inspected  
265 and director-approved taxicab or for-hire vehicle that is accessible to passengers in

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266 wheelchairs or other mobility devices but that is not required to be so as a condition of  
267 the vehicle's medallion.

268 "Wheelchair accessible taxicab" means a taxicab that is required to be accessible  
269 to passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices as a condition of its wheelchair  
270 accessible taxicab medallion.

271 "Wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion" means a type of medallion issued by  
272 the director that requires the vehicle operated under the medallion to be accessible to  
273 passengers in wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

274 "Wheelchair accessible vehicle" means a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that has been  
275 designed or modified to transport passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices,  
276 conforms to the accessibility requirements of the regulations of the Americans with  
277 Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and has been inspected and approved by the  
278 director. "Wheelchair accessible vehicle" includes both voluntarily converted wheelchair  
279 accessible vehicles and wheelchair accessible taxicabs.

280 NEW SECTION. SECTION 7.

281 A. Fees applicable to this chapter are set out in K.C.C. 4A.750.100 and fee  
282 amounts may be changed by the director in accordance with this section and section 50 of  
283 this ordinance.

284 B. The director shall make available to the public a description of the procedures  
285 for setting fee amounts. The description shall include information on how to inquire  
286 about the proposed and adopted fee amounts and public comment opportunities.

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287 C.1. The director shall give at least thirty days' notice of the intention to change  
288 fee amounts by providing the notification letter required by section 50 of this ordinance  
289 and to:

290 a.(1) all persons who have made a timely request for advance notice of fee  
291 setting; and

292 (2) all existing fee payers; and

293 b. by publishing in the official county newspaper a summary of the notice of  
294 the proposed action, including the information in subsection C.2. a. through f. of this  
295 section.

296 2. The notice made in subsection C.1. of this section shall:

297 a. include a reference to this section;

298 b. include a reference to the fee type to which the proposed fee amount will be  
299 applied;

300 c. include a date and place by which comments must be submitted;

301 d. specify whether the proposal is a change to the fee amount or an elimination  
302 of a fee;

303 e. if the proposal is to change the fee amount, indicate both the amount of the  
304 existing fee and the proposed fee amount; and

305 f. state the reason for and methodology used to determine the proposed new  
306 fee amount.

307 3. The director shall consider all comments received by the prescribed date for  
308 comment before the fee amount is set.

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309 D. A fee amount is set when signed by the director. The director is authorized to  
310 sign only if no motion rejecting the proposed fee amount is passed by the council in  
311 accordance with section 50 of this ordinance or an ordinance amending a fee is effective.  
312 The new fee amount takes effect ten days after the director's signature.

313 E. Once a fee amount is set, the director shall post the amount of the fee in both  
314 written and electronic form for inspection, review and copying by the public and post the  
315 fee on the division's website.

316 F. A new fee may not be established unless the fee is approved by the council by  
317 ordinance.

318 G. The director may from time to time declare periods of amnesty in which the  
319 director may waive any penalty imposed under this chapter for delinquent payment of  
320 fees. Such periods of amnesty and the terms thereof may be established by the director  
321 upon a finding by the director that to do so would further the goals of the for-hire  
322 transportation industry and be in the public interest. The director may promulgate rules  
323 and procedures to implement the provisions of this section.

324 NEW SECTION. SECTION 8.

325 A. Each taxicab licensee and for-hire vehicle licensee shall pay a fee surcharge of  
326 the amount in K.C.C. 4A.750.100.C. and D. for all rides originating in:

- 327 1. Unincorporated King County; or  
328 2. Any municipality that contracts with the county for the county to license  
329 taxicabs and for-hire vehicles that operate in the municipality.

330 B. The fee surcharge in subsection A. of this section shall be used to offset the  
331 operational costs incurred by owners and operators of wheelchair accessible taxi,

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332 wheelchair accessible for-hire vehicle or wheelchair accessible transportation network  
333 company endorsed vehicle services including, but not limited to, the costs associated with  
334 purchasing and retrofitting an accessible vehicle, fuel and maintenance costs and the time  
335 involved in providing wheelchair accessible trips.

336 C. The director shall adopt rules to establish the conditions and procedure for  
337 distributing funds to wheelchair accessible taxicab, wheelchair accessible for-hire vehicle  
338 or wheelchair accessible transportation network company endorsed vehicle owners and  
339 drivers, including the maximum amount of reimbursement.

340 NEW SECTION. SECTION 9.

341 A. It is unlawful for a person to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle without first  
342 having obtained a valid regional for-hire driver's license. A regional for-hire driver's  
343 license shall expire one year from the date of application. A regional for-hire driver's  
344 license is not transferable or assignable.

345 B. As of the effective date of this ordinance, any valid for-hire driver's license  
346 previously issued to a driver under K.C.C. chapter 6.64, other than a for-hire driver's  
347 license that displays as a "for-hire permit" under K.C.C. 6.64.595, shall become a  
348 regional for-hire driver's license and all references to for-hire driver's licenses shall mean  
349 regional for-hire driver's licenses. As of the effective date of this ordinance, for-hire  
350 drivers with a valid for-hire driver's license issued by the city of Seattle shall be deemed  
351 to also have a corresponding regional for-hire driver's license from King County, which  
352 shall be valid until the original expiration date.

353 C. Drivers with a for-hire driver's license that displays as a "for-hire permit" may  
354 continue to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle until the first license expiration date after



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355 the effective date of this ordinance, at which time a regional for-hire driver's license or  
356 enhanced regional for-hire driver's license issued under this chapter shall be required to  
357 operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

358 NEW SECTION. SECTION 10. It is unlawful for a driver to operate a  
359 wheelchair accessible vehicle without a regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair  
360 accessible vehicle endorsement. To obtain such an endorsement, a driver shall submit  
361 proof that the driver has successfully completed a director-approved training for  
362 providing for-hire transportation services in wheelchair accessible vehicles. Wheelchair  
363 accessible vehicle drivers must comply with section 32 of this ordinance, in addition to  
364 the requirements of sections 9 through 21 of this ordinance. The director may take  
365 enforcement action against a regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible  
366 vehicle endorsement, a regional for-hire driver's license, or both, as consistent with this  
367 chapter.

368 NEW SECTION. SECTION 11. The director shall issue a regional for-hire  
369 driver's license to an applicant who:

370 A. Is at least twenty years old;

371 B. Possesses a valid driver's license;

372 C. Completes driver training as approved by the director before submitting an  
373 initial application for a regional for-hire driver's license. Training shall include, but is not  
374 limited to:

375 1. A general for-hire driver training course with information about use of  
376 emergency procedures and equipment for the driver's personal safety, risk factors for  
377 crimes against for-hire drivers, and passenger service;

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378           2. A defensive driving course provided by the National Safety Council and  
379 approved by the director, or an alternative defensive driving course approved by the  
380 director; and

381           3. Any other courses if required by the director after September 1, 2024;

382           D. Successfully completes a regional for-hire driver license examination or  
383 examinations approved by the director;

384           E. Submits a complete application, or consents to an application being submitted  
385 on the applicant's behalf, for a regional for-hire driver's license annually on a form or in a  
386 format approved by the director;

387           F. Provides a certification of fitness as a regional for-hire driver on a form or in a  
388 format approved by the director. The director may at any time require any applicant for,  
389 or holder of, a regional for-hire driver's license to be examined by a physician licensed to  
390 practice in the state of Washington if it appears that the applicant or licensee has become  
391 physically or mentally incapacitated so that the applicant or licensee is unfit as a regional  
392 for-hire driver. The director shall prescribe by rule the scope of the examination and  
393 provide a form for the physician to complete. A United States Department of  
394 Transportation medical certification meets the requirements of this subsection;

395           G. Consents to a background check, with ongoing monitoring if available, from  
396 an entity that is approved by the director. The director shall require the third party to  
397 demonstrate competency in providing accurate information prior to being approved by  
398 the director, and shall include local, state, and national databases, and access at least five  
399 years of database history when performing background checks;

400           H. Successfully passes a criminal background check, including:

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401           1. No convictions, bail forfeitures, or other final adverse findings, including in  
402 civil suits or administrative hearings, pertaining to any of the following within the past  
403 five years:

- 404           a. attempting to elude the police;
- 405           b. reckless driving;
- 406           c. hit and run;
- 407           d. any alcohol- or drug-related driving crime;
- 408           e. any class A or B felony, as defined in Title 9A RCW;
- 409           f. any violent offense or serious violent offense or most serious offense, as  
410 defined in chapter 9.94A RCW;
- 411           g. a crime involving physical violence, other than those crimes in subsection  
412 H.1.e. or f. of this section, if the director determines the circumstances of the crime make  
413 the person unsafe to operate as a regional for-hire driver;
- 414           h. a crime that is directly related to the applicant's honesty and integrity,  
415 including, but not limited to, theft, burglary, and extortion, if the director determines the  
416 circumstances of the crime make the person incompatible with the duties of a regional  
417 for-hire driver; or
- 418           j. any conviction for any offense committed in another jurisdiction that  
419 includes the elements of any of the offenses listed in this subsection H.1.;

420           2. No convictions, bail forfeitures, or other final adverse findings, including in a  
421 civil suit or administrative hearing, pertaining to any sex offense as defined in chapter  
422 9.94A RCW or convictions that include a special allegation of sexual motivation,

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423 including convictions for any offense committed in another jurisdiction that includes the  
424 elements of a sex offense as defined in chapter 9.94A RCW, within the past seven years;

425           3. Not being listed in the United States department of justice national sex  
426 offender public website, and not required to register as a sex offender; and

427           4. No active arrest warrant for any crime;

428           I. Authorizes the director to obtain the applicant's current driving history, and the  
429 results of ongoing monitoring if available, from the Washington state Department of  
430 Licensing and from an entity that is approved by the director that provides a multistate  
431 driving abstract that includes the state of Washington;

432           J. Successfully passes a check of the applicant's driving record, meaning: (1) the  
433 applicant's driving record has no egregious law violations within the past five years, and  
434 (2) the applicant's driving record leads the director to reasonably conclude that the  
435 applicant will operate a vehicle in a safe manner and comply with this chapter;

436           K. Consents to the director obtaining other information directly concerning the  
437 applicant's past conduct and general qualifications that shows the applicant's ability and  
438 skill as a regional for-hire driver and the applicant's honesty and integrity for the  
439 purposes of determining whether the applicant is suitable to operate as a regional for-hire  
440 driver;

441           L. Agrees to the affiliated transitional regional dispatch agency or regional  
442 dispatch agency receiving, on the applicant's or licensee's behalf, general correspondence,  
443 citations, license actions, and notices of complaints from the director; and

444           M. Meets the criteria necessary for obtaining a regional for-hire driver's license  
445 from the city of Seattle and applies for a regional for-hire driver's license from the city of

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446 Seattle concurrently with applying for a regional for-hire driver's license from King  
447 County.

448 NEW SECTION. SECTION 12. A regional for-hire driver's license issued by  
449 King County and a regional for-hire driver's license issued by the city of Seattle to the  
450 same individual shall be considered one inseparable regional for-hire driver's license.

451 NEW SECTION. SECTION 13. Effective September 1, 2024, an enhanced  
452 regional for-hire driver's license is a type of regional for-hire driver's license that, in  
453 addition to meeting the requirements in section 11 of this ordinance for a regional for-hire  
454 driver's license, requires a driver to consent to and successfully pass a fingerprint-based  
455 background check, with ongoing monitoring if available, from an entity that is approved  
456 by the director, consistent with the criteria in section 11.H. of this ordinance.

457 NEW SECTION. SECTION 14. An enhanced regional for-hire driver's license  
458 issued by King County and an enhanced regional for-hire driver's license issued by the  
459 city of Seattle to the same individual shall be considered one inseparable enhanced  
460 regional for-hire driver's license.

461 NEW SECTION. SECTION 15. Pending final action on a regional for-hire  
462 driver's license application, the director may issue a temporary regional for-hire driver's  
463 license when the review of an application is anticipated to be longer than two days. A  
464 temporary regional for-hire driver's license shall be issued for a period up to sixty days  
465 unless extended by the director.

466 NEW SECTION. SECTION 16. In considering an application for a regional for-  
467 hire driver's license, the director may consider any other information that may lead the  
468 director to reasonably conclude that the applicant will not operate a vehicle in a safe

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469 manner or comply with this chapter. The director shall reject an application if it has a  
470 material misstatement or omission.

471 NEW SECTION. SECTION 17.

472 A. An applicant whose application for a regional for-hire driver's license was  
473 denied shall:

474 1. Be ineligible to reapply for a regional for-hire driver's license until the date  
475 specified in the final notice of denial; and

476 2. Not reapply for a regional for-hire driver's license that was denied until  
477 correction of the deficiency on which the denial was based is deemed acceptable by the  
478 director.

479 B. A regional for-hire driver whose regional for-hire driver's license was revoked  
480 shall be ineligible to reapply for a regional for-hire driver's license until the date specified  
481 in the final notice of revocation.

482 NEW SECTION. SECTION 18.

483 A regional for-hire driver shall:

484 A. Have in the driver's possession and available upon request of the director at  
485 any time the driver is operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle:

486 1. A valid driver's license;

487 2. The vehicle's registration;

488 3. Proof of insurance as required by this chapter; and

489 4. A valid regional for-hire driver's license, which shall also be on display in  
490 the vehicle and visible to passengers as prescribed by the director;

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491 B. Ensure that the vehicle's medallion plate or decal is valid and is displayed as  
492 required;

493 C. Ensure the lights, brakes, tires, steering, seat belts, any system relied on for  
494 safe operation, taximeter, and other vehicle equipment are working properly prior to each  
495 shift and while operating;

496 D. Maintain the vehicle interior and exterior, including exterior markings, in  
497 clean and good repair;

498 E. Allow the director to inspect the vehicle without prior notice at any reasonable  
499 time or place;

500 F. At all times while operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, be signed into at least  
501 one dispatch system, smart taximeter system, or application dispatch system provided by  
502 the affiliated transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency;

503 G. Provide service to passengers in wheelchairs before any other passengers  
504 when operating wheelchair accessible vehicles;

505 H. Activate the taximeter or smart taximeter at the beginning of each paid trip,  
506 whether the fare is computed by the taximeter, smart taximeter, application dispatch  
507 system, contract, or flat rate, and deactivate the taximeter or smart taximeter upon  
508 completion of the trip. The beginning of a trip is the point where the passenger is seated,  
509 and any materials are stowed, and the forward motion of the vehicle begins;

510 I. Ensure that the taximeter or smart taximeter display is visible to passengers at  
511 all times while operating a taxicab;

512 J. If the fare for a trip is an upfront fare or a flat rate fare, confirm the fare with  
513 the passenger before beginning the trip;

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514 K. Operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle with due regard for the safety, comfort,  
515 and convenience of passengers and always provide passengers with professional and  
516 courteous service. The driver shall not use threatening behavior or offensive language,  
517 expressions, or gestures to any person while operating;

518 L. If requested, be willing to assist a passenger entering or exiting the vehicle and  
519 placing luggage or packages that are under fifty pounds in and out of the vehicle. Upon  
520 request for this assistance, a driver must so assist a passenger or otherwise ensure the  
521 passenger's assistance request is fulfilled;

522 M. Use the most direct or most expedient available route on all trips unless the  
523 passenger specifically requests to change the route;

524 N. Record all trips, process all payments, and issue a receipt for all payments  
525 through a dispatch or payment system provided by the transitional regional dispatch  
526 agency or regional dispatch agency;

527 O. Be able to provide a reasonable and prudent amount of change, and, if correct  
528 change is not available, no additional charge may be made to the passenger in attempting  
529 to secure the change;

530 P. If dispatched by a transportation network company's application dispatch  
531 system and allowed by the transportation network company, accept payment of fares via  
532 cash payment for any trip dispatched through a transportation network company's  
533 application dispatch system;

534 Q. At the end of each trip, check the vehicle for any article or articles that are left  
535 behind by passenger or passengers and promptly secure the article or articles and report



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536 the found article or articles to the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional  
537 dispatch agency;

538 R. Comply with any license action, citation, or director order, and pay any  
539 penalties issued under this chapter that are either not appealed or are upheld after review;

540 S. Immediately surrender the vehicle medallion plate or decal in a manner  
541 approved by the director when the vehicle medallion is temporarily deactivated or  
542 revoked;

543 T. Comply with policies and procedures established by the transitional regional  
544 dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency to meet the requirements of this chapter and  
545 to ensure passenger satisfaction;

546 U. Comply with applicable business license requirements for any jurisdiction for  
547 which the driver operates; and

548 V. Meet any other requirement established by the director by rule.

549 NEW SECTION. SECTION 19. A regional for-hire driver shall not:

550 A. Transport either more passengers than the number of seat belts available or  
551 more luggage than the vehicle capacity will safely and legally allow;

552 B. Operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that does not have the rate on display as  
553 prescribed by the director by rule;

554 C. Operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that is unaffiliated with a taxicab  
555 association, for-hire vehicle company, transitional regional dispatch agency, or regional  
556 dispatch agency;

557 D. Use a personal electronic device while driving a motor vehicle on a public  
558 roadway, unless consistent with RCW 46.61.672;

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559 E. Operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle under the influence of any alcohol,  
560 narcotics, drugs, or prescription or over-the-counter medication that impairs the 'driver's  
561 ability to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle or in any way jeopardizes the safety or  
562 security of passengers or the public;

563 F. Knowingly possess illegal substances or open containers of alcohol while  
564 operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle;

565 G. Operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle for more than fourteen hours in any  
566 twenty-four-hour period. Thereafter, the regional for-hire driver shall not operate a  
567 taxicab or for-hire vehicle until eight consecutive hours have elapsed. Stand-by time  
568 does not count towards the fourteen-hour limit. For the purposes of this subsection,  
569 "stand-by time" includes any time the regional for-hire driver is available for hire but is  
570 not physically in the vehicle;

571 H. Use the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, or allow the taxicab or for-hire vehicle to  
572 be used, in the commission of any crime;

573 I. Refuse to transport in the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, cancel a dispatched call,  
574 or end a trip in progress because of:

575 1. Any passenger's wheelchair or other mobility device that can be folded and  
576 safely placed in either the passenger or trunk compartment of the vehicle;

577 2. A service or assistive animal, as defined in K.C.C. chapter 12.22; or

578 3. A passenger's groceries, packages, or luggage;

579 J. Refuse to transport any person except when:

580 1. The driver has already been dispatched on another call;

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581           2. The passenger is acting in a disorderly, threatening, or suspicious, manner, or  
582 otherwise causes the driver to reasonably believe that the driver's health or safety, or that  
583 of others, may be endangered;

584           3. The passenger cannot, upon request, show ability to pay the fare;

585           4. The passenger refuses to state a specific destination upon entering the taxicab  
586 or for-hire vehicle; or

587           5. The trip covers more than one hundred miles or includes traveling over a  
588 mountain pass or on a ferry;

589           K. Smoke or allow passengers to smoke in the vehicle;

590           L. Ask, demand, or collect any rate or fare other than as specified on the  
591 taximeter, smart taximeter, or application dispatch system;

592           M. Solicit passengers from anywhere other than the driver's seat or standing  
593 within direct view of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, and never solicit when the taxicab or  
594 for-hire vehicle is in motion. The driver of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle shall not use any  
595 other person to solicit passengers;

596           N. Park a taxicab or for-hire vehicle in a marked passenger load zone, truck load  
597 zone, commercial load zone, or charter bus zone; except that a driver may drop off or  
598 pick up passengers in a passenger load zone; and

599           O. Misstate or omit a material fact on any document provided to the director, or  
600 alter any document or record provided to or issued by the director.

601           NEW SECTION. SECTION 20.

602           A. Designated taxicab zones are for taxicabs only. A regional for-hire driver  
603 shall not do any of the following in a taxicab zone:

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- 604           1. Leave the taxicab unattended in a taxicab zone for more than fifteen minutes;  
605           2. Occupy a taxicab zone unless operating a taxicab that is available for hire;  
606           3. Perform engine maintenance or repairs on the taxicab while in a taxicab zone;  
607           4. Refuse a request for service because of the driver's position in line at a  
608 taxicab zone; a passenger may select any taxicab in the line; or  
609           5. Use a taxicab zone while under suspension from that taxicab zone.

610           B. A violation of this section may result in a suspension from one or more  
611 taxicab zones, in addition to penalties as authorized in section 46 of this ordinance.

612           NEW SECTION. SECTION 21. Regional for-hire drivers operating at Seattle-  
613 Tacoma International Airport shall adhere to the following additional standards:

614           A. Load or unload passengers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport only as  
615 permitted by the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Schedule of Rules and  
616 Regulations;

617           B. When available for hire, shall not drive, be in control of, or operate a taxicab  
618 or for-hire vehicle to pick up passengers on Seattle-Tacoma International Airport  
619 property without the vehicle displaying a Port of Seattle authorized permit; and

620           C. Not solicit passengers on Seattle-Tacoma International Airport property,  
621 unless the driver is in the driver's seat or standing within direct view of the vehicle, and  
622 the vehicle is safely and legally parked.

623           NEW SECTION. SECTION 22.

624           A. As of the effective date of this ordinance, every valid taxicab and for-hire  
625 vehicle medallion issued by the city of Seattle shall be issued a county medallion  
626 reciprocity endorsement. The medallion and medallion reciprocity endorsement shall be

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627 inseparable. A medallion cannot be issued, renewed, transferred, or temporarily  
628 deactivated separately from the medallion reciprocity endorsement. Any restriction  
629 imposed on a medallion through a license action applies with equal force to the  
630 corresponding medallion reciprocity endorsement. Any restriction imposed on a  
631 medallion reciprocity endorsement through a license action applies with equal force to  
632 the corresponding medallion.

633         B. Effective September 1, 2024, an existing medallion issued by the county and  
634 an existing medallion issued by the city of Seattle and that were previously required to be  
635 used with the same vehicle may be separated to be used with different vehicles or to be  
636 transferred. Such medallions used with the same vehicle in both King County and the city  
637 of Seattle may be separated at any time by the medallion owner by requesting such  
638 separation on a form or in a format established by the director. This provision applies to  
639 all medallion types.

640         C. The owner of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion may use the medallion as  
641 collateral to secure a loan from a bank or any other financial institution. Medallion  
642 owners shall file with the director the name of any and all lienholders, on forms furnished  
643 by the director. The collateral shall be described as "King County taxicab medallion" or,  
644 until March 31, 2026, "King County for-hire vehicle medallion," and shall include the  
645 medallion number. Within thirty days of the date of creation of the pledge, lien, or  
646 security interest, the party that holds the pledge, lien, or security interest, shall record the  
647 same as required by state law and provide a copy of the recording to the director.

648         D. The interest of a medallion owner may be suspended or revoked for any  
649 reason enumerated in this chapter for the suspension or revocation of a medallion.

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650 E. Upon a final order of medallion revocation, when all appellate proceedings, if  
651 any, have been concluded, the medallion may only be transferred as prescribed by this  
652 section, section 26 of this ordinance, and as prescribed by the director by rule.

653 F. In accepting a medallion, medallion owners waive any and all liability, claims,  
654 actions, suits, loss, costs, expense judgments, attorneys' fees, or damages of every kind  
655 and description resulting directly or indirectly from any act or omission of the county, its  
656 officials, officers, employees, and agents regarding the valuation or devaluation of the  
657 medallion.

658 G. The county assumes no liability for any devaluation of the medallion,  
659 including but not limited to any devaluation due to regulatory action or market forces.

660 H. Except for an owner awarded a new taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion that  
661 is required to meet the minimum operating requirements in **section 45.H. of this**  
662 **ordinance**, a medallion owner may voluntarily transfer or sell a medallion in accordance  
663 with this section, section 26 of this ordinance, and as prescribed by the director by rule.

664 I. Medallion owners may lease an interest in the medallion as prescribed by  
665 director's rule. A leased medallion shall not be subleased to another party.

666 NEW SECTION. SECTION 23.

667 A. Unless adjusted by the director by rule, the maximum number of taxicab  
668 medallions is one thousand three hundred. Wheelchair accessible taxicab medallions do  
669 not count towards the maximum number.

670 B. On April 1, 2026, all for-hire vehicle medallions shall become taxicab  
671 medallions. The medallion system for for-hire vehicles shall no longer be in effect after  
672 March 31, 2026.

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673 C. The director may issue additional taxicab medallions only as specified by this  
674 section.

675 D. The director may adjust by rule the maximum number of taxicab medallions  
676 and shall periodically determine the need for additional taxicab service. Factors to be  
677 considered to adjust the maximum number of taxicab medallions or to issue additional  
678 taxicab medallions include:

- 679 1. Coordination with the city of Seattle to promote a regional licensing and  
680 regulatory framework for for-hire transportation services;
- 681 2. Growth in population, tourists, and other visitors to the area;
- 682 3. The quality of existing taxicab service as indicated by passenger satisfaction,  
683 including wheelchair accessible vehicle service, if applicable;
- 684 4. A comparison of actual average taxicab response times to optimum average  
685 taxicab response times established by the director;
- 686 5. Availability and quality of for-hire transportation services in underserved  
687 communities, including areas of lower population density;
- 688 6. Available data of medallion sales on the private market;
- 689 7. Analysis of drivers' ability to earn a living wage, including the impact of  
690 adjusting the number of medallions on driver income; and
- 691 8. Other indications of market demand.

692 E.1. If the director determines that issuance of additional taxicab medallions is  
693 warranted, such medallions shall be issued as follows:

- 694 a. a competitive request for proposals and award process under which  
695 medallions will be issued to medallion applicants whose proposals demonstrate that they

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696 are most able to meet the needs of the public in providing taxicab service by meeting  
697 qualifications prepared by the director that are not in conflict with the general provisions  
698 of this chapter;

699           b. a lottery of qualified medallion applicants; or

700           c. a combination of both procedures as prescribed by the director by rule.

701           2. Regardless of the method used, the director shall consider a medallion  
702 applicant's driving record, driving experience, current or previous medallion ownership,  
703 and any additional qualifications required by the director.

704           3. If issuing a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion, the director may  
705 additionally consider the medallion applicant's qualifying experience transporting  
706 individuals with disabilities who require any type of mobility device, including a manual  
707 or motorized wheelchair, and any additional qualifications required by the director.

708           F. Any additional taxicab medallion shall only be issued to a medallion applicant  
709 who is an individual. No corporation, limited liability company, or partnership shall  
710 obtain any medallion held by an individual until the expiration of three years following  
711 the original date of issuance to that individual; however, additional taxicab medallions  
712 may be issued to and be held by the following business entities:

713           1. Corporations held by a single shareholder, except that the taxicab must be  
714 personally operated by the single shareholder for a period of three years from the date of  
715 issuance of the medallion and the ownership of the shares of the corporation cannot be  
716 changed within the three-year period. Any change of ownership of shares of the  
717 corporation shall result in revocation of the medallion; or



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718           2. Limited liability companies comprised of a single member, except that the  
719 taxicab must be personally operated by the single member for a period of three years  
720 from the date of issuance of the medallion and no change of membership may take place  
721 within the three-year period. Any change of membership of the limited liability company  
722 shall result in revocation of the medallion.

723           G. For three years following the date of issuance of an additional taxicab  
724 medallion or an additional wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion in accordance with  
725 subsections E. and J. of this section, the medallion owner must personally drive the  
726 taxicab for at least thirty hours per week for a minimum of forty weeks per year. If the  
727 medallion owner fails to fulfill this minimum operating requirement in any one-year  
728 period within the three-year period following the date of issuance, the medallion shall be  
729 revoked and shall not be eligible for transfer by its original owner. The medallion shall  
730 be transferable upon the completion of the three-year operating requirement.

731           H. A medallion plate, medallion decal, or other indicia issued to a medallion  
732 owner shall remain the property of the director.

733           I. A medallion owner may seek director approval to permanently convert a  
734 medallion to a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion. Such a conversion shall be  
735 subject to conditions prescribed by the director by rule. Conversion of a taxicab  
736 medallion to a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion is not considered the issuance of  
737 an additional medallion. A medallion that has been operated for three or more years that  
738 is permanently converted to a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion shall be  
739 transferrable and not subject to a new three-year operating requirement.

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740 J. As an alternative to the process outlined in subsection E. of this section, the  
741 director may issue King County medallion reciprocity endorsements to medallion  
742 applicants selected by the city of Seattle to be issued a city of Seattle taxicab medallion or  
743 a city of Seattle wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion, as applicable.

744 NEW SECTION. SECTION 24.

745 A. Effective September 1, 2024, any time a medallion is not operating for sixty  
746 days or more, the medallion owner, or an authorized representative, shall file a notice of  
747 temporary deactivation with the director in a manner determined by the director. A  
748 temporary deactivation may be for any reason, including, but not limited to, an inoperable  
749 or unavailable vehicle, a temporary lack of affiliation with an agency, an extended leave  
750 of absence, or owner convenience.

751 B. When a notice of temporary deactivation is filed with the director:

752 1. If the medallion is not expired, the deactivation period shall not exceed  
753 twelve consecutive months from the date the temporary deactivation notice is filed with  
754 the director;

755 2. If the medallion is expired, the deactivation period shall not be more than  
756 twelve consecutive months from September 1, 2024, or from the date the medallion  
757 expired, whichever is longer; and

758 3. If the medallion is expired or expires during the temporary deactivation  
759 period, the medallion renewal process must be completed before the medallion can be  
760 reactivated.

761 C. The director may initiate a temporary deactivation when the director becomes  
762 aware that a medallion has not been operating for sixty days or more.

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763 D. For medallions revoked, relinquished, or otherwise held by the director after  
764 January 31, 2015, and before September 1, 2024, the temporary deactivation period shall  
765 begin on September 1, 2024. A medallion previously revoked, relinquished, or otherwise  
766 held by the director, must be renewed within twelve months of September 1, 2024.

767 E. If a medallion owner fails to reactivate the medallion within twelve months  
768 from the effective date of the temporary deactivation, the director shall issue a notice of  
769 retirement to the medallion owner. Within sixty days of the notice of retirement, the  
770 medallion owner may reactivate or transfer the medallion. If the medallion is not  
771 reactivated or transferred within sixty days of the notice of retirement, the medallion is  
772 retired and an order of retirement will be issued by the director. The medallion owner  
773 may appeal the order of retirement in accordance with section 48 of this ordinance.  
774 Failure to appeal means the order of retirement issued by the director is final. The taxicab  
775 or for-hire vehicle medallion plate or decal that has been retired shall be returned to the  
776 director within fifteen days of the final order of retirement, or if the order is appealed and  
777 affirmed, within fifteen days after all appellate proceedings have concluded.

778 F. Medallions issued via a lottery or request for proposals shall not be  
779 transferrable until the obligations section 23.G. of this ordinance have been met.

780 G. Vehicle insurance is not required if a medallion is temporarily deactivated.  
781 The medallion owner must provide proof of vehicle insurance when reactivating the  
782 medallion.

783 NEW SECTION. SECTION 25. It is unlawful to operate a taxicab or for-hire  
784 vehicle with a medallion that is suspended or revoked. The operation of the taxicab or

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785 for-hire vehicle must cease, and the medallion owner shall immediately surrender the  
786 medallion plate or medallion decal to the director.

787 NEW SECTION. SECTION 26. Except for an owner subject to the minimum  
788 operating requirements in section 23.G. of this ordinance, a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
789 medallion may be transferred subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

790 A. The medallion and medallion reciprocity endorsement are inseparable and  
791 must be transferred together;

792 B. There are no pending enforcement actions or penalties, fees, or surcharges  
793 owed that were issued under this chapter, no unexpired vehicle lease agreements, and no  
794 unexpired medallion lease agreements;

795 C. Transfers of medallions with liens filed with the director will not be approved  
796 unless the medallion owner provides proof that the lien is paid or the lienholder provides  
797 written approval of the transfer. Only liens filed with the director according to section  
798 22.C. of this ordinance will be considered in the transfer review;

799 D. The medallion owner and proposed transferee shall submit a notice of transfer  
800 on a form or in a format prescribed by the director;

801 E. The proposed transferee shall meet all requirements in section 26 of this  
802 ordinance. A transfer shall not become effective, and the proposed transferee may not  
803 operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, until the proposed transferee receives the  
804 medallion plate or medallion decal; and

805 F. Upon the final order of revocation, when all appellate proceedings, if any,  
806 have been concluded, a medallion owner shall immediately surrender the taxicab or for-  
807 hire vehicle medallion plate or decal to the director. Effective September 1, 2024, except

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808 for revocation according to section 22.G. of this ordinance, the medallion owner has sixty  
809 days from the final order of revocation to transfer the medallion; however, medallions  
810 subject to a lien as evidenced by the filing requirement in section 22.C. of this ordinance  
811 cannot transfer unless the medallion owner provides proof that the lien is paid or the  
812 lienholder provides written approval of the transfer. If the medallion is not transferred  
813 within the sixty days, the medallion shall be deemed permanently retired, the lien, if any,  
814 is removed, and the director shall not reissue the medallion.

815 NEW SECTION. SECTION 27.

816 A. When a taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion or stock in a corporation owning  
817 such a medallion is distributed from an estate to a beneficiary by a court of law, the  
818 transferee shall submit to the director the court order directing the county to transfer the  
819 medallion to the beneficiary. Notwithstanding the court order, and except as allowed  
820 under subsection B. of this section, transfer shall not become effective, unless and until  
821 the transferee meets all requirements in section 26 of this ordinance.

822 B. An executor or administrator may continue the operation of a taxicab or for-  
823 hire vehicle only with prior written approval of the director. The executor or  
824 administrator shall apply for such approval.

825 NEW SECTION. SECTION 28. All medallions shall expire one year from the  
826 date of issuance. Medallions and their associated medallion reciprocity endorsements are  
827 inseparable and expire and renew concurrently. Unless an appeal is pending, no  
828 medallion may be renewed unless all outstanding penalties owed under this chapter have  
829 been paid.

830 NEW SECTION. SECTION 29.

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831           A. All for-hire vehicles must be operated as taxicabs using a smart taximeter  
832 system and must be affiliated with a regional dispatch agency that has a valid regional  
833 dispatch agency license by a date consistent with section 36of this ordinance.

834           B. It is unlawful to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle without first having  
835 obtained, for each and every vehicle so used, a taxicab medallion or for-hire vehicle  
836 medallion issued in accordance with this section.

837           C. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion application shall include the  
838 following:

839           1. Applicant type:

840           a. If the applicant is an individual, the applicant's full name, business address,  
841 primary telephone number, primary email address, and date of birth, which must be at  
842 least eighteen years before the date of application; or

843           b. If the applicant is a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or  
844 other entity:

845           (1) the applicant's name, business address, telephone number, and state of  
846 incorporation or partnership registration; and

847           (2) the full name, title, date of birth, which must be at least eighteen years  
848 before the date of application, business address, and phone number for each individual  
849 representative who is vested with authority to manage or direct the affairs of the legal  
850 entity or to bind the legal entity in dealings with third parties;

851           2. Vehicle information including: the make; model; year, which shall be no  
852 more than fifteen model years before the application date unless otherwise adjusted by  
853 the director by rule; engine type; vehicle identification number; Washington state license

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854 plate number; and vehicle number if previously assigned by the director. The vehicle  
855 must be a passenger car as defined in RCW 46.04.382;

856 3. Certificate or other proof of affiliation with a transitional regional dispatch  
857 agency or regional dispatch agency;

858 4. Insurance policy as required by this chapter;

859 5. A copy of the state of Washington vehicle registration or confirmation of  
860 vehicle registration on a form or in a format accepted by the director. The applicant does  
861 not need to be the registered owner;

862 6. Certificate of safety based on a vehicle safety inspection conducted annually  
863 by an approved mechanic; and

864 7. Any other information the director may reasonably require in order to make a  
865 licensing decision, take enforcement action, or perform any other duties of the director  
866 authorized by this chapter.

867 D. The director shall reject a medallion application if it has a material  
868 misstatement or omission.

869 E. The application and information required in this section must also be  
870 completed and supplied during each annual medallion renewal. The director will not  
871 process a medallion application if any required information or documentation is missing  
872 or incomplete. Completed applications and copies of required documentation shall be  
873 provided to the director by the medallion owner, or the transitional regional dispatch  
874 agency or regional dispatch agency on behalf of the medallion owner.

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875 F. If any of the information in the application changes, including if it ceases to be  
876 true or is superseded in any way by new information, the applicant shall within seven  
877 days of the change:

- 878 1. Inform the director, or  
879 2. Inform the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency,  
880 if the application was submitted on behalf of the applicant.

881 G. A medallion shall not be renewed if the medallion does not have an associated  
882 vehicle or if the vehicle to which the medallion is associated is not affiliated with a  
883 transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency. In such cases, the  
884 owner of the medallion shall initiate a temporary deactivation with the director.

885 NEW SECTION. SECTION 30.

886 A. At all times while operating as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, there must be  
887 valid insurance as described in this section. All insurance policies shall either comply  
888 with chapter 46.72 RCW and have underinsured motorist coverage of at least one  
889 hundred thousand dollars per person and three hundred thousand dollars per accident; or  
890 comply with the coverage amounts required by RCW 46.72B.180. All insurance policies  
891 that cover a vehicle while operating as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle and for which a  
892 medallion is required shall be filed with the director. The insurance policy shall:

- 893 1. Be issued by an admitted carrier in the state of Washington with an A.M.  
894 Best Rating of not less than B- and be not less than A.M. Best Financial Size Category  
895 VII or show evidence to the director of surplus lines from an insurer with an A.M. Best  
896 Rating of not less than B and be not less than A.M. Best Financial Size Category VII;



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897           2. Name King County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees as an  
898 additional insured on the insurance policy;

899           3. Provide that the insurer will notify the director, in writing, of cancellation for  
900 nonpayment of premium no less than ten days before the cancellation takes effect, or of  
901 cancellation for any other reason no less than thirty days before the cancellation or  
902 nonrenewal takes effect. If an insurance policy is cancelled or not renewed, proof of a  
903 new policy must be filed before the expiration of the policy. The taxicab or for-hire  
904 vehicle is automatically suspended and cannot operate until coverage is secured;

905           4. Not include aggregate limits, named driver requirements or exclusions, or  
906 radius restrictions. Other limitations or restrictions beyond standard insurance services  
907 office business auto policy form are subject to approval by the director; and

908           5. Be in effect at any time the taxicab or for-hire vehicle is operating.

909           B. When a taxicab or for-hire vehicle is dispatched by a transportation network  
910 company, the taxicab's or for-hire vehicle's insurance covers that trip, unless the  
911 transportation network company maintains an insurance policy that includes trips  
912 provided by a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

913           C. The director may suspend or suspend and modify any requirements of this  
914 section when no other viable insurance options are available to the industry.

915           NEW SECTION. SECTION 31.

916           A. The vehicle safety inspection and certificate of safety required by section  
917 29.C.6. of this ordinance shall be provided by an approved mechanic and shall certify that  
918 the following items on taxicab or for-hire vehicle are mechanically sound and fit for  
919 driving:

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- 920 1. Foot brakes;
- 921 2. Emergency brakes;
- 922 3. Steering mechanism;
- 923 4. Windshield;
- 924 5. Rear window and other glass;
- 925 6. Windshield wipers;
- 926 7. Headlights;
- 927 8. Taillights;
- 928 9. Turn indicator lights;
- 929 10. Stop lights;
- 930 11. Front seat adjustment mechanism;
- 931 12. Doors, including that the doors properly open, close, and lock;
- 932 13. Horn;
- 933 14. Speedometer;
- 934 15. Bumpers;
- 935 16. Muffler and exhaust system, except for where vehicle propulsion systems
- 936 emit zero emissions such as in battery electric vehicles;
- 937 17. Condition of tires, including tread depth;
- 938 18. Interior rear view mirror and exterior side view mirrors;
- 939 19. Safety belts and air bags for driver and a passenger or passengers; and
- 940 20. Other items reasonably required by the director.
- 941 B. If the vehicle is sold, the certificate of safety remains valid until the next
- 942 medallion renewal date.

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943 C. An approved mechanic who performs vehicle safety inspections must not have  
944 a conflict of interest as defined by the director by rule. The director may remove an  
945 approved mechanic from the list maintained by the director for a violation of this chapter  
946 or rules prescribed by the director or due to substantiated complaints from drivers.

947 D. Vehicles shall be maintained consistent with the service standards  
948 recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. The vehicle owner and driver shall keep all  
949 maintenance and service records for all vehicles owned and used for for-hire  
950 transportation services for three years.

951 E. The vehicle owner and driver shall remedy a vehicle defect in a manner  
952 consistent with a vehicle safety recall notice issued by the vehicle manufacturer and/or  
953 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, after being notified of the recall by  
954 the vehicle manufacturer, the driver's affiliated agency or company, or the director.

955 F. The vehicle owner and driver shall ensure that all requirements in this section  
956 are met and continually maintained.

957 G. A vehicle that has been in a collision and determined by the insurance adjuster  
958 to be a total wreck or total loss shall not be placed back in service until an approved  
959 mechanic with a current certification in structural analysis and damage repair or airbags  
960 has verified that there is no damage to the vehicle frame and that the airbag system is  
961 working properly. The inspection is separate from the vehicle safety inspection  
962 completed each year.

963 H. The director shall summarily suspend a medallion and place a vehicle out of  
964 service if the vehicle fails a vehicle safety inspection or the director determines that a

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965 violation of this section is an immediate safety hazard and it is necessary to prevent a  
966 clear, substantial and imminent hazard to life, safety, or property.

967 NEW SECTION. SECTION 32. In addition to meeting all vehicle standards  
968 established in this chapter, the following requirements apply to wheelchair accessible  
969 vehicles:

970 A. The vehicle must conform to the vehicle accessibility requirements of the  
971 regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title 49 C.F.R. Chapter 38,  
972 Subpart B, as amended;

973 B. Taxicabs and for-hire vehicles may not convert to wheelchair accessible  
974 vehicles without director approval. The director may approve applications for conversion  
975 consistent with criteria prescribed by rule;

976 C. A vehicle operating with a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion must be a  
977 wheelchair accessible vehicle; and

978 D. Before being placed into service and annually thereafter, a separate inspection  
979 of the vehicle and any installed accessibility equipment must occur. In addition to  
980 checking for conformance with vehicle accessibility requirements in accordance with this  
981 subsection, the vehicle driver or drivers may be required to pass a practical demonstration  
982 of proper wheelchair securement techniques during this inspection. If a driver of the  
983 vehicle is unable to demonstrate proper securement techniques during this inspection, the  
984 director shall suspend the driver's regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible  
985 vehicle endorsement and may require the driver to undergo additional training before  
986 returning to try the practical demonstration again. A wheelchair accessible vehicle shall  
987 not pass the inspection unless the driver is able to pass a practical demonstration of

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988 proper wheelchair securement techniques. Upon passing the practical demonstration of  
989 proper wheelchair securement techniques, the driver's regional for-hire driver's license  
990 wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement will no longer be suspended and is effective.

991 E. If prescribed by the director by rule, affiliated wheelchair accessible vehicles  
992 shall participate in a director-approved dispatch system for wheelchair accessible trips.

993 NEW SECTION. SECTION 33.

994 A. The director may establish a rule to determine the viability of electric vehicles  
995 for taxicab and for-hire vehicle owners and regional for-hire drivers and, if viable, create  
996 incentives to promote the use of electric vehicles. When determining electric vehicle  
997 viability for for-hire transportation services, the director shall consider, but not be limited  
998 to, the following factors:

- 999 1. The price of new or used electric vehicles compared to new and used  
1000 nonelectric vehicles;
- 1001 2. If the mileage range for new and used electric vehicles meets the needs of  
1002 full-time for-hire transportation services;
- 1003 3. The availability of recharging infrastructure in locations and at times that are  
1004 convenient for regional for-hire drivers, and if recharging time conflicts with the regional  
1005 for-hire driver's need to operate the vehicle; and
- 1006 4. If the vehicle life cycle for existing and new electric vehicles creates an  
1007 undue burden for the vehicle owner or regional for-hire driver.

1008 B. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require or restrict a regional for-  
1009 hire driver's use of electric vehicles for for-hire transportation services.

1010 NEW SECTION. SECTION 34.

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1011           A. A taxicab or for-hire vehicle with a valid medallion may operate if the taxicab  
1012 or for-hire vehicle:

1013           1. Is operated by a driver with a valid regional for-hire 'driver's license issued  
1014 under this chapter;

1015           2. Has insurance as required by this chapter;

1016           3. Displays, in a location specified by the director, a current taxicab or for-hire  
1017 vehicle medallion plate or decal issued by the director; however, a licensed taxicab or  
1018 for-hire vehicle does not require a transportation network company endorsement decal  
1019 when dispatched by a transportation network company;

1020           4. Displays the vehicle medallion number and name of the affiliated transitional  
1021 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency on the exterior of the vehicle and  
1022 displays any rates that apply to a trip not requested via an application dispatch system, as  
1023 prescribed by the director by rule;

1024           5. Is equipped to accept electronic payment of fares and issue receipts;

1025           6. When operating with a taxicab medallion, is equipped with an approved and  
1026 properly functioning taximeter or smart taximeter and is connected to a mobile data  
1027 terminal to accept electronic payment of fares and issue receipts;

1028           7. Displays any passenger information prescribed by the director by rule;

1029           8. Displays, on or in the vehicle, signs, including notices, announcements,  
1030 pictures, advertisements, or other messages that do not create a visible distraction or  
1031 safety hazard for the driver of the vehicle or for other vehicles on the road. The director  
1032 may prescribe by rule the manner in which the signs may be displayed, including, but not

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1033 limited to, requirements concerning the number of signs per vehicle, placement on or  
1034 within vehicles, size limitations, and devices or mechanisms used to display the signs;

1035           9. Is equipped with a monitored duress alarm approved by the director in  
1036 accordance with specifications prescribed by the director by rule;

1037           10. Is equipped with a monitored vehicle tracking system, which may be part of  
1038 an approved smart taximeter system or application dispatch system, in accordance with  
1039 specifications prescribed by the director by rule;

1040           11. Maintains a continuous connection between the taximeter and the dispatch  
1041 system or between the taximeter and the application dispatch system;

1042           12. Operates on a dispatch system of the affiliated transitional regional dispatch  
1043 agency or regional dispatch agency and may also operate on one or more approved  
1044 application dispatch systems, including those operated by a licensed transportation  
1045 network company;

1046           13. Is affiliated with a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch  
1047 agency and adopts the uniform color scheme of that transitional regional dispatch agency  
1048 or regional dispatch agency unless otherwise authorized by the director. The director  
1049 may prescribe by rule any additional criteria for vehicle colors and markings;

1050           14. Meets current taximeter standards and has installed and uses a smart  
1051 taximeter when a smart taximeter system is implemented by the affiliated regional  
1052 dispatch agency;

1053           15. Is compliant with policies and procedures established by the transitional  
1054 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency to meet the requirements of this  
1055 chapter and ensure passenger satisfaction; and

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1056 16. Meets any other requirement established by the director by rule;

1057 B. To operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, the medallion owner or vehicle owner

1058 shall:

1059 1. Not have any outstanding monetary penalties issued under this chapter; and

1060 2. Inform the director and the prior transitional regional dispatch agency or

1061 regional dispatch agency within five business days of the vehicle affiliating with a new

1062 transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency.

1063 C. A citation, license action, or both issued for a violation of this section 34 shall

1064 be issued to the medallion owner, the medallion lessee, the person operating the vehicle,

1065 or any combination thereof, as appropriate.

1066 NEW SECTION. SECTION 35.

1067 A. All lease agreements for taxicabs or for-hire vehicles shall be in writing, and

1068 the lessor shall file the original lease agreement with the director prior to the effective

1069 date of the lease in a manner specified by rule adopted by the director.

1070 B. If a change of transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch

1071 agency is made, any existing vehicle lease must be filed with the new agency at the time

1072 of the change.

1073 C. The lease amount charged to a lessee shall not exceed the maximum amount

1074 established by rule adopted by the director. In determining the maximum lease amount,

1075 if any, the director shall consider vehicle purchase prices, the cost of insurance premiums,

1076 fuel costs, and variations in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for

1077 All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), for the Seattle area, evaluated over a twenty-four month

1078 time period preceding the determination of the lease amount, and may consider any other



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1079 factors that may affect the market for taxicab or for-hire vehicle leases or that may affect  
1080 the provision of for-hire transportation services. Costs already factored into the lease  
1081 amount shall not be charged to the driver as an additional amount.

1082 D. A vehicle lessee shall not sublease a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

1083 NEW SECTION. SECTION 36.

1084 A. Taxicab associations and for-hire vehicle companies must transition to  
1085 become regional dispatch agencies by March 31, 2026.

1086 B. As of the effective date of this ordinance, a valid King County taxicab  
1087 association license or for-hire vehicle company registration shall automatically become a  
1088 transitional regional dispatch agency license and shall expire on March 31, 2024. As of  
1089 the effective date of this ordinance, every taxicab association with a valid license issued  
1090 by the city of Seattle and every for-hire vehicle company recognized by the city of Seattle  
1091 shall be issued a transitional regional dispatch agency license by King County and shall  
1092 expire on March 31, 2024. A transitional regional dispatch agency license or a regional  
1093 dispatch agency license permits the licensee to operate in King County and the city of  
1094 Seattle. New taxicab association licenses shall not be issued and new for-hire vehicle  
1095 companies shall not be registered after the effective date of this ordinance.

1096 C. Upon initial license renewal, a transitional regional dispatch agency shall  
1097 submit for director approval a transition plan on a form provided by the director for  
1098 adopting a smart taximeter system. The transition plan must include a clear process for  
1099 adopting a smart taximeter system by no later than March 31, 2026. The director may  
1100 grant an extension of the deadline for implementing a smart taximeter system for up to  
1101 twelve months based upon consideration of the following nonexclusive factors:

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1102           1. Previous efforts of a transitional regional dispatch agency to implement a  
1103 smart taximeter system in its fleet of affiliated vehicles;

1104           2. Costs and availability of a smart taximeter system; and

1105           3. Economic viability of operating a taxicab.

1106           D. Transitional regional dispatch agencies seeking to continue operating beyond  
1107 March 31, 2026, shall apply for a regional dispatch agency license. Unless the director  
1108 approves an extension for adopting a smart taximeter system, a valid regional dispatch  
1109 agency license is required to operate after March 31, 2026.

1110           NEW SECTION. SECTION 37.

1111           A. It is unlawful for a person to operate as a regional dispatch agency without a  
1112 valid regional dispatch agency license. A regional dispatch agency license is valid for  
1113 one year and is not transferable. To be licensed as a regional dispatch agency, all  
1114 regional dispatch agencies shall meet the criteria necessary for obtaining a regional  
1115 dispatch agency license from the city of Seattle, and shall apply for a regional dispatch  
1116 agency license from the city of Seattle concurrently with applying for a regional dispatch  
1117 agency license from King County, and shall:

1118           1. Apply for a license on a form approved by the director;

1119           2. Have an identified representative authorized to make business decisions on  
1120 behalf of the agency or company;

1121           3. Adopt a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol and drug use while operating a  
1122 taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensed under this chapter;

1123           4. Adopt a policy that prohibits the agency or company, including their  
1124 affiliated drivers, from discriminating against passengers or potential passengers on the

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1125 basis of race; color; national origin; religious belief or affiliation; sex; disability; age; use  
1126 of a service animal; sexual orientation; gender identity; or geographic beginning or  
1127 endpoints of the ride, unless the trip covers more than one hundred miles or includes  
1128 traveling over a mountain pass or on a ferry;

1129           5. Have a process for receiving, tracking, and resolving passenger complaints;

1130           6. Have and maintain a secure process for passengers to retrieve items left  
1131 behind in an affiliated vehicle as soon as possible but no longer than two calendar days  
1132 following the date of the trip. Such policy shall be in writing and readily accessible to  
1133 passengers;

1134           7. Have a system that enables each passenger to receive an electronic or paper  
1135 receipt upon payment of the fare. A receipt shall include at least the following  
1136 information:

1137           a. the date and time the trip began and ended;

1138           b. the medallion number for a taxicab or for-hire vehicle trip;

1139           c. the driver's regional for-hire driver's license number or unique driver  
1140 identification number;

1141           d. the fare charged and any tip paid;

1142           e. the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency with  
1143 which the vehicle is affiliated; and

1144           f. a phone number, email address, or website to submit passenger feedback and  
1145 inquiries to the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency;

1146           8. Have an approved smart taximeter system that includes the following  
1147 functions:

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- 1148           a. is capable of metering a trip using an onboard diagnostic connection to the  
1149 vehicle or the use of location tracking technology, or some combination of the two, to  
1150 measure time and distance traveled;
- 1151           b. has an integrated payment and receipting system that accepts credit cards  
1152 and other electronic payments such as electronic taxi scrip, promotional codes, and  
1153 alternative payment channels;
- 1154           c. has an integrated dispatch system that:
- 1155               (1) supports two-way communication between the dispatcher and the driver;  
1156               (2) is equipped with monitored vehicle tracking technology and be able to  
1157 track vehicle location in real time;
- 1158               (3) does not exclusively dispatch calls by phone or radio; and  
1159               (4) provides a duress alarm for the driver;
- 1160           d. supports pricing based on static and dynamic market conditions;
- 1161           e. has the ability to calculate an upfront fare to present to a passenger before  
1162 the passenger accepts the ride;
- 1163           f. is capable of notifying a passenger if a convenience fee for electronic  
1164 payment, or other known fees, will be added to the fare;
- 1165           g. includes driver authentication and system security features;
- 1166           h. automates data collection and reporting;
- 1167           i. provides geographic location information;
- 1168           j. incorporates a director-approved mobility data standard for on-demand for-  
1169 hire vehicles to support external integration;

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1170 k. can be used and configured for one or more regional dispatch agencies and  
1171 can dispatch vehicles from one or more registered trade names;

1172 l. if required by the director by rule, is connected to a director-approved  
1173 external dispatch system for the purpose of dispatching wheelchair accessible vehicles;  
1174 and

1175 m. meets any other requirement prescribed by the director by rule; and

1176 9. Have a driver training program, for for-hire drivers, approved by the director.

1177 B. Prior to obtaining a regional dispatch agency license, transitional regional  
1178 dispatch agencies shall comply with regional dispatch agency licensing and operating  
1179 requirements in this section, except that:

1180 1. A transitional regional dispatch agency shall not be required to have a smart  
1181 taximeter system; and

1182 2. A transitional regional dispatch agency that is affiliated with taxicabs at the  
1183 time of being issued a transitional regional dispatch agency license that does not have a  
1184 smart taximeter system approved by the director, shall provide a dispatch system  
1185 integrated with the vehicle's taximeter for all affiliated vehicles.

1186 NEW SECTION. SECTION 38. A transitional regional dispatch agency license  
1187 or regional dispatch agency license issued by King County and a corresponding regional  
1188 dispatch agency license or transitional regional dispatch agency license issued by the city  
1189 of Seattle shall be considered one inseparable license.

1190 NEW SECTION. SECTION 39.

1191 A. At all times, a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch  
1192 agency shall:

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- 1193           1. Operate with a valid transitional regional dispatch agency or regional  
1194 dispatch agency license;
- 1195           2. Ensure all information provided to the director does not misstate or omit  
1196 material facts;
- 1197           3. Inform the director in writing within seven days if any of the information  
1198 provided in the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency license  
1199 application changes, including if it ceases to be true or is superseded in any way by new  
1200 information;
- 1201           4. Ensure any driver of an affiliated vehicle possesses a valid regional for-hire  
1202 driver's license, enhanced regional for-hire driver's license, or regional for-hire driver's  
1203 license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement, or any combination thereof, as  
1204 applicable to either the ride type or the vehicle type, or both;
- 1205           5. Require affiliated vehicles to meet all requirements of this chapter, including  
1206 but not limited to passing an annual vehicle safety inspection and being licensed,  
1207 endorsed, and insured;
- 1208           6. Notify the director in writing within seven days upon adding or removing an  
1209 affiliated vehicle;
- 1210           7. Require affiliated vehicles to be fully equipped as required by this chapter  
1211 whenever operating as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle;
- 1212           8. Accept service of general correspondence, license actions, citations, and  
1213 notices of complaints on behalf of an affiliated driver or vehicle owner and forward such  
1214 to the respective affiliated driver or vehicle owner;

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- 1215           9. Prioritize dispatch services to passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility  
1216 devices when dispatching affiliated wheelchair accessible vehicles;
- 1217           10. Allow passengers to indicate whether they require a wheelchair-accessible  
1218 vehicle and connect passengers to those services either directly or via a weblink,  
1219 application, or phone number, if no wheelchair accessible vehicles are available on the  
1220 agency’s application dispatch system. The director may suspend or alter this requirement  
1221 by rule if a director-approved dispatch system is established for wheelchair accessible  
1222 trips;
- 1223           11. Maintain a phone number, mailing address, and email address for passenger  
1224 service;
- 1225           12. Record all trips, process all payments, and issue a receipt for all payments  
1226 through the dispatch system, a smart taximeter system, or an application dispatch system  
1227 provided to affiliated drivers;
- 1228           13. Comply with the data reporting requirements established in this chapter;
- 1229           14. Operate only director approved application dispatch systems ;
- 1230           15. Require affiliated vehicles to comply with applicable rate structures defined  
1231 in this chapter;
- 1232           16. Have, maintain, and monitor, while one or more affiliated vehicles are  
1233 active, a duress alarm for the driver;
- 1234           17. Establish and enforce operating standards for affiliated drivers and vehicles  
1235 to ensure code compliance and passenger satisfaction;
- 1236           18. Satisfy every request for service as long as there are affiliated taxicabs or  
1237 for-hire vehicles available; except that transitional regional dispatch agencies, regional

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1238 dispatch agencies, and regional for-hire drivers, that refuse service within the meaning of  
1239 section 19.J of this ordinance, shall not be subject to any penalties by the director, and, in  
1240 the case of regional for-hire drivers, by the transitional regional dispatch agency or  
1241 regional dispatch agency;

1242           19. Require affiliated vehicles to use a uniform color scheme or any associated  
1243 graphics, or both, approved by the director;

1244           20. Provide a supervisor at a taxicab zone whenever such zone is used by  
1245 affiliated taxicabs if the director determines that it is necessary due to complaints  
1246 received from passengers and adjacent property owners or improper use of nearby  
1247 passenger load zones, truck load zones, and charter bus zones. If the transitional regional  
1248 dispatch agency, or regional dispatch agency, fails to provide a supervisor as required by  
1249 the director, the director may prohibit all affiliated taxicabs from using the taxicab zone;

1250           21. Require affiliated vehicles to operate on an approved taximeter, smart  
1251 taximeter system, or application dispatch system as required in this chapter;

1252           22. Remit fares made via electronic payment to regional for-hire drivers within  
1253 two business days after the ride was completed;

1254           23. Remit fares made via electronic payment through the smart taximeter  
1255 system to regional for-hire drivers in amounts not less than the full fare paid by the  
1256 passenger, excluding deductions for fees agreed to in accordance with section 40 of this  
1257 ordinance;

1258           24. Comply with applicable business license requirements for any jurisdiction  
1259 for which the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency operates;  
1260 and



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1261 25. Meet any other requirement established by the director by rule.

1262 B. A transitional regional dispatch agency that is not affiliated with taxicabs at  
1263 the time of being issued a transitional regional dispatch agency license does not need to:

1264 1. Affiliate with taxicabs;

1265 2. Have or operate a taximeter;

1266 3. Comply with taximeter rates; or

1267 4. Provide a supervisor at a taxicab zone because for-hire vehicles are not  
1268 permitted to operate at a taxicab zone.

1269 C. Persons not previously licensed as a taxicab association or registered as a for-  
1270 hire vehicle company may apply for a transitional regional dispatch agency license in a  
1271 manner determined by the director.

1272 D.1. Transitional regional dispatch agencies and regional dispatch agencies shall  
1273 maintain accurate and complete operational records for all affiliated vehicles and shall  
1274 submit quarterly reports, in an electronic format approved by the director.

1275 2. Reports shall include the following:

1276 a. a total count of ride per origination ZIP Code;

1277 b. a total count of ride per destination ZIP Code;

1278 c. a total count of unfulfilled ride requests by ZIP Code;

1279 d. a total count of rides provided by a wheelchair accessible vehicle by ZIP

1280 Code;

1281 e. a total count of unfulfilled ride requests for a wheelchair accessible vehicle

1282 by ZIP Code;

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1283            f. a list of vehicle collisions; including the vehicle medallion number, regional  
1284 for-hire driver's license number, and if known, whether the collision was the fault of the  
1285 regional for-hire driver; and whether the collision resulted in any injuries;

1286            g. a list of crimes committed against drivers;

1287            h. a list of passenger complaints; and

1288            i. any other data required by the director to ensure compliance.

1289            3. Transitional regional dispatch agencies and regional dispatch agencies shall  
1290 retain records related to the reports required under subsection D. of this section for the  
1291 current year and at least the two prior calendar years. Records may be maintained  
1292 electronically.

1293            4. If a public records request is made of the county for documents that have  
1294 been designated by a licensee as confidential or proprietary, the county may provide third  
1295 party notice to the providing party prior to disclosure.

1296            E. A transitional regional dispatch agency and regional dispatch agency shall  
1297 store, and upon request permit the director to review, all records required by this chapter  
1298 for affiliated drivers and vehicles including, but not limited to, copies of regional for-hire  
1299 driver's licenses, taxicab and for-hire vehicle medallions, lists of all affiliated drivers and  
1300 their affiliated vehicles, passenger feedback, new driver training records, dispatch  
1301 records, and proof of vehicle insurance and vehicle registration. In addition, the  
1302 transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency shall:

1303            1. Retain records, electronically or otherwise, for the current year and at least  
1304 the prior two calendar years;

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1305           2. Provide the director with any other information the director may reasonably  
1306 require upon request; and

1307           3. Timely respond to the director's request for information.

1308           F. The director may authorize a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional  
1309 dispatch agency to submit regional for-hire driver's license applications on behalf of its  
1310 affiliated drivers, in a manner approved by the director.

1311           G. A transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency may  
1312 maintain a rating system for drivers and passengers to rate each other following a trip.

1313           NEW SECTION. SECTION 40.

1314           A. A transitional regional dispatch agency and regional dispatch agency shall put  
1315 in writing all policies that affect affiliated medallion owners, vehicle owners, and  
1316 regional for-hire drivers.

1317           B. Prior to implementing or changing a policy, the transitional regional dispatch  
1318 agency or regional dispatch agency shall provide a copy of the draft policy to the  
1319 affiliated medallion owner, vehicle owner, or regional for-hire driver, and post a copy of  
1320 the draft policy in the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency  
1321 office and send via electronic transmittal a copy of the draft policy to the affiliated  
1322 medallion owners, vehicle owners and regional for-hire drivers. Affiliated medallion  
1323 owners, vehicle owners and regional for-hire drivers shall have a minimum of twenty  
1324 days to review and provide input on the draft policy before the policy takes effect.

1325 Notwithstanding this twenty-day timeline, a policy proposed for purposes of addressing  
1326 an emergent issue may be temporarily established for up to thirty days. After thirty days,

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1327 medallion owners, vehicle owners, and regional for-hire drivers shall be given an  
1328 opportunity to provide input before the policy may be permanently adopted.

1329 C. A transitional regional dispatch agency and regional dispatch agency shall  
1330 make known to the regional for-hire driver the amount of the fare for each trip provided  
1331 by that driver. If the amount remitted to the driver is less than the full fare paid by the  
1332 passenger, the remittance to the driver shall include a description detailing the deductions  
1333 made. With the exception of any fees that are authorized in Section 41 of this ordinance,  
1334 a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency may only make a  
1335 deduction on trips dispatched by the agency, and the maximum allowable amount of such  
1336 deduction shall be ten percent of the fare paid by the passenger.

1337 D. A transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency shall  
1338 establish a written policy governing an owner's or driver's access to the smart taximeter  
1339 system, application dispatch system, the ability to work on any contracted accounts, and  
1340 affiliation with the dispatch agency. The policy must include written notice of impending  
1341 deactivation with sufficient information for the driver to understand the reason for  
1342 deactivation, an opportunity for the owner or driver to be heard, and a period for the  
1343 owner or driver to cure the violation before deactivation begins, unless the deactivation is  
1344 ordered by the director or is an immediate threat to public safety.

1345 NEW SECTION. SECTION 41.

1346 A. Regional taximeter rates and the requirements for regional taximeter rates are  
1347 as follows:

1348 1. Unless specified elsewhere in this section or prescribed by the director by  
1349 rule, it shall be unlawful for anyone operating a taxicab licensed by King County to

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1350 advertise, charge, demand or receive any greater or lesser rate than the following regional  
1351 taximeter rates:

- 1352 a. drop charge: for passengers for first 1/9 mile: \$2.60;
- 1353 b. Per mile: For each 1/9 mile or fraction thereof after the first 1/9 mile: \$0.30;
- 1354 c. For every one minute of waiting time: \$0.50, charged at \$0.30 per 36  
1355 seconds. Waiting time rates are charged when taxicab speed is less than 11 miles per  
1356 hour or when a taxicab driver is asked to wait for the passenger; and
- 1357 d. Additional per passenger charge for more than two persons, excluding  
1358 children under twelve years of age: \$0.50;

1359 2. The director may adjust or prescribe new regional taximeter rates and other  
1360 rates, such as minimum fares for trips, or both, by rule. In determining new regional  
1361 taximeter rates, the director may consider, among other things, the following factors:

- 1362 a. operational data supplied by a regional dispatch agency or data obtained by  
1363 the director through other sources, including, but not limited to, regional consumer price  
1364 index data;
- 1365 b. the public's need for adequate for-hire transportation services at reasonable  
1366 rates consistent with the provision, maintenance, and continuation of such services;
- 1367 c. the rates of other for-hire transportation providers operating in similar areas;
- 1368 d. rates paid by passengers using other modes of transportation;
- 1369 e. The ability of a driver to earn a living wage after covering all operating costs  
1370 incurred by the owner or driver;
- 1371 f. other regulatory, access, or similar fees paid by drivers to serve the  
1372 transportation needs of the region; and

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- 1373 g. alignment with rates established by the city of Seattle;
- 1374 3. Regional taximeter rates are exclusive of any per-trip fee established by the  
1375 Port of Seattle and set forth in any operating agreement or tariff, a temporary fuel  
1376 surcharge authorized by the director, a technology fee if authorized by the director, a  
1377 convenience fee for electronic payment of fares, the wheelchair accessible surcharge, or  
1378 any toll or charge established for roads, bridges, tunnels, or ferries;
- 1379 4. A regional dispatch agency's affiliated taxicabs shall have regional taximeter  
1380 rates programmed into its smart taximeter system. Variations from regional taximeter  
1381 rates are permitted, as follows:
- 1382 a. Variations from regional taximeter rates may be applied to contract trips,  
1383 upfront fares, dynamic pricing, fare splitting, trip bidding, and unless prohibited by the  
1384 director by rule, for flat-rate fares, minimum trip fares, or when operating on an  
1385 application dispatch system;
- 1386 b. The director may prescribe by rule variations from regional taximeter rates;
- 1387 c. Unless prescribed otherwise by the director by rule, any variation from  
1388 regional taximeter rates shall be established by a regional dispatch agency and not by an  
1389 individual driver. A regional dispatch agency shall not vary a rate so that it results in a  
1390 higher dispatch fee or other fee to be paid by an affiliated driver;
- 1391 d. Variations from regional taximeter rates shall be applied in a manner that  
1392 does not discriminate on the basis of a protected class or on the basis of the ride's  
1393 geographic beginning or endpoints;
- 1394 e. Unless a trip is dispatched via an application dispatch system, an upfront  
1395 fare shall be based on the estimated time and distance calculated by the smart taximeter

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1396 and multiplied by the regional taximeter rate. If the passenger rejects an upfront fare, the  
1397 regional taximeter rates apply; and

1398 f. If a flat rate between two defined points has been established, the flat rate  
1399 shall be made available to the passenger prior to accepting a ride. Regional dispatch  
1400 agencies must maintain a list of all established flat rates, including their defined origin  
1401 and destination points, and make such list available for inspection upon request of the  
1402 director;

1403 5. Contract rates shall be in writing, be retained by the regional dispatch agency,  
1404 and be available for inspection upon request of the director; and

1405 6. Before a licensee may use a smart taximeter system that is integrated with an  
1406 application dispatch system, the director must first determine the application dispatch  
1407 system rates are transparent under subsection B. of this section.

1408 B. The requirements for application dispatch system rates are as follows:

1409 1. Before using an application dispatch system, or using a smart taximeter  
1410 system as an application dispatch system, the transitional regional dispatch agency or  
1411 regional dispatch agency shall provide to the director either written documentation or a  
1412 physical demonstration, or both, that the application dispatch system rate structure is  
1413 transparent to the passenger prior to confirming the ride. Application dispatch system  
1414 rates do not need to be filed with the director unless requested by the director. The  
1415 director shall determine that the rate structure is transparent if:

1416 a. one of the following methodologies is used:

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1417 (1) the rate by either distance or time, or a combination of distance and time,  
1418 and the total fare or fare range is clearly displayed on the application dispatch system to  
1419 the passenger upon requesting a ride, but before confirming the ride; or

1420 (2) the fare for the ride is made clear to the passenger prior to confirming the  
1421 ride through an alternative method deemed acceptable by the director;

1422 b. any additional or higher charges such as tips, waiting time, tolls, or any  
1423 other charges not included in subsection B.1.a. of this section shall be clearly identified  
1424 by specific amount, if known, or by category, on the application dispatch system before  
1425 confirming a ride; and

1426 c. the receipt showing all charges paid by the passenger is available to the  
1427 regional for-hire driver in the application dispatch system; and

1428 2. During an abnormal disruption of the market, lasting for no longer than  
1429 twelve consecutive hours in King County, a transitional regional dispatch agency or  
1430 regional dispatch agency shall not raise its normal range of fare more than two times the  
1431 fare that would otherwise be applicable.

1432 C. The requirements for for-hire vehicle rates are as follows:

1433 1. For-hire vehicles must charge for service based on: a written contract; flat  
1434 rate per trip or by zone; or by an hourly rate with minimum increments of thirty minutes.  
1435 Flat charges by zone or hourly rate may vary by time of day. Zone boundaries shall be  
1436 set by the director by rule and shall be consistent across all for-hire vehicle operators;

1437 2. Records of all for-hire vehicle rates in place prior to implementing a smart  
1438 taximeter system shall be maintained by the for-hire vehicle company and be made



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1439 available for inspection upon request by the director. All rates and charges shall be  
1440 conspicuously available in the interior of the for-hire vehicle;

1441           3. The for-hire vehicle rate structure shall remain in effect until the vehicle  
1442 transitions to a taxicab or March 31, 2026, whichever occurs sooner. After March 31,  
1443 2026, all for-hire vehicles shall have transitioned to taxicabs and are subject to the  
1444 regional taximeter rates and application dispatch system rate requirements under this  
1445 chapter; and

1446           4. If using an application dispatch system, the director must first determine that  
1447 the rates are transparent to the passenger under subsection B. of this section.

1448           D. If the director establishes a minimum fare flat rate from one location to  
1449 another location, or other rates, based on the factors identified in subsection A.2. of this  
1450 section, such minimum fare, flat rate, or other rate shall apply whether the trip originated  
1451 via a taximeter, a smart taximeter, or, if specified by the director, an application dispatch  
1452 system. In addition to the general authority authorized in this subsection D, the following  
1453 shall apply:

1454           1. For all trips originating at SeaTac International Airport, and no later than  
1455 December 31, 2024, the director shall establish a minimum fare by rule; and

1456           2. On the effective date of this ordinance, and expiring on December 31, 2024,  
1457 or upon the date the director's rule goes into effect, whichever is earlier, in accordance  
1458 with subsection D.1. of this section, the minimum fare for all trips originating at SeaTac  
1459 International Airport shall be twenty dollars exclusive of any fees, surcharges, or tolls as  
1460 indicated in subsection A.3. of this section. Any flat rate, dynamic price, or other method  
1461 of pricing established by a transitional regional dispatch agency or a regional dispatch

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1462 agency shall not be below this minimum for trips that originate at Seattle-Tacoma  
1463 International Airport.

1464 E. Other rate and fare requirements are as follows:

1465 1. It is unlawful to charge additional fees for carrying individuals with  
1466 disabilities and their equipment or to charge rates higher to passengers with a disability  
1467 than are charged to other persons. To promote equitable access to for-hire transportation  
1468 for persons with disabilities, and to ensure that wheelchair accessible vehicle service is  
1469 reliably available at reasonable and predictable rates, the director may prescribe by rule  
1470 fares for wheelchair accessible trips or other conditions on the rates, fares, fees, and other  
1471 surcharges, or both, for providing wheelchair accessible transportation services to persons  
1472 with disabilities;

1473 2. The director is authorized to establish a fuel surcharge to the regional  
1474 taximeter rate that can be added as an amount to the passenger's total fare any time the  
1475 price of fuel, as published by the American Automobile Association for the local area,  
1476 exceeds a fuel surcharge trigger price established in accordance with a rule adopted by  
1477 the director. The surcharge shall be an amount necessary to recoup the increased fuel  
1478 costs;

1479 3. A toll or charge established for roads, bridges, tunnels, or ferries while  
1480 passengers are being transported may be added to the passenger's total fare if such  
1481 charges are not already included in the calculation of the fare;

1482 4. Discriminatory charges are prohibited. For the purposes of this subsection  
1483 E.4., "discriminatory charges" means policies or practices that result in higher charges or

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1484 rates being applied to passengers belonging to a protected class compared to other  
1485 passengers; and

1486           5. The director may establish by rule the process and criteria associated with the  
1487 director's review and approval of a technology fee that is intended to help offset the cost  
1488 of implementing, operating and maintaining a smart taximeter system and that may be  
1489 added to the fare for all trips subject to the taximeter rates in subsection A. of this section.

1490           NEW SECTION. SECTION 42.

1491           A. The director may prescribe by rule the implementation of a discrete licensing  
1492 program for emerging for-hire transportation models that do not fit within the parameters  
1493 of this chapter or K.C.C. chapter 6.64.

1494           B. The director shall determine whether a proposed business activity is an  
1495 emerging for-hire transportation model that falls outside the parameters of any existing  
1496 license under this chapter or K.C.C. chapter 6.64, and whether the proposed business  
1497 activity presents potential risks to the public health, safety, and welfare such that, for the  
1498 protection of the public, the activity must be regulated and licensed.

1499           C. The director may grant the applicant an emerging for-hire transportation  
1500 license to operate in the proposed business activity on a pilot basis.

1501           D. The emerging for-hire transportation license shall be renewed annually for a  
1502 maximum of two years, after which the license shall expire. The emerging for-hire  
1503 transportation license shall be a personal privilege and not property. The emerging for-  
1504 hire transportation license shall not be transferrable to another location, person, or  
1505 business entity.

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1506 E. The director may attach conditions to the emerging for-hire transportation  
1507 license as are reasonably required to protect the public health, safety, labor harmony, and  
1508 welfare from risks including, but not limited to: adverse impact on public health; public  
1509 safety; increased demand on government services; increased environmental impacts; or  
1510 increased traffic or congestion in the public way. The director may attach any such  
1511 conditions when the emerging for-hire transportation license is issued, or the director  
1512 may attach, remove, or modify conditions at any time during the term of the license, upon  
1513 reasonable notice to the licensee.

1514 F. The director may determine at any time during the term of the emerging for-  
1515 hire transportation license that the licensed business activity as conducted presents an  
1516 unreasonable risk to public health and safety that cannot be mitigated, and may revoke  
1517 the license, with or without prior notice. If a license is revoked, the licensee shall be  
1518 given the opportunity to appear before the director for an informal hearing to introduce  
1519 any evidence to appeal the revocation before the revocation is effective or no later than  
1520 ten days after the revocation is effective. The director shall render a decision affirming or  
1521 reversing the revocation within three business days after conclusion of the hearing. The  
1522 decision of the director is final.

1523 G. If the director determines an emerging for-hire transportation model that has  
1524 been issued an emerging for-hire transportation license under a pilot program should be  
1525 regulated by ordinance, the director shall convey the determination to the council prior to  
1526 the expiration of the license. The license shall not be extended beyond two years unless  
1527 an ordinance regulating the emerging for-hire transportation model is effective and the

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1528 emerging for-hire transportation model has obtained the necessary licenses required  
1529 under that ordinance.

1530 NEW SECTION. SECTION 43. The director may establish, in conjunction with  
1531 the city of Seattle and the Port of Seattle, a shared process to receive and, when  
1532 appropriate, resolve passenger feedback and may communicate the process to passengers.

1533 NEW SECTION. SECTION 44.

1534 A. Upon receiving a written complaint involving the conduct of a licensee, where  
1535 the conduct may be a violation of this chapter, the director shall review the complaint,  
1536 and if appropriate:

1537 1. Issue a notice of complaint to the licensee, and if applicable, the affiliated  
1538 transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, advising them of the  
1539 allegation or allegations made in the complaint;

1540 2. Require the licensee and, if applicable, the affiliated transitional regional  
1541 dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, to respond in writing or by contacting the  
1542 issuing inspector to provide a response to the allegation or allegations in the notice of  
1543 complaint within fifteen calendar days from the date the notice of complaint was issued;

1544 3. Investigate the allegations in the written complaint and the response  
1545 submitted by the licensee and if applicable, the response submitted by the transitional  
1546 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency representative; and

1547 4. Make a finding as to the validity of the allegations in the written complaint. If  
1548 the complaint is found to be valid the director may take enforcement action consistent  
1549 with this chapter.

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1550 B. Failure to respond to a notice of complaint, either in writing or by contacting  
1551 the issuing inspector, within fifteen calendar days shall constitute a waiver of the  
1552 licensee's and, if applicable, the affiliated agency's right to respond to the allegations in  
1553 the written complaint and shall be prima facie evidence that the allegations are valid.

1554 NEW SECTION. SECTION 45.

1555 A. It is a violation for any person to not meet or maintain compliance with any  
1556 requirement of this chapter or rule issued by the director. If the director determines that  
1557 any of this chapter's requirements or rules have been violated, the director may issue:

- 1558 1. A citation;
- 1559 2. A license action, including denial, revocation, suspension, or summary  
1560 suspension; or
- 1561 3. A citation and a license action.

1562 B. In determining a monetary penalty, the director shall consider the gravity of  
1563 the violation; the number of past violations committed; the size of the business of the  
1564 violator; the deterrent effect of monetary penalties; and the good faith of the violator in  
1565 attempting to achieve compliance after notification of the violation.

1566 C. A person shall pay all fees, surcharges, and monetary penalties that are owed  
1567 under this chapter. If the person cited fails to pay a monetary penalty imposed under this  
1568 chapter, the monetary penalty may be referred to a collection agency. The cost for the  
1569 collection services will be added to the penalty. Alternatively, the director may pursue  
1570 collection in any other manner allowed by law. The director shall refuse to issue a  
1571 license, endorsement, or medallion at the time of renewal if the person has outstanding  
1572 fees, surcharges, or monetary penalties issued under this chapter.

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1573 D. Each day a person violates or fails to comply with one of the requirements of  
1574 this chapter may be considered a separate violation for which a citation, license action, or  
1575 both, may be issued.

1576 E. It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate the operating standards  
1577 established in this chapter three or more times in a twelve-month period. The director  
1578 may refer such a person for prosecution as an alternative to the citation and license action  
1579 procedures outlined in this chapter.

1580 F. The director may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin any acts or practices  
1581 when necessary to achieve compliance.

1582 G. Nothing in this section limits or precludes any action or proceeding to enforce  
1583 this chapter, and nothing obligates or requires the director to issue a citation or license  
1584 action prior to the imposition of criminal penalties.

1585 NEW SECTION. SECTION 46. The following monetary penalties shall be  
1586 assessed or license action taken for violations of the listed sections or subsections of this  
1587 chapter:

1588 A. The director shall assess a Class A penalty, which is a one-hundred-twenty-  
1589 five-dollar civil penalty for a first offense, a two-hundred-fifty-dollar penalty for a second  
1590 offense, or a five-hundred-dollar civil penalty for a third or subsequent offense:

- 1591 1. Section 18.A., B., D., L., N., Q., and U. of this ordinance;
- 1592 2. Section 19.B., M., and N. of this ordinance;
- 1593 3. Section 20.A.1., 2., and 3. of this ordinance;
- 1594 4. Section 31.D., E., and F. of this ordinance; and
- 1595 5. Section 34.A.4., 5., 6., 7., and 8. of this ordinance;

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1596 B. The director shall assess a Class B penalty, which is a two-hundred-fifty-  
1597 dollar civil penalty for a first offense, a five-hundred-dollar civil penalty for a second  
1598 offense, or a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for a third or subsequent offense:

- 1599 1. Section 18.C., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., and M. of this ordinance;
- 1600 2. Section 19.A., D., G., I., J., K., and L. of this ordinance;
- 1601 3. Section 20.A.4. and 5. of this ordinance;
- 1602 4. Section 34.A.3., 9., 10., 11., 12., 13., 14., and 15. of this ordinance; and
- 1603 5. Section 34.B.2, and 3. of this ordinance;

1604 C. The director shall assess a Class C penalty, which is a one-thousand-dollar  
1605 civil penalty for an offense:

- 1606 1. Section 19.F. of this ordinance;
- 1607 2. Section 39.A.1., 3., 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 9., 10., 11., 12., 13., 14., 15., 16., 17., 18.,  
1608 19., 20., 21., 22., and 23. of this ordinance; and
- 1609 3. Section 40.A., B., C., and D. of this ordinance;

1610 D. The director shall assess a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for the first  
1611 offense and suspend the license or medallion for the second and subsequent offenses:

- 1612 1. Section 35.A. and C. of this ordinance;
- 1613 2. Section 39.D. and E. of this ordinance; and
- 1614 3. Section 41.A.4. of this ordinance;

1615 E. The director shall assess a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for each offense.  
1616 It is a criminal misdemeanor for the second and subsequent offenses, which the director  
1617 may refer for prosecution:

- 1618 1. Section 9.A. of this ordinance;
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- 1619           2. Section 25 of this ordinance; and
- 1620           3. Section 29.B. of this ordinance;
- 1621           F. For offenses violating the following, the director shall take the listed action:
- 1622           1. Section 11.A., B., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., and M. of this ordinance, denial;
- 1623           2. Section 18.O., R., and S. of this ordinance, revocation;
- 1624           3. Section 19.C., E., and H. of this ordinance, suspension;
- 1625           4. Section 23.G. of this ordinance, revocation;
- 1626           5. Section 26.E. of this ordinance, denial;
- 1627           6. Section 29.A. of this section, revocation;
- 1628           7. Section 29.C. of this ordinance, denial;
- 1629           8. Section 31.A., G., and H. of this ordinance, summary suspension;
- 1630           9. Section 32.C. of this ordinance, suspension;
- 1631           10. Section 32.D. of this ordinance, suspension of the regional for-hire driver's
- 1632 license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement;
- 1633           11. Section 34.A.1. and 2. of this ordinance, summary suspension;
- 1634           12. Section 36.A. of this ordinance, revocation;
- 1635           13. Section 37.A. of this ordinance, denial; and
- 1636           14. Section 39.A.24. of this ordinance, suspension;
- 1637           G. The director shall suspend a license or medallion, or shall deny a license or
- 1638 medallion application at renewal:
- 1639           1. Section 29.F. of this ordinance;
- 1640           2. Section 30.A. of this ordinance;
- 1641           3. Section 34.B.1. of this ordinance; and
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1642 4. Section 39.A.2. of this ordinance;

1643 H. The director shall assess a two-hundred-fifty-dollar civil penalty for the first  
1644 offense and a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for second and subsequent offenses of  
1645 section 10 of this ordinance;

1646 I. The director shall revoke a license or deny a license application at renewal for  
1647 an offense of section 19.O. of this ordinance;

1648 J. For rules promulgated in accordance with section 18.V. of this ordinance,  
1649 section 34.A.16. of this ordinance, and section 39.A.25. of this ordinance, the director  
1650 shall specify any applicable civil penalty or license action in the rule itself.

1651 K. Any violation not enumerated in this section that does not pose a threat or  
1652 hazard to life, safety, or property shall have a civil penalty of up to five-hundred-dollars.  
1653 Any violation not enumerated in this section that poses a threat or hazard to life, safety,  
1654 or property shall have a civil penalty of up to one-thousand-dollars.

1655 NEW SECTION. SECTION 47.

1656 A. The director may issue citations and suspend, summarily suspend, deny, or  
1657 revoke any license, endorsement, or medallion of any person for violating or failing to  
1658 comply with any applicable provision of this chapter.

1659 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the director may  
1660 summarily suspend a license, endorsement, or medallion issued under this chapter, with  
1661 the suspension to take effect immediately by order of the director prior to any hearing  
1662 upon finding that:

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1663           1. There is reasonable cause to believe that the licensee has engaged in activity  
1664 that causes or will cause a clear, substantial, and imminent hazard to life, safety, property,  
1665 or privacy of the driver, passenger, or public, or any combination thereof; or

1666           2. There is a lapse in coverage or the coverage of any surety bond or public  
1667 liability insurance policy required to be filed with the director is less than the minimum  
1668 requirements in section 30 of this ordinance.

1669           C. The following applies to license actions:

1670           1.a. Whenever any license, endorsement, or medallion is revoked or summarily  
1671 suspended the revocation or summary suspension is effective upon issuance of the notice.  
1672 Such notice may be appealed in accordance with the procedures of section 48 of this  
1673 ordinance. If a timely appeal is not filed by the licensee, the notice of revocation or  
1674 summary suspension shall be final.

1675           b. A final order of revocation shall extend for twelve months, except for a final  
1676 medallion revocation. Upon the final order of revocation of a medallion, where all  
1677 appellate proceedings, if any, have been concluded, a medallion owner shall immediately  
1678 surrender the taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion plate or decal to the director and has  
1679 sixty days to transfer the medallion as prescribed by section 26 of this ordinance.

1680           c. A final order of summary suspension shall extend until the license,  
1681 endorsement, or medallion expires or until evidence satisfactory to the director is  
1682 produced showing that the violation is cured, whichever occurs first;

1683           2. If the licensee does not file a timely appeal in accordance with section 48 of  
1684 this ordinance, the notice of suspension shall be final. Suspensions are effective upon the  
1685 date included in the notice of suspension or if timely appealed under section 48 of this

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1686 ordinance, when an order on appeal affirming such notice becomes final. Suspensions  
1687 shall extend until the license or endorsement expires or until evidence satisfactory to the  
1688 director is produced showing that the violation is cured, whichever occurs first; and

1689           3. Except in the case of revocation or summary suspension, whenever a timely  
1690 appeal is filed in accordance with section 48 of this ordinance, a licensee may continue to  
1691 operate pending a final decision on appeal. Any applicant not licensed in the preceding  
1692 license year may not engage in the activity for which the license is required pending a  
1693 final decision on appeal.

1694           NEW SECTION. SECTION 48.

1695           A. A citation or license action shall include the following:

1696           1. The name and address of the person to whom the citation or license action is  
1697 issued;

1698           2. The address of the location, if relevant, where the violation occurred;

1699           3. A separate statement of each provision violated;

1700           4. The date of the violation;

1701           5. The applicable monetary penalty or license action;

1702           6. A statement that the person cited must respond to the citation or license  
1703 action within twenty-four calendar days after service;

1704           7. A statement that a response must be sent to the hearing examiner and  
1705 received not later than 4:30 p.m. on the day the response is due;

1706           8. Contact information for where the response to the citation or license action is  
1707 to be filed;

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1708           9. A statement that the citation or license action represents a determination that  
1709 a violation has been committed by the person named in the citation or license action and  
1710 that the determination shall be final unless appealed in accordance with this chapter; and

1711           10. A statement certified under penalty of perjury by the director's  
1712 representative issuing the citation or license action setting forth facts supporting issuance  
1713 of the citation or license action.

1714           B. The citation or license action shall be addressed to the person allegedly  
1715 responsible for the violation, and be served by first-class mail, electronically, or in  
1716 person. Service by first-class mail shall be deemed complete three days after the mailing.  
1717 If a citation or license action sent either electronically or by first class mail, and is  
1718 returned as undeliverable, the citation or license action may be served in person. The  
1719 director shall respond to inquiries concerning the facts and process of the decision and  
1720 request for any files that detail the facts on which the director based the ruling.

1721           C. A person cited must respond to a citation in one of the following ways:

1722           1. Pay the amount of the monetary penalty specified in the citation within thirty  
1723 calendar days of issuance, in which case the record shall show a finding that the person  
1724 cited committed the violation;

1725           2. Timely request in writing a hearing to mitigate, by explaining the  
1726 circumstances surrounding the commission of the violation, and providing an address to  
1727 which notice of the hearing may be sent; or

1728           3. Timely request in writing a hearing to appeal, by disputing the commission of  
1729 the violation, and providing an address to which notice of the hearing may be sent.

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1730 D. The director's license action is final unless the person cited timely requests in  
1731 writing a hearing to appeal the license action and provides an address to which notice of  
1732 such hearing may be sent.

1733 E. If requesting a hearing, a response to a citation or license action must be  
1734 received by the hearing examiner no later than twenty-four calendar days after the date  
1735 the citation is served. When the last day of the appeal period so computed is a Saturday,  
1736 Sunday, or holiday, the period shall run until 4:30 p.m. on the next business day. If a  
1737 person fails to respond to a citation or license action within twenty-four calendar days of  
1738 service, the citation and monetary penalty or license action shall become the final order  
1739 of the director and is unreviewable by the hearing examiner.

1740 F.1. Appeals of license actions shall be heard by the hearing examiner of the  
1741 jurisdiction issuing the license action. The presiding hearing examiner shall decide the  
1742 appeal under the applicable portions of both the King County Code and the Seattle  
1743 Municipal Code. The King County hearing examiner is bound by any interpretation of  
1744 the applicable Seattle Municipal Code by the city hearing examiner in a license action  
1745 appeal. The King County hearing examiner shall forward all decisions made under this  
1746 subsection F. to the Seattle hearing examiner within ten business days of issuing the  
1747 decision.

1748 2. Appeals of citations shall be heard by the hearing examiner of the jurisdiction  
1749 issuing the citation, and the hearing examiner shall decide the appeal under the King  
1750 County Code.

1751 3. The hearing for a license action or a citation shall be held within forty-five  
1752 calendar days after written response is received by the hearing examiner, except that

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1753 hearings for summary suspensions shall be held within ten business days of the request,  
1754 unless a later date is agreed to by the person issued the license action. With the exception  
1755 of summary suspension hearings, notice of the time, place, and date of the hearing shall  
1756 be sent to the address specified in the request for hearing not less than ten calendar days  
1757 before the hearing.

1758           G. Hearings to appeal the citation or license action shall be conducted in  
1759 accordance with the procedures and rules of the hearing examiner. The issues heard at  
1760 the hearing shall be limited to those that are raised in writing in the response to the  
1761 citation or license action and that are within the jurisdiction of the hearing examiner. The  
1762 hearing examiner may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production  
1763 of documents. The director shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the  
1764 evidence both that the violation occurred and the appropriateness of the remedy the  
1765 director has imposed.

1766           H. A citation or license action shall not be deemed insufficient for failure to  
1767 contain a detailed statement of the facts constituting the specific violation that the person  
1768 is alleged to have committed or by reason of defects or imperfections, but only if the lack  
1769 of detail, or the defects or imperfections, do not prejudice substantial rights of the person.  
1770 A citation or license action may be amended before the conclusion of the hearing to  
1771 conform to the evidence presented if substantial rights of the affected person are not  
1772 thereby prejudiced.

1773           I. The certified statement or declaration authorized by chapter 5.50 RCW shall be  
1774 prima facie evidence that a violation occurred and that the person listed on the citation or  
1775 license action is responsible. The certified statement or declaration authorized under

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1776 penalty of perjury and any other evidence accompanying the report shall be admissible  
1777 without further evidentiary foundation.

1778           J. In cases where the person seeks to mitigate the citation, the person may explain  
1779 the circumstances surrounding the commission of the violation. In cases where the  
1780 person disputes the citation or license action, the person may rebut the director's evidence  
1781 and establish that the violation or violations preceding the citation or license action did  
1782 not occur or that the person appealing the citation or license action is not responsible for  
1783 the violation.

1784           K. In a mitigation hearing, the hearing examiner shall determine whether the  
1785 person's explanation justifies reduction of the monetary penalty. However, the monetary  
1786 penalty may not be reduced unless the director affirms or certifies that the violation has  
1787 been corrected prior to the mitigation hearing. Factors that may be considered in whether  
1788 to reduce the penalty include: whether the violation was caused by the act, neglect, or  
1789 abuse of another; or whether correction of the violation was commenced before the  
1790 issuance of the citation but full compliance was prevented by a condition or circumstance  
1791 beyond the control of the person cited. The hearing examiner shall enter an order finding  
1792 that the person cited committed the violation and assess a monetary penalty.

1793           L. If the citation or license action is sustained at the hearing, the hearing  
1794 examiner shall enter an order finding that the person committed the violation and impose  
1795 the applicable monetary penalty or enter an order affirming the license action. The  
1796 hearing examiner may reduce the monetary penalty of a citation in accordance with  
1797 subsection K. of this section. If the hearing examiner determines that the violation did



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1798 not occur, the hearing examiner shall enter an order dismissing the citation or denying the  
1799 license action.

1800 M. Failure to appear for a requested hearing will result in the hearing examiner  
1801 entering an order finding that the person committed the violation and assessing the  
1802 penalty specified in the citation or finding that the person committed the violation and  
1803 affirming the license action. For good cause shown and upon terms the hearing examiner  
1804 deems just, the hearing examiner may set aside an order entered upon a failure to appear  
1805 and schedule a new hearing date.

1806 N. If a license action involving a vehicle is upheld, and the vehicle is to be  
1807 temporarily or permanently placed out of service, the director shall initiate the temporary  
1808 deactivation process authorized under this chapter and the licensee shall immediately  
1809 surrender all applicable vehicle medallion plates or decals to the director.

1810 O. The decision of the hearing examiner shall be final and conclusive unless  
1811 review is timely filed with the appropriate court.

1812 P. The hearing examiner may affirm, modify, or reverse the decisions of the  
1813 director.

1814 Q. The director may contract with a third party to serve as the hearing examiner  
1815 for purposes of this chapter, if done in conjunction with the city of Seattle.

1816 NEW SECTION. SECTION 49. The director shall issue a joint annual report  
1817 with the city of Seattle on the state of for-hire transportation in the region on or before  
1818 April 30 of each year, and the director shall make the annual report, for the previous  
1819 calendar year, publicly available on the director's website. The report may include but is  
1820 not limited to the following:

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1821           A. The number of licensed vehicles providing for-hire transportation services in  
1822 King County and the city of Seattle during the reporting period and during the preceding  
1823 year;

1824           B. The number of licensed regional for-hire drivers in King County and the city  
1825 of Seattle during the reporting period and during the preceding year;

1826           C. The numbers and nature of complaints;

1827           D. The results of any survey of taxicab response times and any changes in  
1828 response times from the previous year;

1829           E. What, if any, organizations have been authorized to operate as an emerging  
1830 for-hire transportation model; and

1831           F. Any other information or recommendations deemed appropriate by the  
1832 director.

1833           NEW SECTION. SECTION 50.

1834           A. The director is authorized to implement, enforce, and administer this chapter,  
1835 including adopting, revising, or rescinding rules deemed necessary, appropriate,  
1836 convenient, or efficient to implement, enforce and administer this chapter under the  
1837 procedures specified in K.C.C. chapter 2.98.

1838           B. 1. If the director determines that certain provisions of this chapter related to  
1839 licensing and operating standards, fees, or both should be temporarily suspended or  
1840 modified, the director shall electronically transmit a temporary suspension or  
1841 modification notification letter to the council detailing the scope and rationale for the  
1842 determination, which may include, but not be limited to, the following factors:

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1843 a. the action would serve the public interest, including the public's need for  
1844 safe, reliable, and effective for-hire transportation;

1845 b. technology has changed such that the requirements are no longer necessary  
1846 or new requirements are necessary;

1847 c. the action would improve the economic viability for drivers and vehicle  
1848 owners; and

1849 d. the action would encourage and enable companies and agencies to innovate  
1850 and improve customer service and increase access to for-hire transportation options.

1851 2. Unless the council passes a motion rejecting the proposed temporary  
1852 suspension or modification within thirty days of the director's transmittal, the director  
1853 may proceed with the temporary suspension or modification as set forth in the  
1854 notification letter. The director shall electronically file the letter with the clerk of the  
1855 council, who will retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all  
1856 councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the government  
1857 accountability and oversight committee or its successor.

1858 3. Temporary suspensions or modifications under this section shall last no more  
1859 than six months from the end of the thirty-day period if the council by motion has not  
1860 rejected the temporary suspension or modification.

1861 NEW SECTION. SECTION 51. Unless granted such authority by the director by  
1862 rule, a vehicle equipped with an automated driving system providing for-hire  
1863 transportation services is prohibited from autonomous operation. A director's rule  
1864 granting such authority is subject to the following conditions:

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1865           A. The director must obtain written concurrence in advance from the directors of  
1866 the King County department of local services and the King County sheriff's office to  
1867 authorize autonomous operation of an autonomous vehicle providing for-hire  
1868 transportation services; and

1869           B. The director must establish safety and regulatory requirements for autonomous  
1870 operation of an autonomous vehicle providing for-hire transportation services, including,  
1871 but not limited to, requiring the following items before deployment: advanced  
1872 notification of deployment; notice of contact information and public outreach events; first  
1873 responder interaction information with the King County sheriff's office and any city with  
1874 which the county has contracted under section 5 of this ordinance; proof of insurance  
1875 acceptable to the County; indemnification acceptable to the County; notification of  
1876 collisions, moving violations, or other reportable events as required by state law; and  
1877 demonstrated compliance with Washington state Department of Licensing requirements,  
1878 including but not limited to self-certification; and any other requirements from state law.

1879           NEW SECTION. SECTION 52. Notwithstanding the existence or use of any  
1880 other remedy, the prosecuting attorney may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin an act  
1881 or practice that constitutes or will constitute a violation of this chapter or an applicable  
1882 rule adopted under this chapter.

1883           NEW SECTION. SECTION 53.

1884           A penalty issued under K.C.C. chapter 6.64, regarding matters now in the scope  
1885 of this chapter, that was either not appealed or was upheld after review, and that remains  
1886 unpaid as of the effective date of this ordinance, shall remain due and payable after the  
1887 effective date of this ordinance.

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1888            SECTION 54. Ordinance 2165, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.98.060 are  
1889 hereby amended to read as follows:

1890            A.1. Prior to the adoption, amendment or repeal of any rule, each department  
1891 shall give at least forty-five days' notice of its intended action, except rules being  
1892 adopted, amended or repealed under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created  
1893 under section 1 of this ordinance) shall give at least fourteen days' notice of intended  
1894 action, by:

1895            a. filing a notice with the executive department responsible for archives and  
1896 records management functions;

1897            b. providing, at least in writing or by electronic format, the notice to: all  
1898 persons and other parties who have made timely request of the agency for advance notice  
1899 of its rulemaking proceedings on a specific topic; the clerk of the council; and each  
1900 member of the county council; and

1901            c. giving public notice by one publication in the official newspaper of King  
1902 County.

1903            2. The notice shall include:

1904            a. reference to the authority under which the rule is proposed;

1905            b. a statement of either the terms or substance of the proposed rule or a  
1906 description of the subjects and issues involved; and

1907            c. the time, place and manner, including at least in writing or by electronic  
1908 format, in which interested persons may present their views on the rule. To the extent  
1909 practicable, the department should permit persons to present their views at a public  
1910 meeting, according to rules established by the department.

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1911 B. The department giving the notice required in this section shall consider all  
1912 comments received by the prescribed time and shall make reasonable efforts to provide  
1913 written responses to the comments before the rule is adopted.

1914 C. Adoption of a rule by a department other than a county board, commission,  
1915 committee or other multimember body is accomplished by the department's director or  
1916 the sheriff, assessor or director of elections, for the director or other elected official's  
1917 respective department, signing the proposed rule. Adoption of a rule by a county board,  
1918 commission, committee or other multimember body is accomplished by majority vote in  
1919 favor of the rule by the members of the body, as evidenced in the approved minutes of the  
1920 body, and in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30  
1921 RCW, as applicable.

1922 D. A rule adopted under this section is not valid unless adopted in substantial  
1923 compliance with this section. In any proceeding, a rule shall not be considered invalid on  
1924 the ground of noncompliance with the procedural requirements of this section if two  
1925 years or more have elapsed from the effective date of the rule.

1926 SECTION 55. Ordinance 2165, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.98.080 are  
1927 hereby amended to read as follows:

1928 A. Emergency rules adopted under K.C.C. 2.98.070 take effect (~~upon~~) on the  
1929 date of filing with the executive department responsible for archives and records  
1930 management functions. Rules adopted under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter  
1931 created under section 1 of this ordinance) shall take effect on the date of filing with the  
1932 executive department responsible for archives and records management. All other rules  
1933 adopted under this chapter take effect thirty days after the date of filing with the

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1934 executive department responsible for archives and records management functions, unless  
1935 a later date is required by statute or specified in the rule.

1936 B. The executive department responsible for archives and records management  
1937 functions shall compile and index all rules adopted by each department. Compilations  
1938 shall be supplemented or revised as often as necessary and at least once every year.

1939 SECTION 56. Ordinance 18398, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.601.025  
1940 are hereby amended to read as follows:

1941 Subject to appropriation by the county council, the following county departments  
1942 and agencies are authorized to absorb the operational and business costs accepting  
1943 electronic payments, including transaction processing costs, for the specified fees, fines,  
1944 charges, fares or other payments listed:

1945 A. The department of executive services, records and licensing services division,  
1946 for payments for animal shelter, care and control and pet licensing purposes, including all  
1947 fees, donations and penalties in K.C.C. 11.04.035, and for payments of for-hire licensing,  
1948 regulatory fees and penalties in K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under  
1949 section 1 of this ordinance) and K.C.C. 4A.750.100;

1950 B. District court for court-related fees, fines and other charges;

1951 C. The department of natural resources and parks, parks and recreation division,  
1952 for park services and facilities usage provided to the public;

1953 D. The department of natural resources and parks, wastewater treatment division,  
1954 for sewage capacity charges;

1955 E. The department of natural resources and parks, solid waste division, for  
1956 municipal solid waste fees;

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1957 F. The department of public health for public health environmental permits and  
1958 community health clinic fees;

1959 G. The department of local services, permitting division, for permitting and  
1960 environmental review permit fees;

1961 H. The department of information technology for geographic information system  
1962 course fees; and

1963 I. The Metro transit department for public transportation fares.

1964 SECTION 57. Ordinance 10498, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.750.100  
1965 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

1966 A. The ~~((following fees shall apply until the director adopts fees under subsection~~  
1967 ~~B. of this section))~~ director may set the amount for the fees listed in this subsection in  
1968 accordance with sections 7 and 50 of this ordinance. The records and licensing services  
1969 division shall post the fees and their amounts on the division's website. The fees are:

1970 1. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle ~~((license))~~ medallion fees

~~((Taxicab license))~~ Annual medallion fee ~~(((\$450.00))~~

Annual medallion reciprocity endorsement fee

Annual ~~((W))~~wheelchair accessible taxicab ~~((No fee))~~

~~((license))~~ medallion fee

Annual wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion

reciprocity endorsement fee

~~((Taxicab license))~~ Medallion or medallion ~~(((\$45.00))~~

reciprocity endorsement late fee



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<del>((For hire vehicle license</del>	<del>\$450.00</del>
<del>For hire vehicle license late fee</del>	<del>\$45.00))</del>
<u>Change of vehicle associated with the medallion</u>	
<u>fee</u>	
<u>Change or transfer of medallion owner</u>	
<u>corporation, limited liability company, or</u>	
<u>partnership members fee</u>	
Vehicle equipment change <u>fee</u>	<del>((</del> \$75.00
Change of owner	
<del>July/Dec</del>	<del>\$450.00</del>
<del>Jan/June</del>	<del>\$225.00</del>
<del>Replace taxicab))</del> <u>Replacement medallion plate</u>	<del>((</del> \$25.00))
<u>or decal fee</u>	
<del>((Vehicle inspection rescheduling fee</del>	<del>\$25.00;))</del>
<u>Wheelchair accessible vehicle and installed</u>	
<u>equipment inspection fee</u>	
<u>Special inspection fee (for tests and inspections</u>	
<u>conducted on vehicles without a medallion)</u>	
<u>Change of agency affiliation fee</u>	
1971	
2. For-hire driver fees, except transportation network company drivers	
<u>Annual regional for-hire ((<del>⊘</del>))driver license fee</u>	<del>((</del> \$85.00))

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Driving ~~((abstract))~~ history report fees: ~~((Per charge authorized by RCW 46.52.130))~~

Driving abstract per RCW 46.53.130 fee

Third-party driving history report fee

~~((License))~~ Late fee (10% of the annual license fee rounded to the nearest whole dollar) ~~(((\$15.00))~~

~~((ID photo~~ \$5.00))

Criminal background check fees:

Fingerprinting fee ~~((per charge authorized by RCW 10.97.100))~~

Third-party background check fee (regional for-hire driver's license)

Fingerprint-based background check fee (enhanced regional for-hire driver's license)

Replacement license fee ~~(((\$5.00))~~

Training ~~((fee))~~ fees ~~((per contract))~~

Rescheduling fee ~~(((\$15.00))~~

1972 3. ~~((Taxicab association license fee or for hire vehicle company fee))~~ Regional  
1973 dispatch agency fee or transitional regional dispatch agency fee

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~~((One to fifteen vehicles))~~ Annual regional ~~(\$250.00~~  
dispatch agency license fee:  
~~Sixteen to twenty five vehicles~~ ~~\$500.00))~~  
Fifty or fewer affiliated vehicles  
Fifty-one or more affiliated vehicles  
~~((Twenty six or more vehicles~~ ~~\$1,000.00))~~  
Late regional dispatch agency license renewal ~~(\$100.00; and))~~  
fee:  
Fifty or fewer affiliated vehicles  
Fifty-one or more affiliated vehicles  
Annual transitional regional dispatch agency  
license fee:  
Fifty or fewer affiliated vehicles  
Fifty-one or more affiliated vehicles  
Late transitional regional dispatch agency license  
fee:  
Fifty or fewer affiliated vehicles  
Fifty-one or more affiliated vehicles  
Additional trade names registration fee

1974           4.a. A transportation network company shall pay a quarterly fee ~~((of))~~ per ride  
1975 on a schedule determined by the director for all rides originating in:  
1976           (1) unincorporated King County; or

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1977 (2) any municipality that contracts with the county for the county to license  
1978 transportation network companies that operate in the municipality.

1979 b. The amount of the fee shall be determined in accordance with RCW  
1980 46.72B.190(2) and the quarterly fee amount will be posted on the division's website.

1981 c. The fee is for the regulatory and enforcement costs related to the company  
1982 and its drivers and endorsed vehicles.

1983 B. By February 15, 2015, the director shall review the fees in subsection A. of this  
1984 section in coordination with the city of Seattle. The purpose of the review shall be to  
1985 determine the fees that are needed to cover the director's regulatory and enforcement  
1986 costs. Thereafter, the director may adjust ~~((any))~~ fee amounts in subsection A.1., 2., and  
1987 3. of this section as authorized in ~~((K.C.C. 6.64.026))~~ section 7 of this ordinance. In  
1988 adjusting fees, the director shall consider at least the following factors:

1989 1. The projected costs and annual budget for regulatory and enforcement costs  
1990 related to transportation network companies, taxicabs, for-hire vehicles and for-hire  
1991 drivers;

1992 2. The need for increased enforcement activities; and

1993 3. The total number of trips across transportation network companies, taxicabs  
1994 and for-hire vehicles.

1995 C. In addition to the fees under subsection A. of this section, each taxicab  
1996 licensee, for-hire vehicle licensee or transportation network company shall pay a fee  
1997 surcharge of ten cents per ride as prescribed in K.C.C. 6.64.111 and section 8 of this  
1998 ordinance.

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1999           D. Annual medallion fees and annual medallion reciprocity fees for wheelchair  
2000 accessible vehicles may be waived by the director. To be eligible for this waiver, the  
2001 licensee must demonstrate compliance with additional standards established by rule,  
2002 including, but not limited to, providing a minimum number of trips annually to  
2003 passengers in wheelchairs.

2004           E. After November 16, 2015, the director may adjust the fee surcharge in  
2005 subsection C. of this section under K.C.C. 6.64.026 and section 8 of this ordinance. In  
2006 adjusting the fee surcharge, the director shall consider at least the following factors:

2007           1. Reimbursement already made for purchasing and retrofitting wheelchair  
2008 accessible taxicabs, for-hire vehicles or transportation network company endorsed  
2009 vehicles;

2010           2. The estimated need for purchasing and retrofitting wheelchair accessible  
2011 taxicabs, for-hire vehicles or transportation network company endorsed vehicles in the  
2012 upcoming year; and

2013           3. Factors that may affect the supply, demand and financial viability of  
2014 wheelchair accessible taxi rides.

2015           ~~((E))~~ F. Any late fee established in this Section applies when an application for  
2016 license renewal is received later than one business day after the expiration date of the  
2017 prior license or a scheduled payment for a fee is overdue.

2018           SECTION 58. Ordinance 18230, Section 79, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.01.150  
2019 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

2020           A. The office of the hearing examiner is designated to hear appeals by parties  
2021 aggrieved by actions of the director pursuant to any business license ordinance. For

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2022 appeals under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this  
2023 ordinance) the office of the hearing examiner is designated to hear such appeals unless a  
2024 different party is designated by the director. The examiner may adopt reasonable rules or  
2025 regulations for conducting its business. Copies of all rules and regulations adopted by the  
2026 examiner shall be delivered to the director, who shall make them freely accessible to the  
2027 public. All decisions and findings of the examiner shall be rendered to the appellant in  
2028 writing, with a copy to the director.

2029 B. For-hire transportation appeals under K.C.C. chapter 6.64 and adult beverage  
2030 businesses appeals under K.C.C. chapter 6.74 shall be filed in accordance with K.C.C.  
2031 20.22.080 and the hearing process conducted in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 20.22.  
2032 Appeals under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this  
2033 ordinance) shall be filed in accordance with section 48 of this ordinance and the hearing  
2034 process conducted in accordance with that same section. Subsections C. through H. of this  
2035 section do not apply to this subsection B.

2036 C. Any person entitled to service under K.C.C. 6.01.130 may appeal any notice and  
2037 order or any action of the director by filing at the office of the director within seven days  
2038 from the date of service of such order, a written appeal containing;

2039 1. A heading in the words: "Before the Office of the Hearing Examiner";

2040 2. A caption reading: "Appeal of ....." giving the names of all appellants

2041 participating in the appeal;

2042 3. A brief statement setting forth the legal interest of each of the appellants in the  
2043 business or entertainment involved in the notice and order;

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2044           4. A brief statement in concise language of the specific order or action protested,  
2045 together with any material facts claimed to support the contentions of the appellant;

2046           5. A brief statement in concise language of the relief sought, and the reasons why  
2047 it is claimed the protested order or action should be reversed, modified or otherwise set  
2048 aside;

2049           6. The signatures of all parties named as appellants, and their official mailing  
2050 addresses; and

2051           7. The verification (by declaration under penalty of perjury) of at least one  
2052 appellant as to the truth of the matters stated in the appeal.

2053           D. As soon as practicable after receiving the written appeal, the examiner shall fix  
2054 a date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal. The date shall be neither less than ten  
2055 days nor more than sixty days from the date the appeal was filed with the director. Written  
2056 notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given at least ten days before the date of  
2057 the hearing to each appellant by the examiner either by causing a copy of the notice to be  
2058 delivered to the appellant personally or by mailing a copy thereof, postage prepaid,  
2059 addressed to the appellant at the appellant's address shown on the appeal.

2060           E. At the hearing the appellant shall be entitled to appear in person and be  
2061 represented by counsel and offer such evidence as is pertinent and material to the action of  
2062 the director.

2063           F. Only those matters or issues specifically raised by the appellant in the written  
2064 notice of appeal shall be considered in the hearing of the appeal.

Ordinance 19700

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2065 G. Failure of any person to file an appeal in accordance with this section shall  
2066 constitute a waiver of the person's right to an administrative hearing and adjudication of the  
2067 notice and order, or any portion thereof.

2068 H. Enforcement of any notice and order of the director shall be stayed during the  
2069 pendency of an appeal therefrom that is properly and timely filed.

2070 SECTION 59. Ordinance 18230, Section 16, as amended, and K.C.C. 20.22.070  
2071 are hereby amended to read as follows:

2072 A. K.C.C. 20.22.080 applies to all appeals to the office of the hearing examiner.  
2073 If there is a direct conflict between the appeal provisions in K.C.C. 20.22.080 and the  
2074 appeal provisions found in subsection B. of this section, the appeal provisions found in  
2075 subsection B. of this section shall control.

2076 B. The provisions for appealing the following decisions are found in the  
2077 following chapters of the King County Code:

2078 1. Career service review, K.C.C. chapter 3.12A;  
2079 2. Appeals under K.C.C. Title 6, except for for-hire transportation, K.C.C.  
2080 chapter 6.64 and K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this  
2081 ordinance), shall follow K.C.C. 20.22.080;

2082 3. Discrimination and equal employment opportunity in employment by  
2083 contractors, subcontractors, and vendors, K.C.C. chapter 12.16;

2084 4. Unfair housing practices, K.C.C. chapter 12.20;

2085 5. Denial of C-PACER applications, K.C.C. chapter 18.19;

2086 6. Regional motor sports facility, K.C.C. 21A.55.105;

2087 7. Abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles, K.C.C. chapter



Ordinance 19700

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2088 23.10;

2089 8. Citations, K.C.C. chapter 23.20;

2090 9. Penalty appeals, K.C.C. chapter 23.32;

2091 10. Transit rider suspension appeals, K.C.C. 28.96.430;

2092 11. Other appeals prescribed by ordinance.

2093 SECTION 60. The fee amounts for fees established by section 57 of this

2094 ordinance are set out in the Schedule of Fees, which is Attachment A to this ordinance.

2095 Once this ordinance is effective, the division shall post these approved fees on the

2096 division's website.

2097 SECTION 61. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application

Ordinance 19700

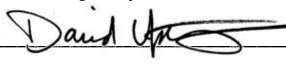
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2098 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the  
2099 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.


Ordinance 19700 was introduced on 10/3/2023 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/28/2023, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:  
  
E76CE01F07B14EF...  
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
8DE1BB375AD3422...  
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of 12/6/2023, \_\_\_\_\_.

DocuSigned by:  
  
4FBCAB8196AE4C6...  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** A. Schedule of Fees, dated November 28, 2023

## Attachment A. Schedule of Fees, dated November 28, 2023

**Schedule of Fees**

## 1. Taxicab and for-hire vehicle medallion fees

Annual medallion fee	\$100.00
Annual medallion reciprocity endorsement fee	\$100.00
Annual wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion fee (waived when determined eligible by the director)	\$100.00
Annual wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion reciprocity endorsement fee (waived when determined eligible by the director)	\$100.00
Medallion or medallion reciprocity endorsement late fee	\$10.00
Change of vehicle associated with the medallion fee	\$0.00
Change or transfer of medallion owner corporation, limited liability company, or partnership members fee	\$0.00
Vehicle equipment change fee	\$0.00
Replacement medallion plate or decal fee	\$0.00
Wheelchair accessible vehicle and installed equipment inspection fee	\$0.00
Special inspection fee (for tests and inspections conducted on vehicles without a medallion)	\$0.00
Change of agency affiliation fee	\$0.00

## 2. Regional for-hire driver license fees (except transportation network company drivers)

Annual regional for-hire driver license fee	\$25.00
Driving abstract fee (per RCW 46.53.130)	\$15.00
Third-party driving history report fee (charged as determined by the director to cover cost)	\$16.00
Late fee (10% of the annual license fee rounded to the nearest whole dollar)	\$2.00
Fingerprinting Fee (charged as determined by the director to cover cost)	\$15.00
Third-party background check fee (regional for-hire driver's license)	\$24.00
Fingerprint-based background check fee* (per charge authorized by RCW 10.97.100) (required for Enhanced Regional For-hire Driver's License)	\$34.25
Replacement license fee	\$5.00
Training fees (charged as determined by the director to cover cost):	
Initial For-hire Driver Training fee (on-line)	\$0.00
Training rescheduling fee	\$15.00

\*This fee is in addition to the third-party background check fee.

## 3. Regional dispatch agency fees and transitional regional dispatch agency fees

<u>Annual regional dispatch agency license fees:</u>	
Fifty or fewer affiliated vehicles	\$125.00
Fifty-one or more affiliated vehicles	\$250.00
<u>Late regional dispatch agency license renewal fees:</u>	
Fifty or fewer affiliated vehicles	\$12.00
Fifty-one or more affiliated vehicles	\$25.00
<u>Annual transitional regional dispatch agency license fees:</u>	
Fifty or fewer affiliated vehicles	\$125.00
Fifty-one or more affiliated vehicles	\$250.00
<u>Late transitional regional dispatch agency license fees:</u>	
Fifty or fewer affiliated vehicles	\$12.00
Fifty-one or more affiliated vehicles	\$25.00
<u>Additional trade names registration fee</u>	\$50.00

## 4. Transportation network company quarterly fee

<u>Transportation network company quarterly fee</u>	\$0.23 per ride
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**Certificate Of Completion**

Envelope Id: CC703B6D85024FE2B1AA8B4A803F0867	Status: Completed
Subject: Complete with DocuSign: Ordinance 19700.docx, Ordinance 19700 Attachment A.docx	
Source Envelope:	
Document Pages: 98	Signatures: 3
Supplemental Document Pages: 2	Initials: 0
Certificate Pages: 5	Envelope Originator:
AutoNav: Enabled	Cherie Camp
Enveloped Stamping: Enabled	401 5TH AVE
Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)	SEATTLE, WA 98104
	Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov
	IP Address: 198.49.222.20

**Record Tracking**

Status: Original	Holder: Cherie Camp	Location: DocuSign
11/30/2023 10:33:48 AM	Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov	
Security Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: FedRamp	
Storage Appliance Status: Connected	Pool: King County-Council	Location: DocuSign

**Signer Events**

Dave Upthegrove  
dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov  
Chair  
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

**Signature**

DocuSigned by:  
  
E76CE01F07B14EF...  
Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image  
Using IP Address: 67.160.80.216


**Timestamp**

Sent: 11/30/2023 1:00:08 PM  
Viewed: 11/30/2023 2:02:07 PM  
Signed: 11/30/2023 2:02:21 PM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Accepted: 11/30/2023 2:02:07 PM  
ID: 66b5abac-663d-40fa-8efe-72cc3f1b3436

Melani Hay  
melani.hay@kingcounty.gov  
Clerk of the Council  
King County Council  
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

DocuSigned by:  
  
8DE1BB375AD3422...  
Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style  
Using IP Address: 198.49.222.20

Sent: 11/30/2023 2:02:23 PM  
Viewed: 11/30/2023 2:26:40 PM  
Signed: 11/30/2023 2:26:53 PM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Accepted: 9/30/2022 11:27:12 AM  
ID: 639a6b47-a4ff-458a-8ae8-c9251b7d1a1f

Dow Constantine  
Dow.Constantine@kingcounty.gov  
King County Executive  
Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

DocuSigned by:  
  
4FBCAB8196AE4C6...  
Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image  
Using IP Address: 146.129.239.72

Sent: 11/30/2023 2:26:55 PM  
Viewed: 12/6/2023 11:52:41 AM  
Signed: 12/6/2023 11:52:59 AM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**

Accepted: 12/6/2023 11:52:41 AM  
ID: 32bf28ee-a262-492c-ae2-e64b33886dfc

In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
Editor Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
Agent Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp

Intermediary Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Certified Delivery Events	Status	Timestamp
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Carbon Copy Events	Status	Timestamp
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Kaitlyn Wiggins kwiggins@kingcounty.gov Executive Legislative Coordinator King County Executive Office Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) <b>Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:</b> Not Offered via DocuSign	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"><b>COPIED</b></div>	Sent: 11/30/2023 2:26:56 PM Viewed: 11/30/2023 2:44:08 PM
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Witness Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Envelope Sent	Hashed/Encrypted	11/30/2023 1:00:08 PM
Certified Delivered	Security Checked	12/6/2023 11:52:41 AM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	12/6/2023 11:52:59 AM
Completed	Security Checked	12/6/2023 11:52:59 AM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure
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### **Withdrawing your consent**

If you decide to receive notices and disclosures from us electronically, you may at any time change your mind and tell us that thereafter you want to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format. How you must inform us of your decision to receive future notices and disclosure in paper format and withdraw your consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically is described below.

### **Consequences of changing your mind**

If you elect to receive required notices and disclosures only in paper format, it will slow the speed at which we can complete certain steps in transactions with you and delivering services to you because we will need first to send the required notices or disclosures to you in paper format, and then wait until we receive back from you your acknowledgment of your receipt of such paper notices or disclosures. Further, you will no longer be able to use the DocuSign system to receive required notices and consents electronically from us or to sign electronically documents from us.

### **All notices and disclosures will be sent to you electronically**

Unless you tell us otherwise in accordance with the procedures described herein, we will provide electronically to you through the DocuSign system all required notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you during the course of our relationship with you. To reduce the chance of you inadvertently not receiving any notice or disclosure, we prefer to provide all of the required notices and disclosures to you by the same method and to the same address that you have given us. Thus, you can receive all the disclosures and notices electronically or in paper format through the paper mail delivery system. If you do not agree with this process, please let us know as described below. Please also see the paragraph immediately above that describes the consequences of your electing not to receive delivery of the notices and disclosures electronically from us.

### **How to contact King County-Department of 02:**

You may contact us to let us know of your changes as to how we may contact you electronically, to request paper copies of certain information from us, and to withdraw your prior consent to receive notices and disclosures electronically as follows:

To contact us by email send messages to: [cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov](mailto:cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov)

### **To advise King County-Department of 02 of your new email address**

To let us know of a change in your email address where we should send notices and disclosures electronically to you, you must send an email message to us at [cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov](mailto:cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov) and in the body of such request you must state: your previous email address, your new email address. We do not require any other information from you to change your email address.

If you created a DocuSign account, you may update it with your new email address through your account preferences.

### **To request paper copies from King County-Department of 02**

To request delivery from us of paper copies of the notices and disclosures previously provided by us to you electronically, you must send us an email to [cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov](mailto:cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov) and in the body of such request you must state your email address, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We will bill you for any fees at that time, if any.

### **To withdraw your consent with King County-Department of 02**

To inform us that you no longer wish to receive future notices and disclosures in electronic format you may:



- i. decline to sign a document from within your signing session, and on the subsequent page, select the check-box indicating you wish to withdraw your consent, or you may;
- ii. send us an email to [cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov](mailto:cipriano.dacanay@kingcounty.gov) and in the body of such request you must state your email, full name, mailing address, and telephone number. We do not need any other information from you to withdraw consent.. The consequences of your withdrawing consent for online documents will be that transactions may take a longer time to process..

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The minimum system requirements for using the DocuSign system may change over time. The current system requirements are found here: <https://support.docusign.com/guides/signer-guide-signing-system-requirements>.

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To confirm to us that you can access this information electronically, which will be similar to other electronic notices and disclosures that we will provide to you, please confirm that you have read this ERSD, and (i) that you are able to print on paper or electronically save this ERSD for your future reference and access; or (ii) that you are able to email this ERSD to an email address where you will be able to print on paper or save it for your future reference and access. Further, if you consent to receiving notices and disclosures exclusively in electronic format as described herein, then select the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’ before clicking ‘CONTINUE’ within the DocuSign system.

By selecting the check-box next to ‘I agree to use electronic records and signatures’, you confirm that:

- You can access and read this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure; and
- You can print on paper this Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure, or save or send this Electronic Record and Disclosure to a location where you can print it, for future reference and access; and
- Until or unless you notify King County-Department of 02 as described above, you consent to receive exclusively through electronic means all notices, disclosures, authorizations, acknowledgements, and other documents that are required to be provided or made available to you by King County-Department of 02 during the course of your relationship with King County-Department of 02.