

CHAPTER 26
TAXICABS (1)

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SEC. 26-1. "TAXICAB" DEFINED.

The term "taxicab", as used in this chapter, is defined to mean and include any vehicle with a seating capacity of seven passengers or less, engaged in carrying passengers for hire within the city.

SEC. 26-2. LICENSE – REQUIRED.

No person shall engage in the business of carrying passengers in taxicabs for hire or compensation within the city without first obtaining a license from the city to do so for each taxicab used therefore and complying with the terms and provisions of this chapter.

SEC. 26-3. SAME – APPLICATON.

Any person desiring the license required by this chapter may make written application to the city council, which application shall state the name, age and residence of such applicant, the name of the vehicle or taxicab for which the license is desired, the serial and motor numbers, the horsepower, the year when such vehicle was made, the seating capacity of each taxicab sought to be so licensed.

1. For state law as to common carriers, see NDCC :8-07-01 et seq. As to authority of city to license, tax and regulate, etc., taxi drivers in the operation of taxicabs, see NDCC :40-05-01, 27.

SEC. 26-4. SAME – FEES.

The license fee for each taxicab sought to be licensed by each applicant shall be fifteen dollars for the first taxicab and five dollars for each additional taxicab sought to be licensed by the applicant. Every application for such license shall be accompanied by such license fees, which advance licensee fee shall be returned to the applicant if such application is denied or rejected by the City Council.

SEC. 26-5. SAME – INVESTIGATION OF APPLICANT.

Before granting any license required by this chapter, it shall be the duty of the city council to investigate as to the applicant's habits and character and financial responsibility.

SEC. 26-6. SAME – INSURANCE.

Before licensing is issued under this chapter, the applicant therefore shall procure and file with the city auditor an indemnity insurance policy, conditioned, in effect, to pay any judgment for damages to or death of any person or passenger caused by the negligence, omission or want of care in operating or handling the licensed taxicab or limousine, by the licensee, his agents or servants, within the city during the life of the license.

Such insurance policy shall be in the sum of not less than ten thousand dollars for the bodily injury or death of any one person and not less than fifty thousand dollars for bodily injury or death of all persons injured or killed in any one accident, covering each conventional taxicab licensed, and in the sum of not less than fifty thousand dollars for the bodily injury or death of any one person and not less than one hundred thousand dollars for the bodily injury or death of all persons injured or killed in any one accident covering each limousine licensed.

SEC. 26-7. SAME – PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY.

The city council shall take into consideration, in the granting or refusing to grant the license required by this chapter, the public convenience and necessity and shall not grant additional licenses for taxicabs for the use on streets or highways of the city when, in the opinion of the city council, the public convenience and necessity to not require that such additional taxicabs be so licensed.

SEC. 26-8. SAME – ISSUANCE; DURATION.

The city council having determined to issue the license required by this chapter and the applicant having first filed and deposited in the office of the city auditor an indemnity policy of insurance in accordance with Section 26-6, then a license as applied for, executed by the mayor and countersigned by the city auditor, shall issue to the applicant covering the particular taxicab therein stated for the period of one year only from the date of the license.

SEC. 26-9. SAME – REVOCATION.

Any license issued under the provision of this chapter shall be issued with the distinct understanding that such license may be revoked and terminated by the city council at any time the council may deem it necessary.

SEC. 26-10. IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLE.

It shall be the duty of the licensee, before operating any taxicab on the streets of the city, to paint or stamp on the body of the taxicab in reasonably large print the words "Taxicab", his name and the license number. No licensee, his agents or servants, shall allow or permit to be carried on or in the taxicab, as passengers or otherwise, within the city, more persons than the regular seating capacity thereof will reasonable accommodate and seat therein. Upon the expiration of any such license, unless the same is renewed, it shall be the duty of the licensee to erase or obliterate such words and figures so painted or stamped on the taxicab before using the taxicab for any purpose on the streets or public highways of the city.

SEC. 26-11. MAXIMUM RATE OF FARE.

Unless modified by the city council, the maximum price or rate of fare to be charged for transportation of each passenger from anyone place to another within the city shall not exceed fifty cents for each passenger.

SEC 26-12. TAKING ON OR DISCHARGING PASSENGERS UPON THE STREETS.

No common carrier of passenger shall take on or discharge passengers upon the streets, alleys or other public ways within the city, except duly licensed taxicabs, operating from a central depot, the location of which is approved by the city council.

SEC. 26-13. ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL DEPOT.

Any common carrier of passengers, desiring to establish a central depot for the taking on or discharging of passengers shall, before the establishing of such depot, apply to the city council for a permit. The city council may deny such application and refuse the issuance of such permit it, in its judgment, the proposed location of such central depot constitutes a hazard to public traffic and safety.

SEC 26-14. CRUISING STREETS FOR PURPOSE OF SOLICITING BUSINESS.

No common carrier of passenger or freight shall cruise about the streets and avenues in the city for the purpose of soliciting business on the streets.

SEC 26-15. STOP REQUIRED BEFORE CROSSING CERTAIN RAILROAD TRACKS.

The driver of any taxicab carrying passengers, at any railroad track not protected by automatic barriers or signals at the point where such taxicab is crossing the track, shall bring such taxicab to a complete stop before crossing such track.