

CHAPTER 125

LICENSING AND REGULATING TAXIS

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125.01 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Operator" means any person, whether or not the owner of a taxi, that will profit financially by the operation of a taxi, but does not include a person hired to drive a taxi.
2. "Taxi" means any motor vehicle that is used on the streets of the City for the purpose of carrying passengers for hire.

125.02 LICENSE REQUIRED. It is unlawful to operate a taxi without a valid taxi license issued under this chapter. Taxis that are operated principally in other cities and towns and that use the streets of the City only temporarily and on isolated occasions need not have a license under this chapter.

125.03 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE. A taxi operator shall apply in writing to the Clerk for a license for each taxi. The application shall include the name and residential and business addresses of the operator, and the make, model, serial number, motor number and State license plate number of each taxi.

125.04 FEES. The application shall be accompanied by a license fee in the following amount:

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| 1. | For one year | \$10.00 |
| 2. | For six months | \$ 6.00 |
| 3. | For three months | \$ 4.00 |
| 4. | Less than three months | \$ 1.00 per day. |

125.05 INVESTIGATION AND REPORT. Before the Clerk acts on the issuance of the license, the Police Chief shall investigate the character of the applicant and shall inspect the taxis to be licensed for possible violations of the State motor vehicle law or of this chapter, and shall report on these matters to the Council.

125.06 ISSUANCE OF LICENSE. The Clerk shall review each application promptly and shall issue a license if it finds that such issuance will be consistent with public convenience, health, safety and welfare. The license shall contain the signatures of the Mayor and Clerk, the date of issuance, the period for which the license is valid, the passenger seating capacity of the taxi and the information contained in the application.

125.07 DISPOSITION OF FEE. Immediately after acting on a license application, the Clerk shall transmit the license fee to the Finance Officer, or return the disapproved application and fee to the applicant.

125.08 TRANSFER OF LICENSE PROHIBITED. Each taxi license shall be issued for one specific taxi only and shall not be transferable from taxi to taxi or to a different operator.

125.09 REVOCATION OF LICENSE. The Clerk may revoke or suspend any license issued under this chapter for the following reasons:

1. Fraudulent Statements. The operator has made fraudulent statements in the application for the license or in the conduct of the business.
2. Violation of Law. The operator has substantially violated the requirements of this chapter or of the State motor vehicle laws.
3. Endangered Public Welfare, Health or Safety. The operator has conducted the business in such manner as to endanger the public welfare or safety.

125.10 NOTICE AND HEARING. The Clerk shall send a notice to the licensee not less than ten (10) days before the date set for a hearing on the possible revocation of a license. Such notice shall be in writing and shall be served personally or as required for personal service by the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure. Such notice shall state the time and place of the hearing and the reasons for the intended revocation or suspension. The Clerk shall conduct the hearing on the possible revocation of the license. Should the licensee, or authorized representative, fail to appear without good cause, the Clerk may proceed to a determination of the complaint.

125.11 APPEAL. If the Clerk revokes (or refuses to issue) a license, the Clerk shall make a part of the record the reasons therefor. The licensee (or the applicant) shall have a right to a hearing before the Council at its next regular meeting. The Council may reverse, modify or affirm the decision of the Clerk by a majority vote of the Council members present and the Clerk shall carry out the decision of the Council.

125.12 SUPERVISION. The Police Chief has the power at any time to investigate the conduct of any taxi business and the operation of the licensed taxis and to inspect the licensed taxis for possible violations of the State motor vehicle laws or this chapter, and shall report on these matters to the Council. The Police Chief shall inspect all taxis at least once every two (2) months.

125.13 DISPLAY OF LICENSE AND RATES. Operators shall display within the taxi, in full view of passengers, the taxi license and a schedule of rates.

125.14 LIABILITY INSURANCE. Before beginning operation of any taxi, the operator shall file with the Clerk evidence of liability insurance in a suitable amount as approved by the City to cover possible liabilities rising out of the operations of each licensed taxi.

125.15 DRIVER'S QUALIFICATIONS. Every driver of a licensed taxi shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and shall possess a valid Iowa commercial driver's license.

125.16 MAXIMUM WORKING HOURS. No operator shall require or permit any person to drive a taxi in excess of these maximum periods:

1. No more than twelve (12) consecutive hours in any twenty-four hour period except that, after completing such a period of work, a driver may begin work again if he or she has been off duty for ten (10) hours.
2. No more than twelve (12) non-consecutive hours in any twenty-four hour period except that, after completing such a period of work, a driver may begin work again if he or she has been off duty for eight (8) hours.

125.17 SOLICITING BUSINESS. Taxi drivers shall not stop, park or drive about the City streets or public places to solicit passengers by words, signs or signals, but they may take a passenger anywhere in the City at the passenger's request.

125.18 RESTRICTION ON NUMBER OF PASSENGERS. No driver shall permit more passengers to be carried in a taxi than the rated seating capacity of the taxi as fixed by the Council and stated in the license.

125.19 DUTY TO CARRY. No driver shall refuse or neglect to convey any orderly person or persons, upon request, unless previously engaged, or unless the driver is unable or forbidden to do so by the provisions of this chapter.