

von Reichbauer moved Striking Amendment S1.
The motion carried.

TRACK CHANGES FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

S1

11/15/2023
Technical Striker

[A. Sanders] Sponsor: _____
Proposed No.: 2023-0231

1 **AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2023-0231, VERSION 2**

2 On page 1, beginning on line 12, strike lines 12 through 2101, and insert:

3 " STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 4 1. The county desires to continue comprehensively regulating for-hire
- 5 transportation industries, including taxicabs and for-hire vehicles.
- 6 2. The county has implemented new policies over the last few years to help
- 7 the operators of taxicabs and for-hire vehicles navigate the loss of business
- 8 during the COVID pandemic and subsequent economic recession.
- 9 3. Industry participants have requested legislation to modernize licensing
- 10 and operating requirements and align them with the county's vision to make
- 11 King County a welcoming community where all people can thrive.
- 12 4. The county desires to allow for regional operation of all licensed taxicabs
- 13 and for-hire vehicles, implement new taximeter technology, offer the option
- 14 to apply for an enhanced for-hire driver’s license, and convert all for-hire
- 15 vehicles into taxicabs.
- 16 5. Requiring transitional regional dispatch agencies or regional dispatch
- 17 agencies to implement new taximeter technology could result in increased
- 18 deductions for dispatch services that negatively impact a driver's ability to

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19 earn a living wage and capping such deductions at ten percent of the fare
20 paid by the passenger could protect driver payments from unrestricted
21 deductions for dispatch services and support a living wage.

22 6. The ~~County-county~~ is committed to ensuring that drivers benefit from
23 new regulations and experience equitable opportunities for compensation
24 within the for-hire transportation industry.

25 7. The ~~County-county~~ is a leader on establishing practices that support
26 economic security and contribute to a fair, healthy, and vibrant economy.

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

30 9. Due to changes in state law governing the regulation of transportation
31 network companies, establishing a new King County Code chapter to
32 regulate taxicabs and for-hire vehicles and amending an existing King
33 County Code chapter to continue to regulate the transportation network
34 industry provides the best approach to implement the county's policy
35 objectives for these industries.

36 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

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

39 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2.

40 A. This chapter is an exercise of King County's power to regulate the for-hire
41 transportation industry. That exercise includes the power to license and regulate taxicabs,

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42 for-hire vehicles, taxicab and for-hire vehicle drivers, transitional regional dispatch
43 agencies, and regional dispatch agencies. Some of its regulatory purposes are to increase
44 the safety, reliability, cost-effectiveness, and economic viability and stability of privately
45 operated for-hire vehicle and taxicab services within King County.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

77 6. Establishes a requirement for each regional dispatch agency to adopt a smart
78 taximeter system.

79 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. This chapter applies to taxicab associations, for-
80 hire vehicle companies, taxicabs, for-hire vehicles, and drivers of those vehicles. K.C.C.
81 chapter 6.64 applies to transportation network companies, transportation network
82 company drivers, and transportation network company vehicles. ~~References~~
83 ~~to~~Regulation of transportation network companies, transportation network company
84 drivers, or transportation network company endorsed vehicles remains in K.C.C. chapter
85 6.64.

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

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

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

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

102 "Application dispatch system" means technology that allows consumers, via the
103 Internet using ~~mobile interfaces~~devices such as, but not limited to, smartphone and tablet
104 applications, ~~either or both,~~ to:

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

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

- 110 1. Have met all requirements of the National Institute for Automotive Service
111 Excellence;
- 112 2. Have been awarded a Certificate in Evidence of Competence satisfactory to
113 the director; and
- 114 3. Do not own, lease, or drive a taxicab, for-hire vehicle, or transportation
115 network company endorsed vehicle.

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

120 "Autonomous operation" means the performance of the entire dynamic driving
121 task by an automated driving system, beginning upon performance of the entire dynamic
122 driving task by an automated driving system and continuing until the automated driving
123 system is disengaged.

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

127 "Certificate of safety" means a document from an approved mechanic certifying
128 that a particular vehicle meets all vehicle safety standards set forth in this chapter,

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129 including the vehicle safety inspection, and rules adopted by the director in accordance
130 with this chapter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

146 "For-hire transportation services" means services provided by licensees under this
147 chapter.

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

- 150 1. Taxicabs;
151 2. School buses operating exclusively under a contract to a school district;

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- 152 3. Ride-sharing vehicles under chapter 46.74 RCW;
- 153 4. Limousine carriers licensed under chapter 46.72A RCW;
- 154 5. Vehicles used by nonprofit transportation providers solely for elderly or
155 handicapped persons and their attendants under chapter 81.66 RCW;
- 156 6. Vehicles used by auto transportation companies licensed under chapter 81.68
157 RCW;
- 158 7. Vehicles used to provide courtesy transportation at no charge to and from
159 parking lots, hotels, and rental offices;
- 160 8. Vehicles licensed under, and used to provide "charter party carrier" and
161 "excursion service carrier" services as defined in, and required by, chapter 81.70 RCW;
162 and
- 163 9. Transportation network company endorsed vehicles as defined in K.C.C.
164 chapter 6.64 and transportation network company vehicles as defined in chapter 46.72B
165 RCW.
- 166 "For-hire vehicle company" means a person that represents or owns for-hire
167 vehicles licensed by the county that use the same color scheme, trade name, and dispatch
168 services.
- 169 ~~"For hire vehicle owner" means the registered owner of the vehicle as defined by~~
170 ~~RCW 46.04.460.~~
- 171 "Lessee" means a person who has a regional for-hire driver's license that leases a
172 taxicab or for-hire vehicle required to be licensed under this chapter.
- 173 "Lessor" means a person who has leased a taxicab or for-hire vehicle to a lessee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

192 "Operate" or "operating" means owning, leasing, advertising, driving, parking in a
193 taxicab zone, having a top light on, occupying, or otherwise being in control of a taxicab
194 or for-hire vehicle that is available to transport, en route to pick up a passenger, or
195 transporting any passenger for a fare from a point in unincorporated King County or any
196 jurisdiction that has an interlocal agreement with King County for for-hire regulatory

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197 services. A taxicab association, for-hire vehicle company, transitional regional dispatch
198 agency, or regional dispatch agency is "operating" if it represents or dispatches any
199 taxicab or for-hire vehicle that at any time transports any passenger for a fare from a
200 point within unincorporated King County or any jurisdiction that has an interlocal
201 agreement with King County for for-hire regulatory services.

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

- 204 1. A governmental entity of or within the United States;
205 2. An entity operating exclusively under contract with a government entity; or
206 3. That portion of an entity that is operating exclusively under contract with a
207 government entity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

230 "Smart taximeter system" means the system a regional dispatch agency uses to
231 dispatch trips to, communicate with, and track the location of, affiliated vehicles and
232 drivers through the smart taximeter. A smart taximeter system may include an
233 application dispatch system.

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

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

241 "Taximeter" means any instrument or device by which the fare for a trip provided
242 in a taxicab is measured or calculated either for the distance traveled by the taxicab or for

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243 waiting time, or for both, and upon which such calculated charges shall be indicated by
244 means of figures.

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

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

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

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

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

256 "Uniform color scheme" means the color or colors used by vehicles affiliated with
257 a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, and approved by the
258 director for exclusive use.

259 "Voluntarily converted wheelchair accessible vehicle" means a director-inspected
260 and director-approved taxicab or for-hire vehicle that is accessible to passengers in
261 wheelchairs or other mobility devices but that is not required to be so as a condition of
262 the vehicle's medallion.

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

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

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

275 NEW SECTION. SECTION 7.

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

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

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

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

287 (2) all existing fee payers; and

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

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

292 a. include a reference to this section;

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

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

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

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

300 f. state the reason for and methodology used to determine the proposed new
301 fee amount.

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

304 D. A fee amount is set when signed by the director. The director is authorized to
305 sign only if no motion rejecting the proposed fee amount is passed by the council in
306 accordance with section 50 of this ordinance or an ordinance amending a fee is effective.

307 The new fee amount takes effect ten days after the director's signature.

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

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

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

319 NEW SECTION. SECTION 8.

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

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

325 B. The fee surcharge in subsection A. of this section shall be used to offset the
326 operational costs incurred by owners and operators of wheelchair accessible taxi,
327 wheelchair accessible for-hire vehicle or wheelchair accessible transportation network
328 company endorsed vehicle services including, but not limited to, the costs associated with
329 purchasing and retrofitting an accessible vehicle, fuel and maintenance costs and the time
330 involved in providing wheelchair accessible trips.

331 C. The director shall adopt rules to establish the conditions and procedure for
332 distributing funds to wheelchair accessible taxicab, wheelchair accessible for-hire vehicle

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333 or wheelchair accessible transportation network company endorsed vehicle owners and
334 drivers, including the maximum amount of reimbursement.

335 NEW SECTION. SECTION 9.

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

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

348 C. Drivers with a for-hire driver's license that displays as a "for-hire permit" may
349 continue to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle until the first license expiration date after
350 the effective date of this ordinance, at which time a regional for-hire driver's license or
351 enhanced regional for-hire driver's license issued under this chapter shall be required to
352 operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

353 NEW SECTION. SECTION 10. It is unlawful for a driver to operate a
354 wheelchair accessible vehicle without a regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair
355 accessible vehicle endorsement. To obtain such an endorsement, a driver shall submit

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356 proof that the driver has successfully completed a director-approved training for
357 providing for-hire transportation services in wheelchair accessible vehicles. Wheelchair
358 accessible vehicle drivers must comply with section 32 of this ordinance, in addition to
359 the requirements of sections 9 through 21 of this ordinance. The director may take
360 enforcement action against a regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible
361 vehicle endorsement, a regional for-hire driver's license, or both, as consistent with this
362 chapter.

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

365 A. Is at least twenty years old;

366 B. Possesses a valid driver's license;

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

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

373 2. A defensive driving course provided by the National Safety Council and
374 approved by the director, or an alternative defensive driving course approved by the
375 director; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

399 a. attempting to elude the police;

400 b. reckless driving;

401 c. hit and run;

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- 402 d. any alcohol- or drug-related driving crime;
- 403 e. any class A or B felony, as defined in Title 9A RCW;
- 404 f. any violent offense or serious violent offense or most serious offense, as
- 405 defined in chapter 9.94A RCW;
- 406 g. a crime involving physical violence, other than those crimes in subsection
- 407 H.1.e. or f. of this section, if the director determines the circumstances of the crime make
- 408 the person unsafe to operate as a regional for-hire driver;
- 409 h. a crime that is directly related to the applicant's honesty and integrity,
- 410 including, but not limited to, theft, burglary, and extortion, if the director determines the
- 411 circumstances of the crime make the person incompatible with the duties of a regional
- 412 for-hire driver; or
- 413 j. any conviction for any offense committed in another jurisdiction that
- 414 includes the elements of any of the offenses listed in this subsection H.1.;
- 415 2. No convictions, bail forfeitures, or other final adverse findings, including in a
- 416 civil suit or administrative hearing, pertaining to any sex offense as defined in chapter
- 417 9.94A RCW or convictions that include a special allegation of sexual motivation,
- 418 including convictions for any offense committed in another jurisdiction that includes the
- 419 elements of a sex offense as defined in chapter 9.94A RCW, within the past seven years;
- 420 3. Not being listed in the United States department of justice national sex
- 421 offender public website, and not required to register as a sex offender; and
- 422 4. No active arrest warrant for any crime;
- 423 I. Authorizes the director to obtain the applicant's current driving history, and the
- 424 results of ongoing monitoring if available, from the Washington state Department of

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425 Licensing and from an entity that is approved by the director that provides a multistate
426 driving abstract that includes the state of Washington;

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

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

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

439 M. Meets the criteria necessary for obtaining a regional for-hire driver's license
440 from the city of Seattle and applies for a regional for-hire driver's license from the city of
441 Seattle concurrently with applying for a regional for-hire driver's license from King
442 County.

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

446 NEW SECTION. SECTION 13. Effective September 1, 2024, an enhanced
447 regional for-hire driver's license is a type of regional for-hire driver's license that, in

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448 addition to meeting the requirements in section 11 of this ordinance for a regional for-hire
449 driver's license, requires a driver to consent to and successfully pass a fingerprint-based
450 background check, with ongoing monitoring if available, from an entity that is approved
451 by the director, consistent with the criteria in section 11.H. of this ordinance.

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

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

461 NEW SECTION. SECTION 16. In considering an application for a regional for-
462 hire driver's license, the director may consider any other information that may lead the
463 director to reasonably conclude that the applicant will not operate a vehicle in a safe
464 manner or comply with this chapter. The director shall reject an application if it has a
465 material misstatement or omission.

466 NEW SECTION. SECTION 17.

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

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

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

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

477 NEW SECTION. SECTION 18.

478 A regional for-hire driver shall:

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

- 481 1. A valid driver's license;
- 482 2. The vehicle's registration;
- 483 3. Proof of insurance as required by this chapter; and
- 484 4. A valid regional for-hire driver's license, which shall also be on display in
485 the vehicle and visible to passengers as prescribed by the director;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

513 L. If requested, be willing to assist a passenger entering or exiting the vehicle and
514 placing luggage or packages that are under fifty pounds in and out of the vehicle. Upon

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515 request for this assistance, a driver must so assist a passenger or otherwise ensure the
516 passenger's assistance request is fulfilled;

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

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

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

525 P. If dispatched by a transportation network company's application dispatch
526 system and allowed by the transportation network company, accept payment of fares via
527 cash payment for any trip dispatched through a transportation network company's
528 application dispatch system;

529 Q. At the end of each trip, check the vehicle for any article or articles that are left
530 behind by passenger or passengers and promptly secure the article or articles and report
531 the found article or articles to the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional
532 dispatch agency;

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

535 S. Immediately surrender the vehicle medallion plate or decal in a manner
536 approved by the director when the vehicle medallion is temporarily deactivated or
537 revoked;

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

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

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

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

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

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

549 C. Operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that is unaffiliated with a taxicab
550 association, for-hire vehicle company, transitional regional dispatch agency, or regional
551 dispatch agency;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

574 J. Refuse to transport any person except when:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

596 NEW SECTION. SECTION 20.

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

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

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

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

609 A. Load or unload passengers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport only as
610 permitted by the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Schedule of Rules and
611 Regulations;

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

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

618 NEW SECTION. SECTION 22.

619 A. As of the effective date of this ordinance, every valid taxicab and for-hire
620 vehicle medallion issued by the city of Seattle shall be issued a county medallion
621 reciprocity endorsement. The medallion and medallion reciprocity endorsement shall be
622 inseparable. A medallion cannot be issued, renewed, transferred, or temporarily
623 deactivated separately from the medallion reciprocity endorsement. Any restriction
624 imposed on a medallion through a license action applies with equal force to the
625 corresponding medallion reciprocity endorsement. Any restriction imposed on a
626 medallion reciprocity endorsement through a license action applies with equal force to
627 the corresponding medallion.

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

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

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

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

648 F. In accepting a medallion, medallion owners waive any and all liability, claims,
649 actions, suits, loss, costs, expense judgments, attorneys' fees, or damages of every kind
650 and description resulting directly or indirectly from any act or omission of the county, its

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651 officials, officers, employees, and agents regarding the valuation or devaluation of the
652 medallion.

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

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

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

661 NEW SECTION. SECTION 23.

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

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

668 C. The director may issue additional taxicab medallions only as specified by this
669 section.

670 D. The director may adjust by rule the maximum number of taxicab medallions
671 and shall periodically determine the need for additional taxicab service. Factors to be
672 considered to adjust the maximum number of taxicab medallions or to issue additional
673 taxicab medallions include:

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- 674 1. Coordination with the city of Seattle to promote a regional licensing and
675 regulatory framework for for-hire transportation services;
- 676 2. Growth in population, tourists, and other visitors to the area;
- 677 3. The quality of existing taxicab service as indicated by passenger satisfaction,
678 including wheelchair accessible vehicle service, if applicable;
- 679 4. A comparison of actual average taxicab response times to optimum average
680 taxicab response times established by the director;
- 681 5. Availability and quality of for-hire transportation services in underserved
682 communities, including areas of lower population density;
- 683 6. Available data of medallion sales on the private market;
- 684 7. Analysis of drivers' ability to earn a living wage, including the impact of
685 adjusting the number of medallions on driver income; and
- 686 8. Other indications of market demand.
- 687 E.1. If the director determines that issuance of additional taxicab medallions is
688 warranted, such medallions shall be issued as follows:
- 689 a. a competitive request for proposals and award process under which
690 medallions will be issued to medallion applicants whose proposals demonstrate that they
691 are most able to meet the needs of the public in providing taxicab service by meeting
692 qualifications prepared by the director that are not in conflict with the general provisions
693 of this chapter;
- 694 b. a lottery of qualified medallion applicants; or
- 695 c. a combination of both procedures as prescribed by the director by rule.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

739 NEW SECTION. SECTION 24.

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

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

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

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

753 3. If the medallion is expired or expires during the temporary deactivation
754 period, the medallion renewal process must be completed before the medallion can be
755 reactivated.

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

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

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

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

775 G. Vehicle insurance is not required if a medallion is temporarily deactivated.
776 The medallion owner must provide proof of vehicle insurance when reactivating the
777 medallion.

778 NEW SECTION. SECTION 25. It is unlawful to operate a taxicab or for-hire
779 vehicle with a medallion that is suspended or revoked. The operation of the taxicab or
780 for-hire vehicle must cease, and the medallion owner shall immediately surrender the
781 medallion plate or medallion decal to the director.

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

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785 A. The medallion and medallion reciprocity endorsement are inseparable and
786 must be transferred together;

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

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

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

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

800 F. Upon the final order of revocation, when all appellate proceedings, if any,
801 have been concluded, a medallion owner shall immediately surrender the taxicab or for-
802 hire vehicle medallion plate or decal to the director. Effective September 1, 2024, except
803 for revocation according to section 22.G. of this ordinance, the medallion owner has sixty
804 days from the final order of revocation to transfer the medallion; however, medallions
805 subject to a lien as evidenced by the filing requirement in section 22.C. of this ordinance
806 cannot transfer unless the medallion owner provides proof that the lien is paid or the
807 lienholder provides written approval of the transfer. If the medallion is not transferred

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808 within the sixty days, the medallion shall be deemed permanently retired, the lien, if any,
809 is removed, and the director shall not reissue the medallion.

810 NEW SECTION. SECTION 27.

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

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

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

825 NEW SECTION. SECTION 29.

826 A. All for-hire vehicles must be operated as taxicabs using a smart taximeter
827 system and must be affiliated with a regional dispatch agency that has a valid regional
828 dispatch agency license by a date consistent with section ~~3536-D~~ of this ordinance.

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

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

834 1. Applicant type:

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

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

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

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

846 2. Vehicle information including: the make; model; year, which shall be no
847 more than fifteen model years before the application date unless otherwise adjusted by
848 the director by rule; engine type; vehicle identification number; Washington state license
849 plate number; and vehicle number if previously assigned by the director. The vehicle
850 must be a passenger car as defined in RCW 46.04.382;

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851 3. Certificate or other proof of affiliation with a transitional regional dispatch
852 agency or regional dispatch agency;

853 4. Insurance policy as required by this chapter;

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

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

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

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

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

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

873 1. Inform the director, or

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874 2. Inform the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency,
875 if the application was submitted on behalf of the applicant.

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

880 NEW SECTION. SECTION 30.

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

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

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

894 3. Provide that the insurer will notify the director, in writing, of cancellation for
895 nonpayment of premium no less than ten days before the cancellation takes effect, or of
896 cancellation for any other reason no less than thirty days before the cancellation or

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897 nonrenewal takes effect. If an insurance policy is cancelled or not renewed, proof of a
898 new policy must be filed before the expiration of the policy. The taxicab or for-hire
899 vehicle is automatically suspended and cannot operate until coverage is secured;

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

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

904 B. When a taxicab or for-hire vehicle is dispatched by a transportation network
905 company, the taxicab's or for-hire vehicle's insurance covers that trip, unless the
906 transportation network company maintains an insurance policy that includes trips
907 provided by a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

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

910 NEW SECTION. SECTION 31.

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

- 915 1. Foot brakes;
- 916 2. Emergency brakes;
- 917 3. Steering mechanism;
- 918 4. Windshield;
- 919 5. Rear window and other glass;

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- 920 6. Windshield wipers;
- 921 7. Headlights;
- 922 8. Taillights;
- 923 9. Turn indicator lights;
- 924 10. Stop lights;
- 925 11. Front seat adjustment mechanism;
- 926 12. Doors, including that the doors properly open, close, and lock;
- 927 13. Horn;
- 928 14. Speedometer;
- 929 15. Bumpers;
- 930 16. Muffler and exhaust system, except for where vehicle propulsion systems
931 emit zero emissions such as in battery electric vehicles;
- 932 17. Condition of tires, including tread depth;
- 933 18. Interior rear view mirror and exterior side view mirrors;
- 934 19. Safety belts and air bags for driver and a passenger or passengers; and
- 935 20. Other items reasonably required by the director.
- 936 B. If the vehicle is sold, the certificate of safety remains valid until the next
937 medallion renewal date.
- 938 C. An approved mechanic who performs vehicle safety inspections must not have
939 a conflict of interest as defined by the director by rule. The director may remove an
940 approved mechanic from the list maintained by the director for a violation of this chapter
941 or rules prescribed by the director or due to substantiated complaints from drivers.

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

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

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

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

958 H. The director shall summarily suspend a medallion and place a vehicle out of
959 service if the vehicle fails a vehicle safety inspection or the director determines that a
960 violation of this section is an immediate safety hazard and it is necessary to prevent a
961 clear, substantial and imminent hazard to life, safety, or property.

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

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

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

971 C. A vehicle operating with a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion must be a
972 wheelchair accessible vehicle; and

973 D. Before being placed into service and annually thereafter, a separate inspection
974 of the vehicle and any installed accessibility equipment must occur. In addition to
975 checking for conformance with vehicle accessibility requirements in accordance with this
976 subsection, the vehicle driver or drivers may be required to pass a practical demonstration
977 of proper wheelchair securement techniques during this inspection. If a driver of the
978 vehicle is unable to demonstrate proper securement techniques during this inspection, the
979 director shall suspend the driver's regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible
980 vehicle endorsement and may require the driver to undergo additional training before
981 returning to try the practical demonstration again. A wheelchair accessible vehicle shall
982 not pass the inspection unless the driver is able to pass a practical demonstration of
983 proper wheelchair securement techniques. Upon passing the practical demonstration of
984 proper wheelchair securement techniques, the driver's regional for-hire driver's license
985 wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement will no longer be suspended and is effective.

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

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988 NEW SECTION. SECTION 33.

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

994 1. The price of new or used electric vehicles compared to new and used
995 nonelectric vehicles;

996 2. If the mileage range for new and used electric vehicles meets the needs of
997 full-time for-hire transportation services;

998 3. The availability of recharging infrastructure in locations and at times that are
999 convenient for regional for-hire drivers, and if recharging time conflicts with the regional
1000 for-hire driver's need to operate the vehicle; and

1001 4. If the vehicle life cycle for existing and new electric vehicles creates an
1002 undue burden for the vehicle owner or regional for-hire driver.

1003 B. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require or restrict a regional for-
1004 hire driver's use of electric vehicles for for-hire transportation services.

1005 NEW SECTION. SECTION 34.

1006 A. A taxicab or for-hire vehicle with a valid medallion may operate if the taxicab
1007 or for-hire vehicle:

1008 1. Is operated by a driver with a valid regional for-hire 'driver's license issued
1009 under this chapter;

1010 2. Has insurance as required by this chapter;

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1011 3. Displays, in a location specified by the director, a current taxicab or for-hire
1012 vehicle medallion plate or decal issued by the director; however, a licensed taxicab or
1013 for-hire vehicle does not require a transportation network company endorsement decal
1014 when dispatched by a transportation network company;

1015 4. Displays the vehicle medallion number and name of the affiliated transitional
1016 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency on the exterior of the vehicle and
1017 displays any rates that apply to a trip not requested via an application dispatch system, as
1018 prescribed by the director by rule;

1019 5. Is equipped to accept electronic payment of fares and issue receipts;

1020 6. When operating with a taxicab medallion, is equipped with an approved and
1021 properly functioning taximeter or smart taximeter and is connected to a mobile data
1022 terminal to accept electronic payment of fares and issue receipts;

1023 7. Displays any passenger information prescribed by the director by rule;

1024 8. Displays, on or in the vehicle, signs, including notices, announcements,
1025 pictures, advertisements, or other messages that do not create a visible distraction or
1026 safety hazard for the driver of the vehicle or for other vehicles on the road. The director
1027 may prescribe by rule the manner in which the signs may be displayed, including, but not
1028 limited to, requirements concerning the number of signs per vehicle, placement on or
1029 within vehicles, size limitations, and devices or mechanisms used to display the signs;

1030 9. Is equipped with a monitored duress alarm approved by the director in
1031 accordance with specifications prescribed by the director by rule;

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1032 10. Is equipped with a monitored vehicle tracking system, which may be part of
1033 an approved smart taximeter system or application dispatch system, in accordance with
1034 specifications prescribed by the director by rule;

1035 11. Maintains a continuous connection between the taximeter and the dispatch
1036 system or between the taximeter and the application dispatch system;

1037 12. Operates on a dispatch system of the affiliated transitional regional dispatch
1038 agency or regional dispatch agency and may also operate on one or more approved
1039 application dispatch systems, including those operated by a licensed transportation
1040 network company;

1041 13. Is affiliated with a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch
1042 agency and adopts the uniform color scheme of that transitional regional dispatch agency
1043 or regional dispatch agency unless otherwise authorized by the director. The director
1044 may prescribe by rule any additional criteria for vehicle colors and markings;

1045 14. Meets current taximeter standards and has installed and uses a smart
1046 taximeter when a smart taximeter system is implemented by the affiliated regional
1047 dispatch agency;

1048 15. Is compliant with policies and procedures established by the transitional
1049 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency to meet the requirements of this
1050 chapter and ensure passenger satisfaction; and

1051 16. Meets any other requirement established by the director by rule;

1052 B. To operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, the medallion owner or vehicle owner
1053 shall:

1054 1. Not have any outstanding monetary penalties issued under this chapter; and

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1055 2. Inform the director and the prior transitional regional dispatch agency or
1056 regional dispatch agency within five business days of the vehicle affiliating with a new
1057 transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency.

1058 C. A citation, license action, or both issued for a violation of this section 34 shall
1059 be issued to the medallion owner, the medallion lessee, the person operating the vehicle,
1060 or any combination thereof, as appropriate.

1061 NEW SECTION. SECTION 35.

1062 A. All lease agreements for taxicabs or for-hire vehicles shall be in writing, and
1063 the lessor shall file the original lease agreement with the director prior to the effective
1064 date of the lease in a manner specified by rule adopted by the director.

1065 B. If a change of transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch
1066 agency is made, any existing vehicle lease must be filed with the new agency at the time
1067 of the change.

1068 C. The lease amount charged to a lessee shall not exceed the maximum amount
1069 established by rule adopted by the director. In determining the maximum lease amount,
1070 if any, the director shall consider vehicle purchase prices, the cost of insurance premiums,
1071 fuel costs, and variations in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for
1072 All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), for the Seattle area, evaluated over a twenty-four month
1073 time period preceding the determination of the lease amount, and may consider any other
1074 factors that may affect the market for taxicab or for-hire vehicle leases or that may affect
1075 the provision of for-hire transportation services. Costs already factored into the lease
1076 amount shall not be charged to the driver as an additional amount.

1077 D. A vehicle lessee shall not sublease a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

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1078 NEW SECTION. SECTION 36.

1079 A. Taxicab associations and for-hire vehicle companies must transition to
1080 become regional dispatch agencies by March 31, 2026.

1081 B. As of the effective date of this ordinance, a valid King County taxicab
1082 association license or for-hire vehicle company registration shall automatically become a
1083 transitional regional dispatch agency license and shall expire on March 31, 2024. As of
1084 the effective date of this ordinance, every taxicab association with a valid license issued
1085 by the city of Seattle and every for-hire vehicle company recognized by the city of Seattle
1086 shall be issued a transitional regional dispatch agency license by King County and shall
1087 expire on March 31, 2024. A transitional regional dispatch agency license or a regional
1088 dispatch agency license permits the licensee to operate in King County and the city of
1089 Seattle. New taxicab association licenses shall not be issued and new for-hire vehicle
1090 companies shall not be registered after the effective date of this ordinance.

1091 C. Upon initial license renewal, a transitional regional dispatch agency shall
1092 submit for director approval a transition plan on a form provided by the director for
1093 adopting a smart taximeter system. The transition plan must include a clear process for
1094 adopting a smart taximeter system by no later than March 31, 2026. The director may
1095 grant an extension of the deadline for implementing a smart taximeter system for up to
1096 twelve months based upon consideration of the following nonexclusive factors:

- 1097 1. Previous efforts of a transitional regional dispatch agency to implement a
1098 smart taximeter system in its fleet of affiliated vehicles;
- 1099 2. Costs and availability of a smart taximeter system; and
- 1100 3. Economic viability of operating a taxicab.

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1101 D. Transitional regional dispatch agencies seeking to continue operating beyond
1102 March 31, 2026, shall apply for a regional dispatch agency license. Unless the director
1103 approves an extension for adopting a smart taximeter system, a valid regional dispatch
1104 agency license is required to operate after March 31, 2026.

1105 NEW SECTION. SECTION 37.

1106 A. ~~Except as authorized by this chapter, it~~ is unlawful for a person to operate as
1107 a regional dispatch agency without a valid regional dispatch agency license. A regional
1108 dispatch agency license is valid for one year and is not transferable. To be licensed as a
1109 regional dispatch agency, all regional dispatch agencies shall meet the criteria necessary
1110 for obtaining a regional dispatch agency license from the city of Seattle, and shall apply
1111 for a regional dispatch agency license from the city of Seattle concurrently with applying
1112 for a regional dispatch agency license from King County, and shall:

- 1113 1. Apply for a license on a form approved by the director;
- 1114 2. Have an identified representative authorized to make business decisions on
1115 behalf of the agency or company;
- 1116 3. Adopt a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol and drug use while operating a
1117 taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensed under this chapter;
- 1118 4. Adopt a policy that prohibits the agency or company, including their
1119 affiliated drivers, from discriminating against passengers or potential passengers on the
1120 basis of race; color; national origin; religious belief or affiliation; sex; disability; age; use
1121 of a service animal; sexual orientation; gender identity; or geographic beginning or
1122 endpoints of the ride, unless the trip covers more than one hundred miles or includes
1123 traveling over a mountain pass or on a ferry;

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1124 5. Have a process for receiving, tracking, and resolving passenger complaints;

1125 6. Have and maintain a secure process for passengers to retrieve items left
1126 behind in an affiliated vehicle as soon as possible but no longer than two calendar days
1127 following the date of the trip. Such policy shall be in writing and readily accessible to
1128 passengers;

1129 7. Have a system that enables each passenger to receive an electronic or paper
1130 receipt upon payment of the fare. A receipt shall include at least the following
1131 information:

- 1132 a. the date and time the trip began and ended;
- 1133 b. the medallion number for a taxicab or for-hire vehicle trip;
- 1134 c. the driver's regional for-hire driver's license number or unique driver
1135 identification number;
- 1136 d. the fare charged and any tip paid;
- 1137 e. the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency with
1138 which the vehicle is affiliated; and
- 1139 f. a phone number, email address, or website to submit passenger feedback and

1140 inquiries to the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency;
1141 8. Have an approved smart taximeter system that includes the following
1142 functions:

- 1143 a. is capable of metering a trip using an onboard diagnostic connection to the
1144 vehicle or the use of location tracking technology, or some combination of the two, to
1145 measure time and distance traveled;

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- 1146 b. has an integrated payment and receipting system that accepts credit cards
1147 and other electronic payments such as electronic taxi scrip, promotional codes, and
1148 alternative payment channels;
- 1149 c. has an integrated dispatch system that:
- 1150 (1) supports two-way communication between the dispatcher and the driver;
1151 (2) is equipped with monitored vehicle tracking technology and be able to
1152 track vehicle location in real time;
- 1153 (3) does not exclusively dispatch calls by phone or radio; and
1154 (4) provides a duress alarm for the driver;
- 1155 d. supports pricing based on static and dynamic market conditions;
- 1156 e. has the ability to calculate an upfront fare to present to a passenger before
1157 the passenger accepts the ride;
- 1158 f. is capable of notifying a passenger if a convenience fee for electronic
1159 payment, or other known fees, will be added to the fare;
- 1160 g. includes driver authentication and system security features;
- 1161 h. automates data collection and reporting;
- 1162 i. provides geographic location information;
- 1163 j. incorporates a director-approved mobility data standard for on-demand for-
1164 hire vehicles to support external integration;
- 1165 k. can be used and configured for one or more regional dispatch agencies and
1166 can dispatch vehicles from one or more registered trade names;

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1167 1. if required by the director by rule, is connected to a director-approved
1168 external dispatch system for the purpose of dispatching wheelchair accessible vehicles;
1169 and

1170 m. meets any other requirement prescribed by the director by rule; and

1171 9. Have a driver training program, for for-hire drivers, approved by the director.

1172 B. Prior to obtaining a regional dispatch agency license, transitional regional
1173 dispatch agencies shall comply with regional dispatch agency licensing and operating
1174 requirements in this section, except that:

1175 1. A transitional regional dispatch agency shall not be required to have a smart
1176 taximeter system; and

1177 2. A transitional regional dispatch agency that is affiliated with taxicabs at the
1178 time of being issued a transitional regional dispatch agency license that does not have a
1179 smart taximeter system approved by the director, shall provide a dispatch system
1180 integrated with the vehicle's taximeter for all affiliated vehicles.

1181 NEW SECTION. SECTION 38. A transitional regional dispatch agency license
1182 or regional dispatch agency license issued by King County and a corresponding regional
1183 dispatch agency license or transitional regional dispatch agency license issued by the city
1184 of Seattle shall be considered one inseparable license.

1185 NEW SECTION. SECTION 39.

1186 A. At all times, a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch
1187 agency shall:

1188 1. Operate with a valid transitional regional dispatch agency or regional
1189 dispatch agency license;

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- 1190 2. Ensure all information provided to the director does not misstate or omit
1191 material facts;
- 1192 3. Inform the director in writing within seven days if any of the information
1193 provided in the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency license
1194 application changes, including if it ceases to be true or is superseded in any way ~~by~~ by new
1195 information;
- 1196 4. Ensure any driver of an affiliated vehicle possesses a valid regional for-hire
1197 driver's license, enhanced regional for-hire driver's license, or regional for-hire driver's
1198 license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement, or any combination thereof, as
1199 applicable to either the ride type or the vehicle type, or both;
- 1200 5. Require affiliated vehicles to meet all requirements of this chapter, including
1201 but not limited to passing an annual vehicle safety inspection and being licensed,
1202 endorsed, and insured;
- 1203 6. Notify the director in writing within seven days upon adding or removing an
1204 affiliated vehicle;
- 1205 7. Require affiliated vehicles to be fully equipped as required by this chapter
1206 whenever operating as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle;
- 1207 8. Accept service of general correspondence, license actions, citations, and
1208 notices of complaints on behalf of an affiliated driver or vehicle owner and forward such
1209 to the respective affiliated driver or vehicle owner;
- 1210 9. Prioritize dispatch services to passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility
1211 devices when dispatching affiliated wheelchair accessible vehicles;

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1212 10. Allow passengers to indicate whether they require a wheelchair-accessible
1213 vehicle and connect passengers to those services either directly or via a weblink,
1214 application, or phone number, if no wheelchair accessible vehicles are available on the
1215 agency’s application dispatch system. The director may suspend or alter this requirement
1216 by rule if a director-approved dispatch system is established for wheelchair accessible
1217 trips;

1218 11. Maintain a phone number, mailing address, and email address for passenger
1219 service;

1220 12. Record all trips, process all payments, and issue a receipt for all payments
1221 through the dispatch system, a smart taximeter system, or an application dispatch system
1222 provided to affiliated drivers;

1223 13. Comply with the data reporting requirements established in this chapter;

1224 14. Operate only director approved application dispatch systems ;

1225 15. Require affiliated vehicles to comply with applicable rate structures defined
1226 in this chapter;

1227 16. Have, maintain, and monitor, while one or more affiliated vehicles are
1228 active, a duress alarm for the driver;

1229 17. Establish and enforce operating standards for affiliated drivers and vehicles
1230 to ensure code compliance and passenger satisfaction;

1231 18. Satisfy every request for service as long as there are affiliated taxicabs or
1232 for-hire vehicles available; except that transitional regional dispatch agencies, regional
1233 dispatch agencies, and regional for-hire drivers, that refuse service within the meaning of
1234 section 19.1.1 of this ordinance, shall not be subject to any penalties by the director, and,

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1235 in the case of regional for-hire drivers, by the transitional regional dispatch agency or
1236 regional dispatch agency;

1237 19. Require affiliated vehicles to use a uniform color scheme or any associated
1238 graphics, or both, approved by the director;

1239 20. Provide a supervisor at a taxicab zone whenever such zone is used by
1240 affiliated taxicabs if the director determines that it is necessary due to complaints
1241 received from passengers and adjacent property owners or improper use of nearby
1242 passenger load zones, truck load zones, and charter bus zones. If the transitional regional
1243 dispatch agency, or regional dispatch agency, fails to provide a supervisor as required by
1244 the director, the director may prohibit all affiliated taxicabs from using the taxicab zone;

1245 21. Require affiliated vehicles to operate on an approved taximeter, smart
1246 taximeter system, or application dispatch system as required in this chapter;

1247 22. Remit fares made via electronic payment to regional for-hire drivers within
1248 two business days after the ride was completed;

1249 23. Remit fares made via electronic payment through the smart taximeter
1250 system to regional for-hire drivers in amounts not less than the full fare paid by the
1251 passenger, excluding deductions for fees agreed to in accordance with section 40 of this
1252 ordinance;

1253 24. Comply with applicable business license requirements for any jurisdiction
1254 for which the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency operates;
1255 and

1256 25. Meet any other requirement established by the director by rule.

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1257 B. A transitional regional dispatch agency that is not affiliated with taxicabs at
1258 the time of being issued a transitional regional dispatch agency license does not need to:

- 1259 1. Affiliate with taxicabs;
1260 2. Have or operate a taximeter;
1261 3. Comply with taximeter rates; or
1262 4. Provide a supervisor at a taxicab zone because for-hire vehicles are not
1263 permitted to operate at a taxicab zone.

1264 C. Persons not previously licensed as a taxicab association or registered as a for-
1265 hire vehicle company may apply for a transitional regional dispatch agency license in a
1266 manner determined by the director.

1267 D.1. Transitional regional dispatch agencies and regional dispatch agencies shall
1268 maintain accurate and complete operational records for all affiliated vehicles and shall
1269 submit quarterly reports, in an electronic format approved by the director.

- 1270 2. Reports shall include the following:
1271 a. a total count of ride per origination ZIP Code;
1272 b. a total count of ride per destination ZIP Code;
1273 c. a total count of unfulfilled ride requests by ZIP Code;
1274 d. a total count of rides provided by a wheelchair accessible vehicle by ZIP
1275 Code;
1276 e. a total count of unfulfilled ride requests for a wheelchair accessible vehicle
1277 by ZIP Code;

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1278 f. a list of vehicle collisions; including the vehicle medallion number, regional
1279 for-hire driver's license number, and if known, whether the collision was the fault of the
1280 regional for-hire driver; and whether the collision resulted in any injuries;

1281 g. a list of crimes committed against drivers;

1282 h. a list of passenger complaints; and

1283 i. any other data required by the director to ensure compliance.

1284 3. Transitional regional dispatch agencies and regional dispatch agencies shall
1285 retain records related to the reports required under subsection D. of this section for the
1286 current year and at least the two prior calendar years. Records may be maintained
1287 electronically.

1288 4. If a public records request is made of the county for documents that have
1289 been designated by a licensee as confidential or proprietary, the county may provide third
1290 party notice to the providing party prior to disclosure.

1291 E. A transitional regional dispatch agency and regional dispatch agency shall
1292 store, and upon request permit the director to review, all records required by this chapter
1293 for affiliated drivers and vehicles including, but not limited to, copies of regional for-hire
1294 driver's licenses, taxicab and for-hire vehicle medallions, lists of all affiliated drivers and
1295 their affiliated vehicles, passenger feedback, new driver training records, dispatch
1296 records, and proof of vehicle insurance and vehicle registration. In addition, the
1297 transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency shall:

1298 1. Retain records, electronically or otherwise, for the current year and at least
1299 the prior two calendar years;

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1300 2. Provide the director with any other information the director may reasonably
1301 require upon request; and

1302 3. Timely respond to the director's request for information.

1303 F. The director may authorize a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional
1304 dispatch agency to submit regional for-hire driver's license applications on behalf of its
1305 affiliated drivers, in a manner approved by the director.

1306 G. A transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency may
1307 maintain a rating system for drivers and passengers to rate each other following a trip.

1308 NEW SECTION. SECTION 40.

1309 A. A transitional regional dispatch agency and regional dispatch agency shall put
1310 in writing all policies that affect affiliated medallion owners, vehicle owners, and
1311 regional for-hire drivers.

1312 B. Prior to implementing or changing a policy, the transitional regional dispatch
1313 agency or regional dispatch agency shall provide a copy of the draft policy to the
1314 affiliated medallion owner, vehicle owner, or regional for-hire driver, and post a copy of
1315 the draft policy in the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency
1316 office and send via electronic transmittal a copy of the draft policy to the affiliated
1317 medallion owners, vehicle owners and regional for-hire drivers. Affiliated medallion
1318 owners, vehicle owners and regional for-hire drivers shall have a minimum of twenty
1319 days to review and provide input on the draft policy before the policy takes effect.

1320 Notwithstanding this twenty-day timeline, a policy proposed for purposes of addressing
1321 an emergent issue may be temporarily established for up to thirty days. After thirty days,

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1322 medallion owners, vehicle owners, and regional for-hire drivers shall be given an
1323 opportunity to provide input before the policy may be permanently adopted.

1324 C. A transitional regional dispatch agency and regional dispatch agency shall
1325 make known to the regional for-hire driver the amount of the fare for each trip provided
1326 by that driver. If the amount remitted to the driver is less than the full fare paid by the
1327 passenger, the remittance to the driver shall include a description detailing the deductions
1328 made. With the exception of any fees that are authorized in Section 41 of this ordinance,
1329 a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency may only make a
1330 deduction on trips dispatched by the agency, and the maximum allowable amount of such
1331 deduction shall be ten percent of the fare paid by the passenger.

1332 D. A transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency shall
1333 establish a written policy governing an owner's or driver's access to the smart taximeter
1334 system, application dispatch system, the ability to work on any contracted accounts, and
1335 affiliation with the dispatch agency. The policy must include written notice of impending
1336 deactivation [with sufficient information for the driver to understand the reason for](#)
1337 [deactivation](#), an opportunity for the owner or driver to be heard, and a period for the
1338 owner or driver to cure the violation before deactivation begins, unless the deactivation is
1339 ordered by the director or is an immediate threat to public safety.

1340 NEW SECTION. SECTION 41.

1341 A. Regional taximeter rates and the requirements for regional taximeter rates are
1342 as follows:

1343 1. Unless specified elsewhere in this section or prescribed by the director by
1344 rule, it shall be unlawful for anyone operating a taxicab licensed by King County to

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1345 advertise, charge, demand or receive any greater or lesser rate than the following regional
1346 taximeter rates:

- 1347 a. drop charge: for passengers for first 1/9 mile: \$2.60;
- 1348 b. Per mile: For each 1/9 mile or fraction thereof after the first 1/9 mile: \$0.30;
- 1349 c. For every one minute of waiting time: \$0.50, charged at \$0.30 per 36
1350 seconds. Waiting time rates are charged when taxicab speed is less than 11 miles per
1351 hour or when a taxicab driver is asked to wait for the passenger; and
- 1352 d. Additional per passenger charge for more than two persons, excluding
1353 children under twelve years of age: \$0.50;~~and~~.

1354 2. The director may adjust or prescribe new regional taximeter rates and other
1355 rates, such as minimum fares for trips, or both, by rule. In determining new regional
1356 taximeter rates, the director may consider, among other things, the following factors:

- 1357 a. operational data supplied by a regional dispatch agency or data obtained by
1358 the director through other sources, including, but not limited to, regional consumer price
1359 index data;
- 1360 b. the public's need for adequate for-hire transportation services at reasonable
1361 rates consistent with the provision, maintenance, and continuation of such services;
- 1362 c. the rates of other for-hire transportation providers operating in similar areas;
- 1363 d. rates paid by passengers using other modes of transportation;
- 1364 e. The ability of a driver to earn a living wage after covering all operating costs
1365 incurred by the owner or driver;—
- 1366 f. other regulatory, access, or similar fees paid by drivers to serve the
1367 transportation needs of the region; and

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- 1368 g. alignment with rates established by the city of Seattle;
- 1369 3. Regional taximeter rates are exclusive of any per-trip fee established by the
1370 Port of Seattle and set forth in any operating agreement or tariff, a temporary fuel
1371 surcharge authorized by the director, a technology fee if authorized by the director, a
1372 convenience fee for electronic payment of fares, the wheelchair accessible surcharge, or
1373 any toll or charge established for roads, bridges, tunnels, or ferries;
- 1374 4. A regional dispatch agency's affiliated taxicabs shall have regional taximeter
1375 rates programmed into its smart taximeter system. Variations from regional taximeter
1376 rates are permitted, as follows:
- 1377 a. Variations from regional taximeter rates may be applied to contract trips,
1378 upfront fares, dynamic pricing, fare splitting, trip bidding, and unless prohibited by the
1379 director by rule, for flat-rate fares, minimum trip fares, or when operating on an
1380 application dispatch system;
- 1381 b. The director may prescribe by rule variations from regional taximeter rates;
- 1382 c. Unless prescribed otherwise by the director by rule, any variation from
1383 regional taximeter rates shall be established by a regional dispatch agency and not by an
1384 individual driver. A regional dispatch agency shall not vary a rate so that it results in a
1385 higher dispatch fee or other fee to be paid by an affiliated driver;
- 1386 d. Variations from regional taximeter rates shall be applied in a manner that
1387 does not discriminate on the basis of a protected class or on the basis of the ride's
1388 geographic beginning or endpoints;
- 1389 e. Unless a trip is dispatched via an application dispatch system, an upfront
1390 fare shall be based on the estimated time and distance calculated by the smart taximeter

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1391 and multiplied by the regional taximeter rate. If the passenger rejects an upfront fare, the
1392 regional taximeter rates apply; and

1393 f. If a flat rate between two defined points has been established, the flat rate
1394 shall be made available to the passenger prior to accepting a ride. Regional dispatch
1395 agencies must maintain a list of all established flat rates, including their defined origin
1396 and destination points, and make such list available for inspection upon request of the
1397 director;

1398 5. Contract rates shall be in writing, be retained by the regional dispatch agency,
1399 and be available for inspection upon request of the director; ~~and~~

1400 6. Before a licensee may use a smart taximeter system that is integrated with an
1401 application dispatch system, the director must first determine the application dispatch
1402 system rates are transparent under subsection B. of this section.

1403 B. The requirements for application dispatch system rates are as follows:

1404 1. Before using an application dispatch system, or using a smart taximeter
1405 system as an application dispatch system, the transitional regional dispatch agency or
1406 regional dispatch agency shall provide to the director either written documentation or a
1407 physical demonstration, or both, that the application dispatch system rate structure is
1408 transparent to the passenger prior to confirming the ride. Application dispatch system
1409 rates do not need to be filed with the director unless requested by the director. The
1410 director shall determine that the rate structure is transparent if:

1411 a. one of the following methodologies is used:

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1412 (1) the rate by either distance or time, or a combination of distance and time,
1413 and the total fare or fare range is clearly displayed on the application dispatch system to
1414 the passenger upon requesting a ride, but before confirming the ride; or

1415 (2) the fare for the ride is made clear to the passenger prior to confirming the
1416 ride through an alternative method deemed acceptable by the director;

1417 b. any additional or higher charges such as tips, waiting time, tolls, or any
1418 other charges not included in subsection B.1.a. of this section shall be clearly identified
1419 by specific amount, if known, or by category, on the application dispatch system before
1420 confirming a ride; and

1421 c. the receipt showing all charges paid by the passenger is available to the
1422 regional for-hire driver in the application dispatch system; ~~and-~~

1423 2. During an abnormal disruption of the market, lasting for no longer than
1424 twelve consecutive hours in King County, a transitional regional dispatch agency or
1425 regional dispatch agency shall not raise its normal range of fare more than two times the
1426 fare that would otherwise be applicable.

1427 C. The requirements for for-hire vehicle rates are as follows:-

1428 1. For-hire vehicles must charge for service based on: a written contract; flat
1429 rate per trip or by zone; or by an hourly rate with minimum increments of thirty minutes.
1430 Flat charges by zone or hourly rate may vary by time of day. Zone boundaries shall be
1431 set by the director by rule and shall be consistent across all for-hire vehicle operators;-

1432 2. Records of all for-hire vehicle rates in place prior to implementing a smart
1433 taximeter system shall be maintained by the for-hire vehicle company and be made

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1434 available for inspection upon request by the director. All rates and charges shall be
1435 conspicuously available in the interior of the for-hire vehicle;:-

1436 3. The for-hire vehicle rate structure shall remain in effect until the vehicle
1437 transitions to a taxicab or March 31, 2026, whichever occurs sooner. After March 31,
1438 2026, all for-hire vehicles shall have transitioned to taxicabs and are subject to the
1439 regional taximeter rates and application dispatch system rate requirements under this
1440 chapter; and-

1441 4. If using an application dispatch system, the director must first determine that
1442 the rates are transparent to the passenger under subsection B. of this section.

1443 D. If the director establishes a minimum fare flat rate from one location to
1444 another location, or other rates, based on the factors identified in subsection A.2. of this
1445 section, such minimum fare, flat rate, or other rate shall apply whether the trip originated
1446 via a taximeter, a smart taximeter, or, if specified by the director, an application dispatch
1447 system. In addition to the general authority authorized in this subsection D, the following
1448 shall apply:

1449 1. For all trips originating at SeaTac International Airport, and no later than
1450 December 31, 2024, the director shall establish a minimum fare by rule; and

1451 2. On the effective date of this ordinance, and expiring on December 31, 2024,
1452 or upon the date the director's rule goes into effect, whichever is earlier, in accordance
1453 with subsection D.1. of this section, the minimum fare for all trips originating at SeaTac
1454 International Airport shall be twenty dollars exclusive of any fees, surcharges, or tolls as
1455 indicated in subsection A.3. of this section. Any flat rate, dynamic price, or other method
1456 of pricing established by a transitional regional dispatch agency or a regional dispatch

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1457 agency shall not be below this minimum for trips that originate at [Seattle-Tacoma](#)
1458 International Airport.

1459 E. Other rate and fare requirements are as follows:

1460 1. It is unlawful to charge additional fees for carrying individuals with
1461 disabilities and their equipment or to charge rates higher to passengers with a disability
1462 than are charged to other persons. To promote equitable access to for-hire transportation
1463 for persons with disabilities, and to ensure that wheelchair accessible vehicle service is
1464 reliably available at reasonable and predictable rates, the director may prescribe by rule
1465 fares for wheelchair accessible trips or other conditions on the rates, fares, fees, and other
1466 surcharges, or both, for providing wheelchair accessible transportation services to persons
1467 with disabilities~~;~~

1468 2. The director is authorized to establish a fuel surcharge to the regional
1469 taximeter rate that can be added as an amount to the passenger's total fare any time the
1470 price of fuel, as published by the American Automobile Association for the local area,
1471 exceeds a fuel surcharge trigger price established in accordance with a rule adopted by
1472 the director. The surcharge shall be an amount necessary to recoup the increased fuel
1473 costs~~;~~

1474 3. A toll or charge established for roads, bridges, tunnels, or ferries while
1475 passengers are being transported may be added to the passenger's total fare if such
1476 charges are not already included in the calculation of the fare~~;~~

1477 4. Discriminatory charges are prohibited. For the purposes of this subsection
1478 E.4., "discriminatory charges" means policies or practices that result in higher charges or

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1479 rates being applied to passengers belonging to a protected class compared to other
1480 passengers; ~~and~~.

1481 ~~5.~~ The director may establish by rule the process and criteria associated with the
1482 director's review and approval of a technology fee that is intended to help offset the cost
1483 of implementing, operating and maintaining a smart taximeter system and that may be
1484 added to the fare for all trips subject to the taximeter rates in subsection A. of this section.

1485 NEW SECTION. SECTION 42.

1486 A. The director may prescribe by rule the implementation of a discrete licensing
1487 program for emerging for-hire transportation models that do not fit within the parameters
1488 of this chapter or K.C.C. chapter 6.64.

1489 B. The director shall determine whether a proposed business activity is an
1490 emerging for-hire transportation model that falls outside the parameters of any existing
1491 license under this chapter or K.C.C. chapter 6.64, and whether the proposed business
1492 activity presents potential risks to the public health, safety, and welfare such that, for the
1493 protection of the public, the activity must be regulated and licensed.

1494 C. The director may grant the applicant an emerging for-hire transportation
1495 license to operate in the proposed business activity on a pilot basis.

1496 D. The emerging for-hire transportation license shall be renewed annually for a
1497 maximum of two years, after which the license shall expire. The emerging for-hire
1498 transportation license shall be a personal privilege and not property. The emerging for-
1499 hire transportation license shall not be transferrable to another location, person, or
1500 business entity.

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1501 E. The director may attach conditions to the emerging for-hire transportation
1502 license as are reasonably required to protect the public health, safety, [labor harmony](#), and
1503 welfare from risks including, but not limited to: adverse impact on public health; public
1504 safety; increased demand on government services; increased environmental impacts; or
1505 increased traffic or congestion in the public way. The director may attach any such
1506 conditions when the emerging for-hire transportation license is issued, or the director
1507 may attach, remove, or modify conditions at any time during the term of the
1508 [permit](#)~~license~~, upon reasonable notice to the licensee.

1509 F. The director may determine at any time during the term of the emerging for-
1510 hire transportation license that the licensed business activity as conducted presents an
1511 unreasonable risk to public health and safety that cannot be mitigated, and may revoke
1512 the license, with or without prior notice. If a license is revoked, the licensee shall be
1513 given the opportunity to appear before the director for an informal hearing to introduce
1514 any evidence to appeal the revocation before the revocation is effective or no later than
1515 ten days after the revocation is effective. The director shall render a decision affirming or
1516 reversing the revocation within three business days after conclusion of the hearing. The
1517 decision of the director is final.

1518 G. If the director determines an emerging for-hire transportation model that has
1519 been issued an emerging for-hire transportation license under a pilot program should be
1520 regulated by ordinance, the director shall convey the determination to the council prior to
1521 the expiration of the license. The license shall not be extended beyond two years unless
1522 an ordinance regulating the emerging for-hire transportation model is effective and the

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1523 emerging for-hire transportation model has obtained the necessary licenses required
1524 under that ordinance.

1525 NEW SECTION. SECTION 43. The director may establish, in conjunction with
1526 the city of Seattle and the Port of Seattle, a shared process to receive and, when
1527 appropriate, resolve passenger feedback and may communicate the process to passengers.

1528 NEW SECTION. SECTION 44.

1529 A. Upon receiving a written complaint involving the conduct of a licensee, where
1530 the conduct may be a violation of this chapter, the director shall review the complaint,
1531 and if appropriate:

1532 1. Issue a notice of complaint to the licensee, and if applicable, the affiliated
1533 transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, advising them of the
1534 allegation or allegations made in the complaint;

1535 2. Require the licensee and, if applicable, the affiliated transitional regional
1536 dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, to respond in writing or by contacting the
1537 issuing inspector to provide a response to the allegation or allegations in the notice of
1538 complaint within fifteen calendar days from the date the notice of complaint was issued;

1539 3. Investigate the allegations in the written complaint and the response
1540 submitted by the licensee and if applicable, the response submitted by the transitional
1541 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency representative; and

1542 4. Make a finding as to the validity of the allegations in the written complaint. If
1543 the complaint is found to be valid the director may take enforcement action consistent
1544 with this chapter.

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1545 B. Failure to respond to a notice of complaint, either in writing or by contacting
1546 the issuing inspector, within fifteen calendar days shall constitute a waiver of the
1547 licensee's and, if applicable, the affiliated agency's right to respond to the allegations in
1548 the written complaint and shall be prima facie evidence that the allegations are valid.

1549 NEW SECTION. SECTION 45.

1550 A. It is a violation for any person to not meet or maintain compliance with any
1551 requirement of this chapter or rule issued by the director. If the director determines that
1552 any of this chapter's requirements or rules have been violated, the director may issue:

- 1553 1. A citation;
- 1554 2. A license action, including denial, revocation, suspension, or summary
1555 suspension; or
- 1556 3. A citation and a license action.

1557 B. In determining a monetary penalty, the director shall consider the gravity of
1558 the violation; the number of past violations committed; the size of the business of the
1559 violator; the deterrent effect of monetary penalties; and the good faith of the violator in
1560 attempting to achieve compliance after notification of the violation.

1561 C. A person shall pay all fees, surcharges, and monetary penalties that are owed
1562 under this chapter. If the person cited fails to pay a monetary penalty imposed under this
1563 chapter, the monetary penalty may be referred to a collection agency. The cost for the
1564 collection services will be added to the penalty. Alternatively, the director may pursue
1565 collection in any other manner allowed by law. The director shall refuse to issue a
1566 license, endorsement, or medallion at the time of renewal if the person has outstanding
1567 fees, surcharges, or monetary penalties issued under this chapter.

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1568 D. Each day a person violates or fails to comply with one of the requirements of
1569 this chapter may be considered a separate violation for which a citation, license action, or
1570 both, may be issued.

1571 E. It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate the operating standards
1572 established in this chapter three or more times in a twelve-month period. The director
1573 may refer such a person for prosecution as an alternative to the citation and license action
1574 procedures outlined in this chapter.

1575 F. The director may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin any acts or practices
1576 when necessary to achieve compliance.

1577 G. Nothing in this section limits or precludes any action or proceeding to enforce
1578 this chapter, and nothing obligates or requires the director to issue a citation or license
1579 action prior to the imposition of criminal penalties.

1580 NEW SECTION. SECTION 46. The following monetary penalties shall be
1581 assessed or license action taken for violations of the listed sections or subsections of this
1582 chapter:

1583 A. The director shall assess a Class A penalty, which is a one-hundred-twenty-
1584 five-dollar civil penalty for a first offense, a two-hundred-fifty-dollar penalty for a second
1585 offense, or a five-hundred-dollar civil penalty for a third or subsequent offense:

- 1586 1. Section 18.A., B., D., L., N., Q., and U. of this ordinance;
- 1587 2. Section 19.B., M., and N. of this ordinance;
- 1588 3. Section 20.A.1., 2., and 3. of this ordinance;
- 1589 4. Section 31.D., E., and F. of this ordinance; and
- 1590 5. Section 34.A.4., 5., 6., 7., and 8. of this ordinance;

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1591 B. The director shall assess a Class B penalty, which is a two-hundred-fifty-
1592 dollar civil penalty for a first offense, a five-hundred-dollar civil penalty for a second
1593 offense, or a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for a third or subsequent offense:

- 1594 1. Section 18.C., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., and M. of this ordinance;
- 1595 2. Section 19.A., D., G., I., J., K., and L. of this ordinance;
- 1596 3. Section 20.A.4. and 5. of this ordinance;
- 1597 4. Section 34.A.3., 9., 10., 11., 12., 13., 14., and 15. of this ordinance; and
- 1598 5. Section 34.B.2, and 3. of this ordinance;

1599 C. The director shall assess a Class C penalty, which is a one-thousand-dollar
1600 civil penalty for an offense:

- 1601 1. Section 19.F. of this ordinance;
- 1602 2. Section 39.A.1., 3., 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 9., 10., 11., 12., 13., 14., 15., 16., 17., 18.,
1603 19., 20., 21., 22., and 23. of this ordinance; and
- 1604 3. Section 40.A., B., C., and D. of this ordinance;

1605 D. The director shall assess a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for the first
1606 offense and suspend the license or medallion for the second and subsequent offenses:

- 1607 1. Section 35.A. and C. of this ordinance;
- 1608 2. Section 39.D. and E. of this ordinance; and
- 1609 3. Section 41.A.4. of this ordinance;

1610 E. The director shall assess a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for each offense.
1611 It is a criminal misdemeanor for the second and subsequent offenses, which the director
1612 may refer for prosecution:

- 1613 1. Section 9.A. of this ordinance;

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- 1614 2. Section 25 of this ordinance; and
- 1615 3. Section 29.B. of this ordinance;
- 1616 F. For offenses violating the following, the director shall take the listed action:
- 1617 1. Section 11.A., B., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., and M. of this ordinance, denial;
- 1618 2. Section 18.O., R., and S. of this ordinance, revocation;
- 1619 3. Section 19.C., E., and H. of this ordinance, suspension;
- 1620 4. Section 23.G. of this ordinance, revocation;
- 1621 5. Section 26.E. of this ordinance, denial;
- 1622 6. Section 29.A. of this section, revocation;
- 1623 7. Section 29.C. of this ordinance, denial;
- 1624 8. Section 31.A., G., and H. of this ordinance, summary suspension;
- 1625 9. Section 32.C. of this ordinance, suspension;
- 1626 10. Section 32.D. of this ordinance, suspension of the regional for-hire driver's
- 1627 license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement;
- 1628 11. Section 34.A.1. and 2. of this ordinance, summary suspension;
- 1629 12. Section 36.A. of this ordinance, revocation;
- 1630 13. Section 37.A. of this ordinance, denial; and
- 1631 14. Section 39.A.24. of this ordinance, suspension;
- 1632 G. The director shall suspend a license or medallion, or shall deny a license or
- 1633 medallion application at renewal:
- 1634 1. Section 29.F. of this ordinance;
- 1635 2. Section 30.A. of this ordinance;
- 1636 3. Section 34.B.1. of this ordinance; and

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1637 4. Section 39.A.2. of this ordinance;

1638 H. The director shall assess a two-hundred-fifty-dollar civil penalty for the first
1639 offense and a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for second and subsequent offenses of
1640 section 10 of this ordinance;

1641 I. The director shall revoke a license or deny a license application at renewal for
1642 an offense of section 19.O. of this ordinance;

1643 J. For rules promulgated in accordance with section 18.V. of this ordinance,
1644 section 34.A.16. of this ordinance, and section 39.A.25. of this ordinance, the director
1645 shall specify any applicable civil penalty or license action in the rule itself.

1646 K. Any violation not enumerated in this section that does not pose a threat or
1647 hazard to life, safety, or property shall have a civil penalty of up to five-hundred-dollars.
1648 Any violation not enumerated in this section that poses a threat or hazard to life, safety,
1649 or property shall have a civil penalty of up to one-thousand-dollars.

1650 NEW SECTION. SECTION 47.

1651 A. The director may issue citations and suspend, summarily suspend, deny, or
1652 revoke any license, endorsement, or medallion of any person for violating or failing to
1653 comply with any applicable provision of this chapter.

1654 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the director may
1655 summarily suspend a license, endorsement, or medallion issued under this chapter, with
1656 the suspension to take effect immediately by order of the director prior to any hearing
1657 upon finding that:

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1658 1. There is reasonable cause to believe that the licensee has engaged in activity
1659 that causes or will cause a clear, substantial, and imminent hazard to life, safety, property,
1660 or privacy of the driver, passenger, or public, or any combination thereof; or

1661 2. There is a lapse in coverage or the coverage of any surety bond or public
1662 liability insurance policy required to be filed with the director is less than the minimum
1663 requirements in section 30 of this ordinance.

1664 C. The following applies to license actions:

1665 1.a. Whenever any license, endorsement, or medallion is revoked or summarily
1666 suspended the revocation or summary suspension is effective upon issuance of the notice.
1667 Such notice may be appealed in accordance with the procedures of section 48 of this
1668 ordinance. If a timely appeal is not filed by the licensee, the notice of revocation or
1669 summary suspension shall be final.

1670 b. A final order of revocation shall extend for twelve months, except for a final
1671 medallion revocation. Upon the final order of revocation of a medallion, where all
1672 appellate proceedings, if any, have been concluded, a medallion owner shall immediately
1673 surrender the taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion plate or decal to the director and has
1674 sixty days to transfer the medallion as prescribed by section 26 of this ordinance.

1675 c. A final order of summary suspension shall extend until the license,
1676 endorsement, or medallion expires or until evidence satisfactory to the director is
1677 produced showing that the violation is cured, whichever occurs first;

1678 2. If the licensee does not file a timely appeal in accordance with section 48 of
1679 this ordinance, the notice of suspension shall be final. Suspensions are effective upon the
1680 date included in the notice of suspension or if timely appealed under section 48 of this

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1681 ordinance, when an order on appeal affirming such notice becomes final. Suspensions
1682 shall extend until the license or endorsement expires or until evidence satisfactory to the
1683 director is produced showing that the violation is cured, whichever occurs first; and

1684 3. Except in the case of revocation or summary suspension, whenever a timely
1685 appeal is filed in accordance with section 48 of this ordinance, a licensee may continue to
1686 operate pending a final decision on appeal. Any applicant not licensed in the preceding
1687 license year may not engage in the activity for which the license is required pending a
1688 final decision on appeal.

1689 NEW SECTION. SECTION 48.

1690 A. A citation or license action shall include the following:

1691 1. The name and address of the person to whom the citation or license action is
1692 issued;

1693 2. The address of the location, if relevant, where the violation occurred;

1694 3. A separate statement of each provision violated;

1695 4. The date of the violation;

1696 5. The applicable monetary penalty or license action;

1697 6. A statement that the person cited must respond to the citation or license
1698 action within twenty-four calendar days after service;

1699 7. A statement that a response must be sent to the hearing examiner and
1700 received not later than 4:30 p.m. on the day the response is due;

1701 8. Contact information for where the response to the citation or license action is
1702 to be filed;

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1703 9. A statement that the citation or license action represents a determination that
1704 a violation has been committed by the person named in the citation or license action and
1705 that the determination shall be final unless appealed in accordance with this chapter; and

1706 10. A statement certified under penalty of perjury by the director's
1707 representative issuing the citation or license action setting forth facts supporting issuance
1708 of the citation or license action.

1709 B. The citation or license action shall be addressed to the person allegedly
1710 responsible for the violation, and be served by first-class mail, electronically, or in
1711 person. Service by first-class mail shall be deemed complete three days after the mailing.
1712 If a citation or license action sent either electronically or by first class mail, and is
1713 returned as undeliverable, the citation or license action may be served in person. The
1714 director shall respond to inquiries concerning the facts and process of the decision and
1715 request for any files that detail the facts on which the director based the ruling.

1716 C. A person cited must respond to a citation in one of the following ways:

1717 1. Pay the amount of the monetary penalty specified in the citation within thirty
1718 calendar days of issuance, in which case the record shall show a finding that the person
1719 cited committed the violation;

1720 2. Timely request in writing a hearing to mitigate, by explaining the
1721 circumstances surrounding the commission of the violation, and providing an address to
1722 which notice of the hearing may be sent; or

1723 3. Timely request in writing a hearing to appeal, by disputing the commission of
1724 the violation, and providing an address to which notice of the hearing may be sent.

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1725 D. The director's license action is final unless the person cited timely requests in
1726 writing a hearing to appeal the license action and provides an address to which notice of
1727 such hearing may be sent.

1728 E. If requesting a hearing, a response to a citation or license action must be
1729 received by the hearing examiner no later than twenty-four calendar days after the date
1730 the citation is served. When the last day of the appeal period so computed is a Saturday,
1731 Sunday, or holiday, the period shall run until 4:30 p.m. on the next business day. If a
1732 person fails to respond to a citation or license action within twenty-four calendar days of
1733 service, the citation and monetary penalty or license action shall become the final order
1734 of the director and is unreviewable by the hearing examiner.

1735 F.1. Appeals of license actions shall be heard by the hearing examiner of the
1736 jurisdiction issuing the license action. The presiding hearing examiner shall decide the
1737 appeal under the applicable portions of both the King County Code and the Seattle
1738 Municipal Code. The King County hearing examiner is bound by any interpretation of
1739 the applicable Seattle Municipal Code by the city hearing examiner in a license action
1740 appeal. The King County hearing examiner shall forward all decisions made under this
1741 subsection F. to the Seattle hearing examiner within ten business days of issuing the
1742 decision.

1743 2. Appeals of citations shall be heard by the hearing examiner of the jurisdiction
1744 issuing the citation, and the hearing examiner shall decide the appeal under the King
1745 County Code.

1746 3. The hearing for a license action or a citation shall be held within forty-five
1747 calendar days after written response is received by the hearing examiner, except that

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1748 hearings for summary suspensions shall be held within ten business days of the request,
1749 unless a later date is agreed to by the person issued the license action. With the exception
1750 of summary suspension hearings, notice of the time, place, and date of the hearing shall
1751 be sent to the address specified in the request for hearing not less than ten calendar days
1752 before the hearing.

1753 G. Hearings to appeal the citation or license action shall be conducted in
1754 accordance with the procedures and rules of the hearing examiner. The issues heard at
1755 the hearing shall be limited to those that are raised in writing in the response to the
1756 citation or license action and that are within the jurisdiction of the hearing examiner. The
1757 hearing examiner may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production
1758 of documents. The director shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the
1759 evidence both that the violation occurred and the appropriateness of the remedy the
1760 director has imposed.

1761 H. A citation or license action shall not be deemed insufficient for failure to
1762 contain a detailed statement of the facts constituting the specific violation that the person
1763 is alleged to have committed or by reason of defects or imperfections, but only if the lack
1764 of detail, or the defects or imperfections, do not prejudice substantial rights of the person.
1765 A citation or license action may be amended before the conclusion of the hearing to
1766 conform to the evidence presented if substantial rights of the affected person are not
1767 thereby prejudiced.

1768 I. The certified statement or declaration authorized by chapter 5.50 RCW shall be
1769 prima facie evidence that a violation occurred and that the person listed on the citation or
1770 license action is responsible. The certified statement or declaration authorized under

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1771 penalty of perjury and any other evidence accompanying the report shall be admissible
1772 without further evidentiary foundation.

1773 J. In cases where the person seeks to mitigate the citation, the person may explain
1774 the circumstances surrounding the commission of the violation. In cases where the
1775 person disputes the citation or license action, the person may rebut the director's evidence
1776 and establish that the violation or violations preceding the citation or license action did
1777 not occur or that the person appealing the citation or license action is not responsible for
1778 the violation.

1779 K. In a mitigation hearing, the hearing examiner shall determine whether the
1780 person's explanation justifies reduction of the monetary penalty. However, the monetary
1781 penalty may not be reduced unless the director affirms or certifies that the violation has
1782 been corrected prior to the mitigation hearing. Factors that may be considered in whether
1783 to reduce the penalty include: whether the violation was caused by the act, neglect, or
1784 abuse of another; or whether correction of the violation was commenced before the
1785 issuance of the citation but full compliance was prevented by a condition or circumstance
1786 beyond the control of the person cited. The hearing examiner shall enter an order finding
1787 that the person cited committed the violation and assess a monetary penalty.

1788 L. If the citation or license action is sustained at the hearing, the hearing
1789 examiner shall enter an order finding that the person committed the violation and impose
1790 the applicable monetary penalty or enter an order affirming the license action. The
1791 hearing examiner may reduce the monetary penalty of a citation in accordance with
1792 subsection K. of this section. If the hearing examiner determines that the violation did

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1793 not occur, the hearing examiner shall enter an order dismissing the citation or denying the
1794 license action.

1795 M. Failure to appear for a requested hearing will result in the hearing examiner
1796 entering an order finding that the person committed the violation and assessing the
1797 penalty specified in the citation or finding that the person committed the violation and
1798 affirming the license action. For good cause shown and upon terms the hearing examiner
1799 deems just, the hearing examiner may set aside an order entered upon a failure to appear
1800 and schedule a new hearing date.

1801 N. If a license action involving a vehicle is upheld, and the vehicle is to be
1802 temporarily or permanently placed out of service, the director shall initiate the temporary
1803 deactivation process authorized under this chapter and the licensee shall immediately
1804 surrender all applicable vehicle medallion plates or decals to the director.

1805 O. The decision of the hearing examiner shall be final and conclusive unless
1806 review is timely filed with the appropriate court.

1807 P. The hearing examiner may affirm, modify, or reverse the decisions of the
1808 director.

1809 Q. The director may contract with a third party to serve as the hearing examiner
1810 for purposes of this chapter, if done in conjunction with the city of Seattle.

1811 NEW SECTION. SECTION 49. The director shall issue a joint annual report
1812 with the city of Seattle on the state of for-hire transportation in the region on or before
1813 April 30 of each year, and the director shall make the annual report, for the previous
1814 calendar year, publicly available on the director's website. The report may include but is
1815 not limited to the following:

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1816 A. The number of licensed vehicles providing for-hire transportation services in
1817 King County and the city of Seattle during the reporting period and during the preceding
1818 year;

1819 B. The number of licensed regional for-hire drivers in King County and the city
1820 of Seattle during the reporting period and during the preceding year;

1821 C. The numbers and nature of complaints;

1822 D. The results of any survey of taxicab response times and any changes in
1823 response times from the previous year;

1824 E. What, if any, organizations have been authorized to operate as an emerging
1825 for-hire transportation model; and

1826 F. Any other information or recommendations deemed appropriate by the
1827 director.

1828 NEW SECTION. SECTION 50.

1829 A. The director is authorized to implement, enforce, and administer this chapter,
1830 including adopting, revising, or rescinding rules deemed necessary, appropriate,
1831 convenient, or efficient to implement, enforce and administer this chapter under the
1832 procedures specified in K.C.C. chapter 2.98.

1833 B. 1. If the director determines that certain provisions of this chapter related to
1834 licensing and operating standards, fees, or both should be temporarily suspended or
1835 modified, the director shall electronically transmit a temporary suspension or
1836 modification notification letter to the council detailing the scope and rationale for the
1837 determination, which may include, but not be limited to, the following factors:

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1838 a. the action would serve the public interest, including the public's need for
1839 safe, reliable, and effective for-hire transportation;

1840 b. technology has changed such that the requirements are no longer necessary
1841 or new requirements are necessary;

1842 c. the action would improve the economic viability for drivers and vehicle
1843 owners; and

1844 d. the action would encourage and enable companies and agencies to innovate
1845 and improve customer service and increase access to for-hire transportation options.

1846 2. Unless the council passes a motion rejecting the proposed temporary
1847 suspension or modification within thirty days of the director's transmittal, the director
1848 may proceed with the temporary suspension or modification as set forth in the
1849 notification letter. The director shall electronically file the letter with the clerk of the
1850 council, who will retain an electronic copy and provide an electronic copy to all
1851 councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the government
1852 accountability and oversight committee or its successor.

1853 3. Temporary suspensions or modifications under this section shall last no more
1854 than six months from the end of the thirty-day period if the council by motion has not
1855 rejected the temporary suspension or modification.

1856 NEW SECTION. SECTION 51. Unless granted such authority by the director by
1857 rule, a vehicle equipped with an automated driving system providing for-hire
1858 transportation services is prohibited from autonomous operation. A director's rule
1859 granting such authority is subject to the following conditions:

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1860 A. The director must obtain written concurrence in advance from the directors of
1861 the King County department of local services and the King County sheriff's office to
1862 authorize autonomous operation of an autonomous vehicle providing for-hire
1863 transportation services; and

1864 B. The director must establish safety and regulatory requirements for autonomous
1865 operation of an autonomous vehicle providing for-hire transportation services, including,
1866 but not limited to, requiring the following items before deployment: advanced
1867 notification of deployment; notice of contact information and public outreach events; first
1868 responder interaction information with the King County sheriff's office and any city with
1869 which the county has contracted under section 5 of this ordinance; proof of insurance
1870 acceptable to the County; indemnification acceptable to the County; notification of
1871 collisions, moving violations, or other reportable events as required by state law; and
1872 demonstrated compliance with Washington state Department of Licensing requirements,
1873 including but not limited to self-certification; and any other requirements from state law.

1874 NEW SECTION. SECTION 52. Notwithstanding the existence or use of any
1875 other remedy, the prosecuting attorney may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin an act
1876 or practice that constitutes or will constitute a violation of this chapter or an applicable
1877 rule adopted under this chapter.

1878 NEW SECTION. SECTION 53.

1879 A penalty issued under K.C.C. chapter 6.64, regarding matters now in the scope
1880 of this chapter, that was either not appealed or was upheld after review, and that remains
1881 unpaid as of the effective date of this ordinance, shall remain due and payable after the
1882 effective date of this ordinance.

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1883 SECTION 54. Ordinance 2165, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.98.060 are
1884 hereby amended to read as follows:

1885 A.1. Prior to the adoption, amendment or repeal of any rule, each department
1886 shall give at least forty-five days' notice of its intended action, except rules being
1887 adopted, amended or repealed under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created
1888 under section 1 of this ordinance) shall give at least fourteen days' notice of intended
1889 action, by:

1890 a. filing a notice with the executive department responsible for archives and
1891 records management functions;

1892 b. providing, at least in writing or by electronic format, the notice to: all
1893 persons and other parties who have made timely request of the agency for advance notice
1894 of its rulemaking proceedings on a specific topic; the clerk of the council; and each
1895 member of the county council; and

1896 c. giving public notice by one publication in the official newspaper of King
1897 County.

1898 2. The notice shall include:

1899 a. reference to the authority under which the rule is proposed;

1900 b. a statement of either the terms or substance of the proposed rule or a
1901 description of the subjects and issues involved; and

1902 c. the time, place and manner, including at least in writing or by electronic
1903 format, in which interested persons may present their views on the rule. To the extent
1904 practicable, the department should permit persons to present their views at a public
1905 meeting, according to rules established by the department.

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1906 B. The department giving the notice required in this section shall consider all
1907 comments received by the prescribed time and shall make reasonable efforts to provide
1908 written responses to the comments before the rule is adopted.

1909 C. Adoption of a rule by a department other than a county board, commission,
1910 committee or other multimember body is accomplished by the department's director or
1911 the sheriff, assessor or director of elections, for the director or other elected official's
1912 respective department, signing the proposed rule. Adoption of a rule by a county board,
1913 commission, committee or other multimember body is accomplished by majority vote in
1914 favor of the rule by the members of the body, as evidenced in the approved minutes of the
1915 body, and in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30
1916 RCW, as applicable.

1917 D. A rule adopted under this section is not valid unless adopted in substantial
1918 compliance with this section. In any proceeding, a rule shall not be considered invalid on
1919 the ground of noncompliance with the procedural requirements of this section if two
1920 years or more have elapsed from the effective date of the rule.

1921 SECTION 55. Ordinance 2165, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.98.080 are
1922 hereby amended to read as follows:

1923 A. Emergency rules adopted under K.C.C. 2.98.070 take effect ~~((upon))~~ on the
1924 date of filing with the executive department responsible for archives and records
1925 management functions. Rules adopted under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter
1926 created under section 1 of this ordinance) shall take effect on the date of filing with the
1927 executive department responsible for archives and records management. All other rules
1928 adopted under this chapter take effect thirty days after the date of filing with the

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1929 executive department responsible for archives and records management functions, unless
1930 a later date is required by statute or specified in the rule.

1931 B. The executive department responsible for archives and records management
1932 functions shall compile and index all rules adopted by each department. Compilations
1933 shall be supplemented or revised as often as necessary and at least once every year.

1934 SECTION 56. Ordinance 18398, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.601.025
1935 are hereby amended to read as follows:

1936 Subject to appropriation by the county council, the following county departments
1937 and agencies are authorized to absorb the operational and business costs accepting
1938 electronic payments, including transaction processing costs, for the specified fees, fines,
1939 charges, fares or other payments listed:

1940 A. The department of executive services, records and licensing services division,
1941 for payments for animal shelter, care and control and pet licensing purposes, including all
1942 fees, donations and penalties in K.C.C. 11.04.035, and for payments of for-hire licensing,
1943 regulatory fees and penalties in K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under
1944 section 1 of this ordinance) and K.C.C. 4A.750.100;

1945 B. District court for court-related fees, fines and other charges;

1946 C. The department of natural resources and parks, parks and recreation division,
1947 for park services and facilities usage provided to the public;

1948 D. The department of natural resources and parks, wastewater treatment division,
1949 for sewage capacity charges;

1950 E. The department of natural resources and parks, solid waste division, for
1951 municipal solid waste fees;

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1952 F. The department of public health for public health environmental permits and
1953 community health clinic fees;

1954 G. The department of local services, permitting division, for permitting and
1955 environmental review permit fees;

1956 H. The department of information technology for geographic information system
1957 course fees; and

1958 I. The Metro transit department for public transportation fares.

1959 SECTION 57. Ordinance 10498, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.750.100
1960 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

1961 A. The ~~((following fees shall apply until the director adopts fees under subsection~~
1962 ~~B. of this section))~~ director may set the amount for the fees listed in this subsection in
1963 accordance with sections 7 and 50 of this ordinance. The records and licensing services
1964 division shall post the fees and their amounts on the division's website. The fees are:

- 1965 1. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle ~~((license))~~ medallion fees
- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| ((Taxicab license)) <u>Annual medallion fee</u> | (((\$450.00)) |
| <u>Annual medallion reciprocity endorsement fee</u> | |
| <u>Annual</u> ((W)) <u>wheelchair accessible taxicab</u> | ((No fee)) |
| ((license)) <u>medallion fee</u> | |
| <u>Annual wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion</u> | |
| <u>reciprocity endorsement fee</u> | |
| ((Taxicab license)) <u>Medallion or medallion</u> | (((\$45.00)) |
| <u>reciprocity endorsement late fee</u> | |
| ((For hire vehicle license | (\$450.00 |

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~~For-hire vehicle license late fee~~ \$45.00))

Change of vehicle associated with the medallion fee

Change or transfer of medallion owner corporation, limited liability company, or partnership members fee

Vehicle equipment change fee ((~~\$75.00~~

~~Change of owner~~

~~July/Dec~~ \$450.00

~~Jan/June~~ \$225.00

~~Replace taxicab))~~ Replacement medallion plate ((~~\$25.00~~))
or decal fee

((~~Vehicle inspection rescheduling fee~~ \$25.00;))

Wheelchair accessible vehicle and installed equipment inspection fee

Special inspection fee (for tests and inspections conducted on vehicles without a medallion)

Change of agency affiliation fee

1966 2. For-hire driver fees, except transportation network company drivers

Annual regional for-hire ((~~D~~))driver license fee ((~~\$85.00~~))

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

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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))~~

1967 3. ~~((Taxicab association license fee or for-hire vehicle company fee))~~ Regional

1968 dispatch agency fee or transitional regional dispatch agency fee

~~((One to fifteen vehicles))~~ Annual regional ~~(((\$250.00~~

dispatch agency license fee:

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~~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

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1969 4.a. A transportation network company shall pay a quarterly fee ~~((€))~~ per ride
1970 on a schedule determined by the director for all rides originating in:
1971 (1) unincorporated King County; or
1972 (2) any municipality that contracts with the county for the county to license
1973 transportation network companies that operate in the municipality.

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1974 b. The amount of the fee shall be determined in accordance with RCW
1975 46.72B.190(2) and the quarterly fee amount will be posted on the division's website.

1976 c. The fee is for the regulatory and enforcement costs related to the company
1977 and its drivers and endorsed vehicles.

1978 B. By February 15, 2015, the director shall review the fees in subsection A. of this
1979 section in coordination with the city of Seattle. The purpose of the review shall be to
1980 determine the fees that are needed to cover the director's regulatory and enforcement
1981 costs. Thereafter, the director may adjust (~~(any)~~) fee amounts in subsection A.1., 2., and
1982 3. of this section as authorized in (~~(K.C.C. 6.64.026)~~) section 7 of this ordinance. In
1983 adjusting fees, the director shall consider at least the following factors:

1984 1. The projected costs and annual budget for regulatory and enforcement costs
1985 related to transportation network companies, taxicabs, for-hire vehicles and for-hire
1986 drivers;

1987 2. The need for increased enforcement activities; and

1988 3. The total number of trips across transportation network companies, taxicabs
1989 and for-hire vehicles.

1990 C. In addition to the fees under subsection A. of this section, each taxicab
1991 licensee, for-hire vehicle licensee or transportation network company shall pay a fee
1992 surcharge of ten cents per ride as prescribed in K.C.C. 6.64.111 and section 8 of this
1993 ordinance.

1994 D. Annual medallion fees and annual medallion reciprocity fees for wheelchair
1995 accessible vehicles may be waived by the director. To be eligible for this waiver, the
1996 licensee must demonstrate compliance with additional standards established by ~~K.C.C.~~

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1997 ~~chapter 6.64 and this ordinance or~~ rule, including, but not limited to, providing a
1998 minimum number of trips annually to passengers in wheelchairs.

1999 E. After November 16, 2015, the director may adjust the fee surcharge in
2000 subsection C. of this section under K.C.C. 6.64.026 and section 8 of this ordinance. In
2001 adjusting the fee surcharge, the director shall consider at least the following factors:

2002 1. Reimbursement already made for purchasing and retrofitting wheelchair
2003 accessible taxicabs, for-hire vehicles or transportation network company endorsed
2004 vehicles;

2005 2. The estimated need for purchasing and retrofitting wheelchair accessible
2006 taxicabs, for-hire vehicles or transportation network company endorsed vehicles in the
2007 upcoming year; and

2008 3. Factors that may affect the supply, demand and financial viability of
2009 wheelchair accessible taxi rides.

2010 ~~((E))~~ E. Any late fee established in this Section applies when an application for
2011 license renewal is received later than one business day after the expiration date of the
2012 prior license or a scheduled payment for a fee is overdue.

2013 SECTION 58. Ordinance 18230, Section 79, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.01.150
2014 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

2015 A. The office of the hearing examiner is designated to hear appeals by parties
2016 aggrieved by actions of the director pursuant to any business license ordinance. For
2017 appeals under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this
2018 ordinance) the office of the hearing examiner is designated to hear such appeals unless a
2019 different party is designated by the director. The examiner may adopt reasonable rules or

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2020 regulations for conducting its business. Copies of all rules and regulations adopted by the
2021 examiner shall be delivered to the director, who shall make them freely accessible to the
2022 public. All decisions and findings of the examiner shall be rendered to the appellant in
2023 writing, with a copy to the director.

2024 B. For-hire transportation appeals under K.C.C. chapter 6.64 and adult beverage
2025 businesses appeals under K.C.C. chapter 6.74 shall be filed in accordance with K.C.C.
2026 20.22.080 and the hearing process conducted in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 20.22.
2027 Appeals under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this
2028 ordinance) shall be filed in accordance with section 48 of this ordinance and the hearing
2029 process conducted in accordance with that same section. Subsections C. through H. of this
2030 section do not apply to this subsection B.

2031 C. Any person entitled to service under K.C.C. 6.01.130 may appeal any notice and
2032 order or any action of the director by filing at the office of the director within seven days
2033 from the date of service of such order, a written appeal containing;

- 2034 1. A heading in the words: "Before the Office of the Hearing Examiner";
2035 2. A caption reading: "Appeal of" giving the names of all appellants
2036 participating in the appeal;
2037 3. A brief statement setting forth the legal interest of each of the appellants in the
2038 business or entertainment involved in the notice and order;
2039 4. A brief statement in concise language of the specific order or action protested,
2040 together with any material facts claimed to support the contentions of the appellant;

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2041 5. A brief statement in concise language of the relief sought, and the reasons why
2042 it is claimed the protested order or action should be reversed, modified or otherwise set
2043 aside;

2044 6. The signatures of all parties named as appellants, and their official mailing
2045 addresses; and

2046 7. The verification (by declaration under penalty of perjury) of at least one
2047 appellant as to the truth of the matters stated in the appeal.

2048 D. As soon as practicable after receiving the written appeal, the examiner shall fix
2049 a date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal. The date shall be neither less than ten
2050 days nor more than sixty days from the date the appeal was filed with the director. Written
2051 notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given at least ten days before the date of
2052 the hearing to each appellant by the examiner either by causing a copy of the notice to be
2053 delivered to the appellant personally or by mailing a copy thereof, postage prepaid,
2054 addressed to the appellant at the appellant's address shown on the appeal.

2055 E. At the hearing the appellant shall be entitled to appear in person and be
2056 represented by counsel and offer such evidence as is pertinent and material to the action of
2057 the director.

2058 F. Only those matters or issues specifically raised by the appellant in the written
2059 notice of appeal shall be considered in the hearing of the appeal.

2060 G. Failure of any person to file an appeal in accordance with this section shall
2061 constitute a waiver of the person's right to an administrative hearing and adjudication of the
2062 notice and order, or any portion thereof.

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2063 H. Enforcement of any notice and order of the director shall be stayed during the
2064 pendency of an appeal therefrom that is properly and timely filed.

2065 SECTION 59. Ordinance 18230, Section 16, as amended, and K.C.C. 20.22.070
2066 are hereby amended to read as follows:

2067 A. K.C.C. 20.22.080 applies to all appeals to the office of the hearing examiner.
2068 If there is a direct conflict between the appeal provisions in K.C.C. 20.22.080 and the
2069 appeal provisions found in subsection B. of this section, the appeal provisions found in
2070 subsection B. of this section shall control.

2071 B. The provisions for appealing the following decisions are found in the
2072 following chapters of the King County Code:

- 2073 1. Career service review, K.C.C. chapter 3.12A;
- 2074 2. Appeals under K.C.C. Title 6, except for for-hire transportation, K.C.C.
2075 chapter 6.64 and K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this
2076 ordinance), shall follow K.C.C. 20.22.080;
- 2077 3. Discrimination and equal employment opportunity in employment by
2078 contractors, subcontractors, and vendors, K.C.C. chapter 12.16;
- 2079 4. Unfair housing practices, K.C.C. chapter 12.20;
- 2080 5. Denial of C-PACER applications, K.C.C. chapter 18.19;
- 2081 6. Regional motor sports facility, K.C.C. 21A.55.105;
- 2082 7. Abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles, K.C.C. chapter
2083 23.10;
- 2084 8. Citations, K.C.C. chapter 23.20;
- 2085 9. Penalty appeals, K.C.C. chapter 23.32;

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2086 10. Transit rider suspension appeals, K.C.C. 28.96.430;

2087 11. Other appeals prescribed by ordinance.

2088 SECTION 60. The fee amounts for fees established by section 57 of this
2089 ordinance are set out in the Schedule of Fees, which is Attachment A to this ordinance.

2090 Once this ordinance is effective, the division shall post these approved fees on the
2091 division's website.

2092 SECTION 61. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application

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2093 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the
2094 application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected."

2095

2096 [Strike Attachment A, Schedule of Fees, and insert Attachment A, Schedule of Fees, dated](#)

2097 [November 28, 2023](#)

2098

2099 **EFFECT prepared by *A. Sanders*: Makes additional technical and clarifying**
2100 **changes, including to more closely align with language in the city of Seattle’s**
2101 **companion legislation, removing a definition of an unused term, and updating**
2102 **Attachment A, Schedule of Fees to reflect the fees listed in the proposed ordinance.**