

Chapter 27

TAXICABS*

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***Charter reference(s)**--Vehicles for hire, § 3.12.

Cross reference(s)--Licenses generally, Ch. 15; traffic and motor vehicles, Ch. 28; zoning, Ch. 30.

State law reference(s)--Local taxicab license, Code of Virginia, § 46.2-310; taxicab license plates, Code of Virginia, § 46.2-711; taxicabs generally, Code of Virginia, § 56-291.1 et seq.; number of taxicabs, Code of Virginia, § 56-291.3:7.

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Sec. 27-1. "Taxicab" defined.

For the purposes of this chapter, the word "taxicab" shall be taken to mean any motor-driven vehicle used for the transportation, for hire or reward, of passengers upon the streets of the Town, except buses being operated under a franchise and over fixed routes between fixed termini, specially chartered buses and sightseeing buses.

(Code 1972, § 27-1)

Cross reference(s)--Definitions and rules of construction generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 27-2. Off-street places of business; conduct of drivers.

(a) Every owner of a taxicab licensed under this chapter shall have a place of business from which to operate the same other than on the streets and alleys of the Town, which place of business shall be kept in a legal and orderly manner. No taxicab driver shall solicit business, but shall serve those persons who indicate a desire for the services of the vehicle and may stop at suitable places on the streets for the purpose of taking up passengers who indicate that they want the services of such taxicab. Taxicab drivers, when not serving passengers, shall abstain from parking or loitering on the streets.

(b) All taxicab drivers shall show due courtesy to passengers and give reasonable service to the public, and at all times shall keep their vehicles under proper control and observe and obey all driving and traffic regulations and speed laws in force in the Town. Taxicab drivers shall not run risks and take chances in congested traffic and shall give due consideration to pedestrians and other vehicles using the streets and alleys of the Town. Taxicab drivers shall avoid stopping and remaining still or parked alongside other parked vehicles for a longer period than is reasonable to discharge or take on passengers. Taxicab drivers shall avoid unnecessary use of automobile horns and use horns only as a warning signal when necessary, and shall make no other noise tending to disturb the public. No taxicab driver, while on duty, shall use profane or vulgar language.

(Code 1972, § 27-2)

Secs. 27-3--27-25. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. LICENSES*

***Charter reference(s)**--Licensing of vehicles for hire, § 3.12.

State law reference(s)--Authority of Council to require taxicab licenses, Code of Virginia, § 56-291.3:2.

Sec. 27-26. Required.

It shall be unlawful for any owner of a motor vehicle used to transport passengers for

hire, commonly called a taxicab, to operate or cause the same to be operated on and over the streets and alleys of the Town without having first obtained a taxicab license from the Town Council, authorizing the operation of the particular vehicle on and over the streets and alleys of the Town.

(Code 1972, § 27-3)

Sec. 27-27. Application.

(a) *Information required.* For the purpose of obtaining a taxicab license under this article, the owner of the vehicle shall file an application therefor accompanied by the fee required, which application shall show the make of the vehicle proposed to be operated, the type, year model, motor number, passenger capacity, whether a new or used vehicle, and if a used vehicle, the condition of the same, mileage it has been used, the condition of the tires, and whether or not a certificate of operation and a "for hire" license has been issued the applicant by the State Department of Motor Vehicles, indicating the applicant's registration card and state license number and the motor number of the machine so licensed, and such other information as may be required, including the past record of the applicant. In case the applicant is the owner of and desires to operate more than one vehicle, the application shall state the particulars herein required as to each vehicle for which a license is sought.

(b) *Consideration of applicant's past record.* The past record of an applicant for a taxicab license shall be considered by the Town Council in granting or rejecting the application.

(c) *Rejection; limitation of number of taxicabs operated.* The Town Council reserves the right to reject any or all applications for taxicab licenses and to limit the number of taxicabs to be operated on the streets and alleys of the Town.

(d) *Return of fee upon rejection.* In case an application for a taxicab license is rejected, the fee filed therewith shall be returned to the applicant.

(Code 1972, §§ 27-4--27-7)

Sec. 27-28. Issuance; mounting and display of license plate.

As to each vehicle licensed as a taxicab under this article, a special taxicab license shall be issued. There shall also be issued a special license plate which shall read as follows:

LICENSED TAXICAB
SER.
NO. YEAR
CHRISTIANSBURG

Such license plate shall be mounted on the top of the rear state license plate on the vehicle for which it is issued and shall be plainly visible at all times.

(Code 1972, § 27-8)

State law reference(s)--State license plates for taxicabs, Code of Virginia, § 46.2-711.

Sec. 27-29. Signing.

A taxicab license when granted shall be signed by the Town Manager or Treasurer.
(Code 1972, § 27-9)

Sec. 27-30. Transfer.

Any Town taxicab license issued to any vehicle in pursuance of this article shall not be transferable to another vehicle, except by permission of the Town Council, and then only to a vehicle owned by the same person as the vehicle to which the license has been granted.
(Code 1972, § 27-10)

Sec. 27-31. Revocation.

The taxicab license granted pursuant to this article may be revoked at the discretion of the Mayor or the Town Manager upon the violation by the holder thereof of any provision of this chapter.
(Code 1972, § 27-11)

Secs. 27-32--27-50. Reserved.

ARTICLE III. DRIVERS' PERMITS*

*State law reference(s)--Local licensing of taxicab drivers, Code of Virginia, § 46.2-310.

Sec. 27-51. Required.

It shall be unlawful for any person, whether the owner or an employee of the owner, to drive a taxicab on and over the streets and alleys of the Town without first obtaining from the Town a Town taxicab driver's permit.
(Code 1972, § 27-12)

Sec. 27-52. Requirements of applicants.

Each applicant for a Town taxicab driver's permit shall have a valid driver's license issued by the State. Each such applicant shall be able to answer all questions pertaining to the State and Town traffic laws, rules and regulations, including the requirements of this article and other ordinances of the Town, and shall present letters of recommendation from at least three reputable citizens as to his character, habits, dependability and ability to handle and drive a motor vehicle.
(Code 1972, § 27-13)

Sec. 27-53. Application--Contents.

An application for a Town taxicab driver's permit shall show that the applicant has a valid driver's license issued by the State and shall give the name of the applicant and his age,

address, experience in driving motor vehicles and his occupation prior to making application.
(Code 1972, § 27-14)

Sec. 27-54. Same--To be passed on by Council.

An application for a Town taxicab driver's permit shall be passed upon by the Town Council and shall be either approved or rejected.
(Code 1972, § 27-15)

Sec. 27-55. Fee.

When the application for a Town taxicab driver's permit is filed with the Town Manager, it shall be accompanied by a fee of \$10.00 per annum; provided, that when application for a permit to drive a taxicab or car for hire is made within 30 days from the expiration date of a similar permit previously held by the applicant, the permit fee shall be \$2.00 per annum, which permit fee shall be returned to the applicant if his application is rejected.
(Code 1972, § 27-16; Ord. of 5-3-83)

Sec. 27-56. Temporary permit.

The Town Manager may, upon receiving an application for a Town taxicab driver's permit, issue a temporary Town taxicab driver's permit until the Town Council shall pass upon such application. Such temporary Town taxicab permit shall expire in 30 days from the date it is issued and may, during the 30 days, be recalled by the Town Manager, either upon his own initiative or upon the recommendation of any police officer of the Town.
(Code 1972, § 27-17)

Sec. 27-57. Issuance.

When the issuance of a Town taxicab driver's permit has been approved by the Town Council, such permit shall be signed by the Mayor or Town Manager and issued in accordance with the provisions of this article.
(Code 1972, § 27-18)

Sec. 27-58. Cards.

Upon approval of an application under this article for a permit, a Town taxicab driver's permit card shall be issued and numbered and registered with the Town, which card shall be carried by the driver to whom issued. Such card shall be presented by the holder of the Town taxicab driver's permit when requested by any police officer, either for examination or to be taken up as provided in this article.
(Code 1972, § 27-19; Ord. 2000-7 of 11-7-00)

Sec. 27-59. Expiration date.

Each Town taxicab driver's permit shall expire on April 30.
(Code 1972, § 27-20)

Sec. 27-60. Revocation and suspension.

Town taxicab drivers' permits may be revoked or temporarily suspended and taken up by the Mayor or Town Manager upon proof that the holder of such license has violated any of the motor vehicle laws of the State or the provisions of this chapter or other ordinances of the Town.
(Code 1972, § 27-21)