

DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULEMAKING

The Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, pursuant to the authority set forth in Sections 8(c)(1), (c)(6), and (d) of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles Establishment Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-97; D.C. Official Code §§ 50-301.07(c)(1), (c)(6), and (d) ((2014 Repl. & 2019 Supp.)), hereby gives notice of the adoption, on an emergency basis, of an amendment to Chapter 8 (Operating Rules for Public Vehicles-for-Hire) of Title 31 (Taxicabs and Public Vehicles for Hire) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR). The amendment imposes a fuel surcharge of one dollar (\$1.00) for each taxicab trip.

This emergency rulemaking action is necessary to offset the impact of a significant rise in gasoline prices, which have increased in the District by approximately \$0.80 per gallon in the past month. The taxicab industry is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly reduced the number of taxicab trips taken. Gas prices in the metropolitan area have been at the highest levels in a decade. Without the fuel surcharge taxicab operators may not be able to continue to provide vital transportation service to the public.

The increased costs of fuel may cause many taxicab operators to curtail or discontinue taxicab service in the District because of an inability to earn a fair return due to fuel costs. Also, taxicab operators may not be able to meet basic health and welfare needs for themselves or their families. The potential curtailing or discontinuance of taxicab services may affect senior citizens and persons with disabilities who rely on taxicab service for medical care, extended health service, physical therapy, social and other supportive services.

The Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles adopted this emergency rulemaking on March 15, 2022, and the emergency rule shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on March 16, 2022. The emergency rule shall remain in effect for one hundred twenty (120) days from the date it was adopted, expiring on July 13, 2022, unless earlier superseded or terminated by a subsequent rulemaking.

Chapter 8, OPERATING RULES FOR PUBLIC VEHICLES-FOR-HIRE, of Title 31, TAXICABS AND PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE, of the DCMR is amended as follows:

Section 801, PASSENGER RATES AND CHARGES, subparagraph 801.7(c)(2), is amended as follows:

Sub-subparagraph (E) is amended by striking the word “and” at the end.

Sub-subparagraph (F) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase “; and” in its place.

A new sub-subparagraph (G) is added to read as follows:

- (G) An emergency fuel surcharge, which shall be one dollar (\$1.00), shall apply to each taxicab trip beginning on March 16, 2022, and

shall end on July 13, 2022, unless terminated earlier by a rule issued by the Director.

Copies of this emergency rulemaking can be obtained at www.dcregs.dc.gov or by contacting the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, 2235 Shannon Place, S.E., Suite 3001, Washington, D.C. 20020.