

## **DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES**

### **NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

The Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, pursuant to the authority set forth in Sections 8(c)(3), (4), and (19) 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)(3), (4), and (19) (2014 Repl. & 2019 Supp.)), hereby gives notice of the proposed amendments to Chapter 6 (Taxicab Parts and Equipment) of Title 31 (Taxicabs and Public Vehicles For Hire) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR).

The proposed rulemaking will amend Chapter 6 to allow the Department of For-Hire Vehicles (“Department”) to modify the mileage requirements and extend the maximum age of taxicabs to alleviate the economic impact on the taxicab industry due to COVID-19.

This rulemaking is necessary to protect the health, safety and well-being of the taxicab drivers and passengers in the District of Columbia. Additionally, these changes promote a more viable taxicab industry and make requirements more consistent across the vehicle for-hire industry. As an essential service, it is critical that there are taxis available that are safe and accessible to passengers who rely on taxi services for transportation. Equally as important, this regulation allows taxi drivers who depend on the use of their existing vehicles for their livelihood, which has been decimated by the recent public health emergency stemming from COVID-19. Without this regulation, several drivers would need to procure a new vehicle with limited means to do so or find a new source of income.

The Director also hereby gives notice of the intent to take final rulemaking action to adopt the proposed rulemaking as final in not less than thirty (30) days after the publication of this notice in the *D.C. Register*. Directions for submitting comments may be found at the end of this notice.

**Chapter 6, TAXICAB PARTS AND EQUIPMENT, of Title 31 DCMR, TAXICABS AND PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE, is amended as follows:**

**Section 609, TAXICAB VEHICLE RETIREMENT, is amended as follows:**

**Subsection 609.3 is amended to read as follows:**

609.3           Maximum age: Ten (10) model years.

**Subsection 609.4 is amended to read as follows:**

609.4           Maximum mileage: three hundred thousand (300,000) miles.

**Subsection 609.6 (a) and (b) are amended to read as follows:**

609.6           No vehicle shall be placed into service if:

- (a) It would have three (3) years or less prior to retirement under § 609.5;
- (b) It has been driven more than sixty-five thousand (65,000) miles, regardless of whether it has previously been used as a public vehicle-for-hire; or

...

Copies of this proposed rulemaking can be obtained at [www.dcregs.dc.gov](http://www.dcregs.dc.gov) or by contacting the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, 2235 Shannon Place, S.E., Suite 3001, Washington, D.C. 20020. All persons desiring to file comments on the proposed rulemaking action should submit written comments via e-mail to [dfhv@dc.gov](mailto:dfhv@dc.gov) or by mail to the address above, no later than thirty (30) days after the publication of this notice in the *D.C. Register*.