

DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES

NOTICE OF FINAL 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) (2018 Supp.)), hereby gives notice of the adoption of 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).

This final rulemaking amends 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 to continue using 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.

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published in the *D.C. Register* at 67 DCR 11137 (September 18, 2020). The Department did not receive any comments during the comment period, which expired on October 19, 2020. No changes have been made from the proposed rulemaking.

This Notice of Final Rulemaking shall take effect upon publication in the *D.C. Register*.

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