

(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Public Utility Companies

Section 10-112; ~~10-301 and 10-302 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 3- Passenger for Hire Services"~~

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article - Public Utility Companies~~

~~Section 10-501 and 10-502~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)~~

~~(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)~~

BY repealing

~~Article - Public Utility Companies~~

~~Section 10-206~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)~~

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, For hire driving services represent a major component of the State's economy, with nearly 4,000 licensed taxicabs, over 1,100 sedans, 400 limousines, 1,200 vans, and 1,800 buses generating more than 2,500 jobs and \$46.5 million in annual job related earnings; and~~

~~WHEREAS, For hire driving services are critical to many citizens of the State, including the elderly, members of families with low income, and the physically challenged, as well as to many sectors of the State's economy, including tourism, BWI Airport, and hospital organ transports; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Motor vehicles for hire include taxicabs, sedans, limousines, vans, and any other motor vehicles for hire designed to carry 15 or fewer individuals including the driver; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Maryland's taxicabs alone transport an estimated 15 million passengers per year, or 60,000 passengers per week, in 24 hour service; and~~

~~WHEREAS, A significant portion of the sedan services operating in Maryland appear to be doing so without proper documentation or otherwise contrary to law; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Illegal operation of sedan and taxicab services puts the public, including both Maryland citizens and tourists, at risk; and~~