

FOR the purpose of altering certain requirements pertaining to the duration of taxicab permits; ~~repealing the termination date of~~ altering the period during which taxicab drivers' licenses remain valid; repealing the title of the renewal form; and generally relating to taxicab regulation by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article 78 – Public Service Commission Law  
 Section 45 and 50E  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (1988 Replacement Volume and 1990 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 78 – Public Service Commission Law**

45.

(a) No taxicab business shall be operated in any incorporated city or town having a population of more than 50,000 persons or in Baltimore County or the cities of Cumberland and Hagerstown, or between points within such cities, county or town and points outside thereof, without a written permit from the Commission.

(b) The Commission shall issue such a permit, upon written application, if in its judgment, after investigation, the granting of the permit would be best for the public welfare and convenience. In determining this question, the Commission shall take into account the number of taxicabs to be used, the taxicab and other transportation services already available in the locality, the rate to be charged, and such other factors as may be relevant. The Commission shall reject any application for a permit and revoke or suspend the existing permits of any taxicab company when it appears that said company is making an effort to mislead the public by imitating any name, design or distinctive combination of colors of any taxicabs already approved by the Commission.

(c) Each permit shall apply only to the particular taxicab therein designated. It shall be subject to such terms and conditions, and shall run for such period of time, (subject to renewal in the Commission's discretion in accordance with the standards set forth in subsection (b) of this section) not [exceeding] LESS THAN one year, as the Commission may deem advisable. [Except where the Commission stipulates otherwise, it shall continue in force for the calendar year for which it is issued.] The Commission may, for sufficient cause shown, amend, suspend or revoke any permit.

(d) No permit shall be assigned or transferred unless the assignment or transfer is approved, after investigation by the Commission, as best for the public welfare and convenience. Application for such approval must be in writing and must set forth the purpose, terms and conditions of the proposed assignment or transfer.

50E.

Taxicab drivers' licenses shall be valid [to and including the thirtieth day of November next succeeding the date of issuance] FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN