

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TAXICAB COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

The District of Columbia Taxicab Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to the authority set forth in Sections 8(c) (2), (3), (7) and (19), and 14 of the District of Columbia Taxicab Commission Establishment Act of 1985 (“Establishment Act”), effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-97; D.C. Official Code §§ 50-307(c) (2) (3), (7) and (19), and 50-313 (2012 Repl. & 2015 Supp.)), and D.C. Official Code § 47-2829 (b), (d), (e), (e-1), and (i) (2012 Repl. & 2015 Supp.), hereby gives notice of its intent to adopt amendments to Chapter 4 (Taxicab Payment Service Providers) and 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).

This proposed rulemaking would amend Chapters 4 and 8, to allow taxicab operators to file a notice of prepayment with the Office of Taxicabs, which would require them to charge the minimum fare for all trips paid by in-vehicle payment, currently \$3.25. Each operator who files a notice of prepayment would be required to charge the minimum fare to all passengers at all times in all areas of the District. The rule would establish new fines for soliciting, charging, or accepting prepayment without a current notice of prepayment on file with the Office, and for failing to require prepayment, or soliciting, charging, or accepting an amount more or less than the minimum fare.

The Commission also hereby gives notice of its intent to take final rulemaking action to adopt these proposed rules 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 4, TAXICAB PAYMENT SERVICE PROVIDERS, of the DCMR, is amended as follows:

Section 408, OPERATING REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO PSPs AND DDSs, is amended as follows:

Subsection 408.11 is amended to read as follows:

408.11 Each PSP shall allow each passenger to make his or her choice of in-vehicle payment or digital payment, to the extent required by this chapter, and no minimum payment shall be required except as provided in § 801.13.

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

Section 801, PASSENGER RATES AND CHARGES, is amended as follows:

Subsection 801.2 is amended to read as follows:

801.2 No operator shall solicit, charge, or accept any amount for a taxicab trip before service is rendered, except if the operator has a notice of prepayment on file with the Office as provided in § 801.13.

New subsections 801.13 and 801.14 are added to read as follows:

801.13 Each operator who has on file with the Office a current notice of prepayment, shall charge all passengers the minimum fare established by § 801.7 (c) (1) (A), consisting of the drop rate and first one eighth (1/8) of a mile. The charge shall be paid by the passenger prior to service, according to the in-vehicle payment method selected by the passenger.

801.14 An operator shall be subject to a fine as provided in Chapter 20 for each violation of § 801.2 or 801.13.

Chapter 20, FINES AND CIVIL PENALTIES, of Title 31, TAXICABS AND PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE, of the DCMR, as follows:

Section 2000, FINES AND CIVIL PENALITES, is amended as follows:

Subsection 2000.8 is amended as follows:

Schedule 4, Fines for Owners, and Operators Maximum Fines Based on Circumstances, is amended to add as follows:

Soliciting, charging, or accepting prepayment without a current notice of prepayment on file with the Office (§ 801.2)	\$100
Failing to require prepayment, or soliciting, charging, or accepting an amount not authorized by § 801.13	\$100

Copies of this proposed rulemaking can be obtained at www.dcregs.dc.gov or by contacting Secretary to the Commission, District of Columbia Taxicab Commission, 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 dctc@dc.gov or by mail to the DC Taxicab Commission, 2235 Shannon Place, S.E., Suite 3001, Washington, DC 20020, Attn: Secretary to the Commission, no later than thirty (30) days after the publication of this notice in the *D.C. Register*.