



States' Biofuels Statutes

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

This project was undertaken in partnership with the USDA Office of the Chief Economist, The Office of Energy Policy and New Uses. For information on the full project, visit [States' Biofuels Statutory Citations](#). These statutes are placed in reverse chronological order using the date of the most recent amendment to the statute. Many biofuels laws were enacted as amendments to previously passed laws.

Current through the 2013 Legislative Session of the District of Columbia General Assembly.

§ 50-302. Purposes.

(a) In enacting this subchapter, the Council of the District of Columbia supports the following statutory purposes:

- (1) To promote the public interest in taxicab transportation by insuring that all rules, regulations, and laws specifically relating to taxicabs be vigorously and fairly enforced; that discrimination in taxicab passenger service be strictly proscribed and penalized; and that adequate and high quality taxi passenger service be provided to all quadrants and neighborhoods of the District;
- (2) To promote and maintain a healthy and viable taxicab industry;
- (3) To maintain a taxicab transportation system which provides owners and operators of taxicabs with reasonable and just compensation for their services, and which is reasonably priced and readily accessible in cost to a broad cross section of the public; and
- (4) To promote and maintain policies which:
 - (A) Encourage professionalism in the industry;
 - (B) Assure the licensure of competent and knowledgeable operators;
 - (C) Assure the licensure of companies and associations which render adequate and professional public service;
 - (D) Permit, as a result of economic feasibility and incentive, the utilization of efficient, comfortable, and current transportation equipment and technology;
 - (E) Utilize and promote efficient methods of taxicab passenger transportation;

(F) Foster good will and a cooperative spirit among the taxicab industry, the government, the hospitality industry, and the public;

(G) Promote policies of energy conservation, the reduction of pollution, including through the use of alternative fuel vehicle models, the reduction of traffic congestion, and policies that promote a more livable city; and

(H) Provide specific policies and programs to increase wheelchair-accessible taxicab service to the disabled throughout the District;

(5) To fund the Commission activities from a dependable, secured, and restricted fund;

(6) To improve the delivery of taxicab service to the community; and

(7) To improve the functioning of the Commission.

(b)(1) The District also determines it a matter of public policy to:

(A) Promote and encourage the meaningful participation of minorities and District residents in the District's taxi industry;

(B) Promote and encourage a healthy degree of competition within the taxi industry between taxicab companies and associations; and

(C) Assure access to the ownership of taxicabs by taxicab operators.

(2) In keeping with the policies set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Commission shall:

(A) In exercising the authority vested in it by this subchapter, and in its formulation of policy and programs, encourage and promote meaningful participation of District residents and minorities, as the term minority is defined in § 2-215.02(1), in the ownership and operation of taxicabs, taxicab companies, and taxicab associations;

(B) Encourage a healthy degree of competition within the taxi industry between taxicab companies and associations, and shall discourage the monopolization of the taxicab industry;

(C) Issue rules and establish policies which shall assure taxicab operators continued access to the ownership of taxicabs; and

(D) Issue rules and establish policies that shall encourage taxicab operators to purchase taxicabs.

Credits: (Mar. 25, 1986, D.C. Law 6-97, § 3, 33 DCR 703; Oct. 22, 2012, D.C. Law 19-184, § 2(b), 59 DCR 9431.)

§ 50-307. Duties of Commission; jurisdiction; powers.

(a) The Commission is charged with the continuance, further development, and improvement of the public vehicle-for-hire industry within the District, and for the overall regulation of limousines, sedans, taxicabs, taxicab companies, taxicab fleets, and taxicab associations.

(b) A majority of the appointed Commissioners shall constitute a quorum for transacting business and for taking official action or votes; provided, that public hearings may be conducted without the presence of a quorum.

(c) The Commission shall have the authority, power, and duty to:

(1) Establish reasonable rates for taxicab service for the transportation of passengers and their property within the District, including all charges incidental and directly related to the provision of taxicab services;

(2) Establish criteria, standards, and requirements for the licensing of public vehicle-for-hire owners, operators, companies, associations, and fleets, including the setting of reasonable license fees;

(3) Establish standards, conditions, and requirements of public vehicle-for-hire service;

(4) Establish standards for driver and passenger safety, including:

(A) Within one year of October 22, 2012, providing for the installation of security devices in all taxicabs; and

(B) Increased enforcement by public vehicle inspection officers, including during late evening and early morning hours, of unlicensed or out-of-jurisdiction operators of public vehicles-for-hire attempting to provide passenger service in the District;

(5) Establish standards and requirements relating to the modernization of equipment and equipment design;

(6) In situations of public emergency or because of extraordinary circumstances affecting the taxicab industry, regulate the rates charged for the lease of taxicabs by taxicab companies, associations, and fleets considered necessary to protect the public interest;

(7) Establish reasonable civil fines and penalties for violations of rules and orders issued by the Commission, including penalties consisting of license suspension and revocation;

(8) Advise government agencies and authorities with jurisdiction over public transportation or public highways and public space within the District regarding the routing of taxicabs and the location of taxicab stands;

(9) Advise the Mayor regarding the execution, modification, and termination of reciprocal agreements with governmental bodies in the Washington Metropolitan Area regarding taxicabs;

- (10) Establish primary public vehicle-for-hire operator training courses, driver refresher training courses, and training for operators of wheelchair-accessible taxicabs, and determine how often these courses will be offered; provided, that the primary training course shall be offered as needed and shall be taken by operators as necessary, as established by rulemaking, pursuant to § 47-2829(e)(2)(A);
- (11) Provide for the training and oversight of public vehicle inspection officers, who shall be responsible for enforcing all rules and regulations promulgated by the Mayor governing public vehicles-for-hire, particularly with respect to taxicabs and limousines, pursuant to § 50-329.01;
- (12) Establish policies encouraging energy conservation, the reduction of pollution, including through the use of alternative-fuel vehicles, the reduction of traffic congestion, an increase in services to persons with disabilities, and policies that promote a more livable city;
- (13) Create incentives for and study taxicab service in underserved areas, which may include the placement of public vehicle-for-hire stand locations in underserved areas, the study of GPS data to inform transportation policy, and examining the supply of taxicabs in the District, as established through rulemaking;
- (14) Receive, hear, respond to, and adjudicate complaints lodged in the Office of Taxicabs against taxicab operators, companies, associations, fleets, and taxi dispatch services by consumers and officials or employees of government involved in public vehicle-for-hire enforcement or administration, or refer such contested matters to the Office of Administrative Hearings, pursuant to § 50-329.01;
- (15) When determined to be necessary to protect the public interest, hear complaints and disputes occurring within the taxicab industry, including complaints and disputes between companies, associations, operators, or owners; and, to address industry-wide problems, issue reasonable rules for the governance of intra-industry relationships;
- (16) Hear and decide appeals taken from license denials and proposed revocations or suspensions issued by the Office of Taxicabs, or refer the contested matter to the Office of Administrative Hearings;
- (17) Hear and decide complaints and appeals taken from any order, act, practice, or policy implemented by the Office of Taxicabs relating to the taxicab industry;
- (18) Undertake the investigation of any aspect of taxicab operations and practices necessary to protect public safety;
- (19) Establish any rule relating to the regulation and supervision of the public vehicle-for-hire industry not specifically delineated in this subchapter, so long as the rule is consistent with this act and related to the furtherance and protection of the public interest in public vehicle-for-hire transportation; and
- (20) Charge and collect reasonable fees for services it is authorized to provide under this subchapter and § 47-2829(e)(2), with funds to be deposited in the Public Vehicles-for-Hire Consumer Service

Fund created by § 50-320.

(d)(1) In exercising the rulemaking and ratemaking authority vested in it, the Commission shall adhere to and be subject to the requirements of subchapter I of Chapter 5 of Title 2, which shall apply to the Commission. The Commission shall, in giving notice of intended action in accordance with § 2-505, afford interested persons an opportunity to make public comment.

(2) A public hearing shall be required when a ratemaking or rulemaking action is referred to a panel for deliberation. Adequate notice of such hearing shall be given as required by rules of the Commission.

(3) In exercising its rulemaking and ratemaking authority, the Commission shall act by majority vote. No proxy by a member shall be allowed.

(e) The Commission may issue orders which shall have binding effect in exercising any authority conferred by this section.

(f) Appeals from final decisions of the Commission may be taken to the Office of Administrative Hearings, pursuant to Chapter 18A of Title 2.

Credits: (Mar. 25, 1986, D.C. Law 6-97, § 8, 33 DCR 703; May 10, 1988, D.C. Law 7-109, § 2(b), 35 DCR 2181; Jan. 30, 1990, D.C. Law 8-59, § 2(a), 36 DCR 7384; May 1, 1990, D.C. Law 8-107, § 2(a), 37 DCR 1623; Apr. 9, 1997, D.C. Law 11-198, § 501(c), 43 DCR 4569; Apr. 20, 1999, D.C. Law 12-264, § 46, 46 DCR 2118; Oct. 22, 2012, D.C. Law 19-184, § 2(g), 59 DCR 9431; Apr. 23, 2013, D.C. Law 19-270, § 2(b), 60 DCR 1717.)