

1
2 *Permit* means the authority granted to a driver or a company by the VFH administrator to operate
3 vehicles for hire.

4
5 *Revocation* means the rescinding of a permit. A person or entity whose permit is revoked shall
6 not be entitled to reinstatement or an opportunity to reapply for such permit for a period of two
7 years.

8
9 *Shuttle bus* means a vehicle with a capacity of at least eight persons, including the driver, that is
10 operated on a fixed route, or owned and operated directly by a motel or hotel and limited to
11 registered guests thereof.

12
13 *Suspension* means the temporary rescinding of a permit. The suspension may be for a time
14 certain or indefinite pending compliance with the terms of this chapter.

15
16 *Taxicab* means a vehicle for hire with a capacity of not more than eight persons, including the
17 driver, equipped with a taximeter, which is routed under the direction of the person hiring the
18 vehicle.

19
20 *Taximeter* means an instrument or device attached to a vehicle and designed to measure
21 mechanically or electronically the distance traveled by such vehicle, to record the times such
22 vehicle travels or is in waiting, and to indicate the fare to be obtained.

23
24 *Transportation service* means a vehicle for hire with a capacity of not more than eight persons,
25 including the driver, which is not equipped with a taximeter, which charges passengers a fare
26 generally based on a flat fee, and does not operate over a fixed or defined route but is routed
27 under the direction of the person hiring the vehicle.

28
29 *Transportation network application company ("TNC company")* has the same meaning as in
30 Section 627.748, F.S., as may be amended from time to time .

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34 *Vehicle for hire or VFH* means any vehicle, whether owned by the driver or a company, that
35 transports passengers for a fare, fee, or other charge in the city. The term vehicle for hire
36 excludes:

- 37
38 (1) School, church, college or university buses;
39 (2) Sightseeing cars and buses;
40 (3) Ambulances;
41 (4) Funeral home vehicles;
42 (5) Interstate buses;
43 (6) Limousines;
44 (7) Shuttle buses;
45 (8) TNC vehicles.

1 *Vehicle for hire administrator or VFH administrator* means the individual responsible for
2 receiving, reviewing and approving applications for VFH company and driver permits and their
3 designees.

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1 Sec. 22-2. - Soliciting passengers or baggage at railway, bus station or airport.

2
3 Drivers of vehicles for hire, or persons acting for them, shall remain at their respective vehicles
4 while awaiting passengers or baggage in any railway or bus station or at the Tallahassee
5 International Airport, and shall conduct themselves in a quiet and orderly manner while awaiting
6 passengers or baggage. Soliciting passengers is not permitted at the Tallahassee International
7 Airport.

8
9
10 Sec. 22-3. - Loading at airport; permit required.

11
12 A permit issued pursuant to this section shall not be construed as a grant by the city for the
13 permit-holder to engage in business upon airport property. No vehicle for hire or TNC vehicle
14 shall arrange to pick up passengers at the Tallahassee International Airport unless the vehicle for
15 hire or TNC vehicle has obtained a current non-tenant business permit or the vehicle for hire or
16 TNC vehicle is associated with a company that has executed a blanket permit with the airport
17 that authorizes all vehicles associated with the company to operate at the airport. Individual
18 airport permits shall obligate the permitted vehicle to adhere to the non-tenant business section of
19 the rules and regulations of the Tallahassee International Airport and a blanket permit shall
20 obligate the company and associated drivers to adhere to any applicable rules and regulations of
21 the Tallahassee International Airport. The terms and fee for such permits shall be established
22 pursuant to the rules and regulations, minimum standards, and rates and charges of the
23 Tallahassee International Airport. Failure to comply with the rules and regulations of the
24 Tallahassee International Airport may result in restricted access to airport property.

25
26 Secs. 22-4—22-30. - Reserved.

27
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29 **ARTICLE II. - COMPANY PERMIT**

30
31 Sec. 22-31. - Application; contents.

32
33 (a) No company shall operate or engage in the business of operating vehicles for hire within the
34 city without having first obtained a company permit from the VFH administrator. An application
35 shall be submitted on forms furnished by the VFH administrator or designee containing
36 appropriate information which is reasonably related to the business of operating vehicles for hire.

37
38 (b) In order to secure or renew a company permit, the company applicant shall file an
39 application with the VFH administrator, and such application shall be verified under oath and
40 shall furnish the following information:

41
42 (1) The name and address of the company. If the company is a corporation or
43 partnership, the name and address of all officers, shareholders, partners or any principals or
44 owners with an interest greater than five percent of the company must be listed.

1 (2) The color scheme and insignia to be used to designate the vehicles of any taxicab
2 company.

3
4 (3) No company permit shall be granted to a taxicab company currently operating fewer
5 than five vehicles. Each vehicle must conform to the United States Department of Transportation
6 (USDOT) maximum passenger standards allowed for the vehicle to operate.

7
8 (4) Proof of proper amount of insurance coverage as provided in section 22-94, with the
9 insurance coverage being filed with and approved by the VFH administrator.

10
11 (5) Such other information as the VFH administrator may require.

12
13 (c) Payment of an annual company permit fee based on the number of drivers operating on
14 behalf of the company, as follows:

15
16 (1) For companies with one to five drivers, an annual fee of \$250.00.

17
18 (2) For companies with six to 25 drivers, an annual fee of \$1,000.00.

19
20 (3) For companies with 26 to 75 drivers, an annual fee of \$2,500.00.

21
22 (4) For companies with 76 to 150 drivers, an annual fee of \$7,500.00

23
24 (5) For companies with more than 150 drivers, an annual fee of \$12,500.00.

25 The fees collected shall be used for the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this
26 chapter. The VFH administrator shall develop rules for the calculation, timing, and collection of
27 these fees.

28
29
30 Sec. 22-32. - Maintaining a company permit.

31
32 (a) In order to maintain a company permit to operate or engage in the business of operating
33 vehicles for hire, the company must:

34
35
36
37 (1) Maintain a telephone number that is monitored 24 hours a day for emergency contact
38 by the VFH administrator or law enforcement, and an e-mail address for citizen complaints or
39 concerns.

40
41 (2) Maintain the name, home address, and telephone number of each driver affiliated
42 with the company.

43
44 (3) Maintain a log listing the year, make, model, license plate number, and vehicle
45 identification number (serial number) and ownership status of all vehicles in the company's fleet.

1 (4) Maintain proper amount of insurance as provided in section 22-94.
2

3 (5) Maintain records available for inspection, upon request by the VFH administrator,
4 pursuant to a complaint received or if the VFH administrator has a reasonable basis to suspect
5 that a company or driver is violating the requirements of this chapter. The records shall include,
6 but not be limited to, records pertaining to permitted or certified drivers, vehicle inspection
7 records, and daily logs. Unless otherwise agreed to by the company and the VFH administrator,
8 such records shall be made available for inspection to the VFH administrator at a permit holder's
9 place of business or a mutually agreed location in the city.
10

11 (6) Each company shall implement a zero-tolerance policy on the use of drugs or alcohol
12 applicable to all drivers, and provide notice of the policy to all company drivers and to the public
13 through its website, if applicable. In addition, the company shall provide notice to the public on
14 the procedure for reporting a driver the passenger reasonably suspects was under the influence of
15 drugs or alcohol during the course of the ride. The company shall cooperate with the VFH
16 administrator during the pendency of the investigation pursuant to subsection 22-63(b)(3).
17

18 (7) Upon receipt of a complaint, the VFH administrator is authorized to conduct annual
19 audits of any company authorized to operate under this chapter. The company shall provide to
20 the VFH administrator, on request, up to 250 unique identification numbers, each of which has
21 been assigned to an individual driver affiliated with the company. The VFH administrator may
22 send to the company a list of up to ten driver identification numbers and request copies of
23 records held by the company for those ten drivers. Within five business days of receiving a
24 request seeking records, the company shall make available to the VFH administrator at the
25 company's place of business or a mutually agreed setting in the city, records to verify that the
26 company has properly screened drivers in accordance with section 22-61; provided, that the
27 company may redact any records it provides access to in order to protect the privacy and
28 identifying information of the driver.
29

30 (b) Taxicab companies must also maintain at least five vehicles for hire which must be currently
31 operating and permitted as required by this chapter.
32
33

34 Sec. 22-33. - Revocation or suspension of a company permit; grounds; right of appeal.
35

36 (a) *Revocation or suspension of company permit; grounds.* Upon a finding of due cause, as
37 defined in subsection (b) of this section, the VFH administrator shall have the authority to revoke
38 or suspend any company permit which has been granted. Prior to suspension or revocation, the
39 company shall be served notice by certified mail or hand delivery of the proposed action to be
40 taken and shall have an opportunity to present to the VFH administrator evidence as to why the
41 company permit should not be revoked or suspended.
42

43 (b) *Causes for revocation or suspension.* Due cause for revocation or suspension of a company
44 permit shall include but shall not be limited to the following:
45

1 (1) The failure of the company to maintain any of the general qualifications applicable to
2 the initial granting of the company permit as set forth in section 22-31 or maintaining a company
3 permit as set forth in section 22-32.

4
5 (2) Obtaining a company permit by providing false information.

6
7 (3) Conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction of any shareholder, officer, partner,
8 member, principal or owner of any corporation, partnership, firm or association holding a five
9 percent interest or more in the entity, of a felony.

10
11 (4) Allowing any person to operate a company's designated vehicle for hire without an
12 active driver permit or credential, or when said person's permit or credential has been suspended
13 or revoked because of a positive drug test pursuant to section 22-63.

14
15 (c) *Right of appeal.* Any company whose permit is revoked or suspended by the VFH
16 administrator may appeal such decision to the city manager or designee. Such appeal shall be
17 taken by filing written notice thereof, in duplicate, with the city manager's office within five days
18 after the decision of the VFH administrator. The notice of the appeal shall contain the grounds
19 for the appeal and shall contain information that either the finding is contrary to the law or is not
20 supported by competent substantial evidence. The VFH administrator shall forthwith transmit
21 copies of the appeal to the city manager or designee along with all papers constituting the record
22 upon which the action appealed from is based. The filing of a notice of appeal will not delay the
23 effectiveness of any suspension or revocation.

24
25 Secs. 22-34—22-59. - Reserved.

26 27 28 ARTICLE III. - VEHICLE FOR HIRE DRIVERS

29
30 Sec. 22-60. - Prohibition against unauthorized operation.

31
32 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle for hire , or to cause or permit any other
33 person to drive or operate a vehicle for hire:

34
35 (1) Without obtaining a permit for the operation of a vehicle for hire from the VFH
36 administrator or having been certified to operate a vehicle for hire on behalf of a
37 company'; or

38
39
40 (2) When the driver's company's permit has previously been revoked pursuant to section
41 22-33.

42
43 (b) Any person found to have violated this section shall be punished by the following:

44
45 (1) A fine \$150.00 for the first citation;

46
47 (2) A fine of \$250.00 for the second citation; and

1
2 (3) A fine of \$500.00 for the third or subsequent citation.
3
4

5 Sec. 22-61. - Application for driver's permit.
6

7 (a) In order to secure a driver permit from the VFH administrator or to obtain certification from
8 a company, an applicant must be at least 18 years old and must:
9

10 (1) Provide information disclosing their address, age, driver's license number, and other
11 information required by the VFH administrator or the company.
12

13 (2) Submit a local and national criminal background check that includes:
14

15 a. A search of the multi-state/multi-jurisdiction criminal records locator or other
16 similar commercial nationwide database with validation of any records through primary source
17 search; and
18

19 b. A search of the national sex offender public website maintained by the United
20 States Department of Justice; and
21

22 (3) Submit a driving history research report.
23

24 (b) A VFH driver or company shall update the criminal background check and driving history
25 research reports required under paragraph (a) for a VFH driver at least every three years and
26 within (48) hours of the receipt of any moving violation citation or arrest. Said report(s) and
27 notification must be provided to the VFH administrator at TPDVFHAdministrator@talgov.com.
28

29 (c) The VFH administrator may not issue a permit and a company may not certify an individual
30 to act as a VFH driver if the driving history research report conducted when the individual first
31 seeks engagement as a driver or any subsequent driving history report required under paragraph
32 (a), reveals that the individual has had more than three moving violations in the prior three-year
33 period.
34

35 (d) The VFH administrator may not issue a permit and a company may not certify an individual
36 to act as a VFH driver if the criminal background check conducted when the individual first
37 seeks engagement as a driver or any subsequent background check required under paragraph (a),
38 reveals that the individual:
39

40 (1) Has been convicted within the past five years of a:
41

42 a. Felony;

43 b. Misdemeanor for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, for reckless
44 driving, for hit and run, or for fleeing or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer; or
45

46 c. Misdemeanor for a violent offense or a crime of lewdness or indecent exposure
under Ch. 800, F.S.

1
2 (2) Has been convicted, within the past three years, of driving with a suspended or
3 revoked license;

4
5 (3) Is a match in the National Sex Offender Public Website maintained by the United
6 States Department of Justice; or

7
8 (4) Does not possess a valid driver's license.

9
10
11
12 (e) An applicant may apply for a permit or credential by:

13
14 (1) Completing a form provided by the VFH administrator establishing that the applicant
15 meets the requirements of subsection (a); or

16
17 (2) Being certified by the company that the applicant meets the requirements of
18 subsection (a).

19
20 (f) Upon approval by the VFH administrator, or certification by the company, the driver shall be
21 issued:

22
23 (1) A permit from the VFH administrator; or

24
25 (2) Credentials from the company, which may be digital credentials, indicating that the
26 driver was certified by the company, and the credential shall include the following information:

- 27
28 a. The name or logo of the company;
29 b. The name of the driver;
30 c. The license plate number associated with the vehicle that the driver has been
31 authorized to use.

32
33 (3) The driver shall display the permit or credential in a manner that it is visible to the
34 passengers of the vehicle while the vehicle is operating, or make available at a minimum the
35 driver's first name, photograph, and make, model, and license plate number to the passenger
36 through the company's digital platform. The driver shall present the permit or credential upon
37 request to a law enforcement officer, the VFH administrator, or designated airport personnel. If
38 the driver maintains a digital credential, upon a traffic stop, a driver shall provide law
39 enforcement with access to a device containing the information required to be maintained as part
40 of the driver's digital credential.

41
42 (g) An applicant must pay a driver application fee of \$30.00. However, any vehicle for hire
43 company may elect to pay a flat fee of \$7,500.00 annually, which shall serve as a fee in lieu of
44 the driver application fee collected for all driver applicants applying to operate a vehicle for hire
45 on behalf of, or in connection with, the company for that year.

1 Sec. 22-62. - Maintaining driver's permit.

2 In order to maintain a valid permit or credential to drive a vehicle for hire, a driver must:

3
4 (1) Wear proper dress while operating a vehicle for hire.

5
6 (2) Maintain a neat appearance.

7
8 (3) Not smoke while carrying passengers.

9
10 (4) Maintain a log upon which are recorded all trips made each day, showing time and
11 place of origin and destination of each trip and amount of fare. Such logs must be maintained by
12 the company or the driver for two years, and shall be made available to the VFH administrator
13 for a compliance inquiry if the VFH administrator has a reasonable basis to suspect that a
14 company or driver is violating the requirements of this chapter.

15
16 (5) Renew their driver's permit or credential during the month of the driver's permit or
17 credential expiration date.

18
19 (6) Wear a seatbelt at all times while operating a vehicle for hire.

20
21
22 Sec. 22-63. - Revocation or suspension of driver's permits; grounds; right of appeal.

23 (a) Revocation or suspension of driver's permits or credential. Upon a finding of due cause, as
24 defined in subsection (b) of this section, the VFH administrator shall have the authority to revoke
25 or suspend any driver's permit or credential which has been issued or which may hereinafter be
26 issued by the city. Before a driver's permit or credential shall be denied, suspended or revoked,
27 notice of intention thereof shall be served upon the driver either by registered mail or personal
28 service; however, such notice shall not be necessary for a denial of an original permit or
29 credential. However, any such applicant or driver shall be given an opportunity to be heard by
30 the VFH administrator.

31
32 (b) Causes for revocation or suspension. Due cause for revocation or suspension of a driver's
33 permit or credential shall include but shall not be limited to the following:

34
35 (1) The failure of the driver to maintain any and all of the general qualifications
36 applicable to the initial issuance of a permit as set forth in section 22-61;

37
38 (2) Obtaining a permit or credential by providing false information;

39
40 (3) Violation by a driver of any of the following offenses:

41
42 a. Driving under the influence of intoxicating beverages or drugs. A driver shall be
43 required to submit to a drug and/or alcohol test at the request of the VFH administrator:

44 1. Where reasonable suspicion exists that a driver is abusing alcohol or misusing
45 prescription drugs or controlled substances; or

1 consecutively, with such numbers being placed conspicuously on each vehicle, with such
2 numerals being not less than four and one-half inches nor more than six inches in height.

3
4 (2) Each company shall have all of its taxicabs painted a uniform color to be chosen by
5 the company and approved by the VFH administrator. The taxicabs shall be kept in such
6 condition so that the appearance of such taxicabs substantially conforms to the approved color.

7
8 (b)Transportation services.

9
10 (1) Each vehicle operated by a transportation service shall be readily identifiable as a
11 transportation service and shall bear on the outside of each rear or front door, in letters not less
12 than three inches in height, the name of the person or corporation to whom the vehicle is owned
13 or operated by.

14
15 (2) No transportation service shall have any insignia or sign that identifies itself as a
16 "taxi" or "cab" or otherwise gives the impression that it is a taxicab.

17
18
19
20 Sec. 22-92. - Taximeter.

21
22 (a) All taxicabs operated under the authority of this chapter shall be equipped with taximeters
23 fastened in a manner so that the face thereof shall be visible and readable to passengers at all
24 times both day and night. The face of the taximeter shall be set so that it will register and
25 compute on a mileage basis while such taxicab is moving and on a time basis while such taxicab
26 is standing and while the service is being rendered the fare to be charged. Such taximeter shall
27 be operated mechanically by a mechanism of standard design and construction, driven either
28 from the transmission or from one of the front wheels by a flexible and permanently attached
29 driving mechanism.

30
31 (b) No vehicle for hire other than a taxicab is authorized to install or be equipped with a
32 taximeter.

33
34
35 Sec. 22-93. - Scanning prohibited.

36
37 No vehicle for hire operating under this chapter shall contain, use and operate installed scanners
38 or other portable radio devices to monitor communications of frequencies other than that
39 assigned a company.

40
41
42 Sec. 22-94. - Liability insurance required.

1 No vehicle for hire shall be placed in service unless such vehicle is in compliance with Florida
2 law for liability insurance purposes. Proof of such insurance coverage, which may be provided
3 on a blanket basis, shall be filed annually with and approved by the VFH administrator for the
4 carriage of passengers.

5
6
7 Sec. 22-95. - Seat belts required.

8
9 All vehicles for hire covered by this chapter shall be equipped with operational seat belts for
10 each passenger.

11
12
13 Sec. 22-96. - Inspection.

14
15 (a) Each vehicle for hire shall be inspected annually.

16
17 (b) All inspections shall be conducted by a certified automobile mechanic and a copy of said
18 inspection shall be provided to the VFH administrator.

19
20 (1) All vehicles for hire passing the annual inspection shall have affixed to the upper left
21 corner of the rear window an inspection sticker or maintain proof of inspection in their vehicle.

22
23 (2) Each vehicle for hire shall be inspected during the month of the inspection sticker's
24 or inspection form's expiration date. Failure to have a vehicle for hire inspected or verify that a
25 vehicle has been inspected, may be grounds for the revocation of the franchisee's occupational
26 license. It shall be the responsibility of the VFH driver or company to ensure the yearly
27 inspection is conducted timely. Said renewal certificate shall be provided to the VFH
28 administrator.

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37 **Downtown Boundary Map, Part of Section 22-97, Deleted**

38 Secs. 22-97. - Reserved.

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40
41 Sec. 22-98. - Miscellaneous regulations and other penalties.

1 (a) It shall be unlawful for any driver of a vehicle for hire to drive or be on duty or on call for the
2 operation of a vehicle for hire for more than 12 hours within any 24-hour period.

3
4 (b) Upon discovery of any personal property left by a passenger, a driver or company shall store
5 such property for no less than 60 days.

6
7 (c) A driver shall take the most direct route to a passenger's destination unless otherwise
8 authorized or directed by the passenger.

9
10 (d) No driver shall refuse to accept a passenger unless the passenger is obviously disorderly,
11 dangerous, or otherwise a threat to the safety or welfare of the driver.

12
13 (e) It shall be unlawful for a driver to permit any person to accompany or use a VFH for any
14 illegal purpose or to direct, take or transport any other person with knowledge or reasonable
15 cause to believe that the purpose of such directing, taking or transporting is illegal.

16
17 (f) No vehicle for hire shall be permitted to carry nonpaying passengers while transporting a
18 paying passenger or passengers except for the purpose of driver training.

19
20 (g) No vehicle for hire shall solicit or carry a paying passenger while in the process of carrying
21 another paying passenger except when requested to do so by the latter passenger.

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28 Sec. 22-99. - Overall service required; anti-discrimination.

29
30 (a) All persons engaged in the vehicle for hire business in the city operating under the provisions
31 of this chapter shall render service to the public desiring to use vehicles for hire. A company
32 which shall refuse to accept a call anywhere within the corporate limits of the city at any time
33 when such holder has available vehicles, or who shall fail or refuse to give overall service, shall
34 be considered in violation of this chapter; and the permit granted to such company may be
35 revoked by the VFH administrator in accordance with the provisions of section 22-34.

36
37 (b) It is unlawful for a driver of a vehicle for hire to refuse any request for service from any
38 passenger or person based on that person's race, color, religion, national origin, marital status,
39 age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or handicap, unless the driver can show a reason for
40 refusal for service unrelated to the status of the person refused service.

41
42 (c) It is unlawful for any driver or operator of a vehicle for hire to charge additional fees to
43 provide services for passengers or persons with disabilities.

1 Sec. 22-100. - Reserved.

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4 Sec. 22-101. - Exemptions for vehicles regulated by Interstate Commerce Commission.

5

6 The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any vehicle or the driver thereof when engaged
7 in operations under and by virtue of any certificate or permit from the Interstate Commerce
8 Commission of the United States when a permit, license or certificate is required for such
9 operation by that regulatory commission.

10
11

12 Sec. 22-102. - Enforcement.

13

14 The VFH administrator, or aviation director or designees shall be authorized to enforce the
15 regulations contained in this chapter, including the promulgation of rules consistent with this
16 chapter and the setting of fees.

17

18 Section 2. Conflict with other ordinances and codes. All ordinances or parts of ordinances
19 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Tallahassee, Florida, in conflict with the provisions of
20 this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

21

22 Section 3. Severability. If any provision or portion of this ordinance is declared by any
23 court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining
24 provisions and portions of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

25

26 Section 4. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its
27 passage.

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INTRODUCED in the City Commission on the 10th day of May, 2023.

PASSED by the City Commission on the 14th day of June, 2023.

CITY OF TALLAHASSEE

By: _____
John E. Dailey
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
James O. Cooke, IV
City Treasurer-Clerk

By: _____
Cassandra K. Jackson
City Attorney