



Committee: Directly to Council
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Christine Wellons, Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected

AGENDA ITEM #4.5A
December 7, 2021
Introduction

SUBJECT

Expedited Bill 47-21, Taxicabs – Age of Vehicles

Lead Sponsor: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- N/A

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Expedited Bill 47-21 would extend the permissible age that a taxicab may be in service in the County from eight model years to 10 model years. The taxicabs would continue to undergo annual safety inspections.

The bill is expedited and time-sensitive because, without the expedited bill, “a substantial number of taxicabs would be placed out of service on January 1, 2022, due to Montgomery County’s current age limit on taxicabs providing service.” (©5).

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- N/A

This report contains:

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Memorandum from the County Executive	© 3
Legislative Request Report	© 5

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MEMORANDUM

December 2, 2021

TO: County Council

FROM: Christine Wellons, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Expedited Bill 47-21, Taxicabs – Age of Vehicles

PURPOSE: Introduction – no Council votes required

Expedited Bill 47-21, Taxicabs Age of Vehicles, sponsored by the Council President at the request of the County Executive, is scheduled to be introduced on December 7, 2021. Because the legislation is expedited and requires urgent enactment, a public hearing and action on the bill are tentatively scheduled for December 14, 2021.

The expedited bill would amend the County’s taxicab law to permit vehicles to remain in service in the County for ten model years, as opposed to eight model years.

PURPOSE

The Taxicab Service Commission (TSC) anticipates that, without the expedited bill, a substantial number of taxicabs would be placed out of service as of January 1, 2022. See the enclosed Memorandum from the County Executive at ©5, which further explains the rationale for the expedited legislation.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Under current County law, a taxicab may remain in service until the December 31 after its eighth model year ends, provided that it has passed a comprehensive safety inspection during the preceding August. The bill would extend the permissible age of the vehicle for two years, so that a taxicab could remain in service until the December 31 that occurs after its tenth model year.

The vehicle still would be required to pass the annual comprehensive safety inspection.

This packet contains:

Bill 47-21
Memorandum from the County Executive
Legislative Request Report

Circle #

© 1

© 3

© 5

Expedited Bill No. 47-21
Concerning: Taxicabs – Age of Vehicles
Revised: 12/2/2021 Draft No. 1
Introduced: December 7, 2021
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: The Council President at the Request of the County Executive

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

- (1) extend the age of vehicles allowed to provide taxicab service in Montgomery County; and
- (2) generally amend the laws governing the licensing and regulation of taxicabs.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 53, Taxicabs
Section 53-228

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. Section 53-228 is amended as follows:**

2

3 **53-228. Age of vehicles.**

4 (a) A licensee must not use any vehicle that is more than [eight] ten
5 model years old to provide taxicab service in the County. As used in
6 this Chapter, the “model year” of a vehicle is the year designated by
7 the vehicle manufacturer, as indicated on the vehicle or in the
8 manufacturer’s records. A licensee may maintain a vehicle in service
9 until the next December 31 after its [eighth] tenth model year ends if
10 the vehicle passes a comprehensive safety inspection performed
11 during the preceding August by a state-certified inspector in good
12 standing.

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15 **Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.** The Council declares that this legislation is
16 necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on
17 the date it becomes law.




OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

December 1, 2021

TO: Tom Hucker, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Marc Elrich, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Expedited Bill to extend the age of vehicle in-service eligibility for taxicabs

I am transmitting the attached legislation to extend the age of vehicle in-service eligibility for taxicabs operating in Montgomery County. At a recent meeting of the Montgomery County Taxicab Services Commission (TSC), commission members raised concerns that a substantial number of taxicabs would be placed out of service on January 1, 2022, due to Montgomery County's current age limit on taxicabs providing service. Chapter 53, Section 53-228 specifies that a licensee must not use any vehicle that is more than eight model years old to provide taxicab service in the County.

Increasing the age of in-service eligibility for taxicabs would provide much needed relief for the taxicab industry. All three taxicab companies are minority-owned and operated small businesses that provide transportation services for an increasing number of high-needs clients including individuals who are disabled, individuals with limited income, and seniors. Individual licensees and sublicensees who are required to affiliate with a taxicab company will also benefit from this legislation by allowing vehicles to remain in service for an additional two years. If taxicab drivers are unable to rent an eligible vehicle, they may face unemployment.

The taxicab industry has experienced a significant downturn in market share for ride-hailing services due to the rise of Transportation Network Companies such as Uber and Lyft and the COVID-19 pandemic. Supply chain issues, coupled with the shrinking availability of vehicles and the steep increase in the price of vehicles due to inflationary pressures, have also hampered the taxicab industry's ability to locate and acquire affordable vehicles.

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has worked closely with the taxicab industry and the TSC to explore ways to keep taxicab service readily available for County residents, especially the County's most vulnerable residents. Having the maximum number of road-ready taxicabs available and in-service will provide the industry the opportunity to stabilize operational costs as the County reopens. It will also ensure that residents have access to a viable

transportation option. Vehicles owned by Passenger Vehicle License (PVL) holders and taxicab fleet operators would still be required to undergo safety inspections via an annual Maryland State Inspection, which evaluates the vehicle's mechanical equipment and a Montgomery County authorized taxicab cosmetic inspection. The County's cosmetic inspection evaluates the functionality of taxicab related equipment in the vehicle as well as the vehicle's overall cleanliness. Enacting this legislation will extend the in-service time for approximately 35 percent of the taxicabs across the three companies which currently provide service to residents.

Arlington and Fairfax Counties and the City of Alexandria in Virginia currently allow for taxicabs to remain in service for ten years. Washington D.C. recently increased the in-service age eligibility for taxicab vehicles from eight to ten years. Increasing the in-service age eligibility allows Montgomery County businesses to remain competitive with neighboring jurisdictions.

A Fiscal Impact Statement for this legislation is currently being evaluated by the Office of Management and Budget and will be provided at a later date.

Your consideration of this proposed legislation is appreciated.

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Expedited Bill XX-21

Taxicab Age of Vehicle

DESCRIPTION:	This legislation provides for an extension of the age of vehicles allowed to provide taxicab service in Montgomery County from eight years to ten years, under Section 53-228 (a) of Chapter 53 of the Montgomery County Code.
PROBLEM:	Several taxicabs are scheduled to be placed out of service on January 1, 2022 due to Montgomery County's current age limit on taxicabs providing service. The taxicab industry faces challenges in locating available and affordable replacement vehicles.
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:	Provide regulatory relief and financial certainty for a struggling industry with an increasing client base of high needs customers. Keep Montgomery County's taxicab industry regionally competitive by aligning certain regulations with neighboring jurisdictions.
COORDINATION:	Department of Transportation
FISCAL IMPACT:	Information attached.
ECONOMIC IMPACT:	To be requested.
EVALUATION:	To be requested.
EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE:	N/A
SOURCE OF INFORMATION:	Walton Harris, Manger, Taxicab Office
PENALTIES:	N/A

Expedited Bill No. XX-21
Concerning: Taxicabs – Age of Vehicles
Revised: _____ Draft No. ____
Introduced: _____
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. 53, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: The Council President on behalf of the County Executive

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

- (1) provide for an extension of the age of vehicles allowed to provide taxicab service in Montgomery County; and
- (2) generally amend the laws governing the licensing and regulation of taxicabs.

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 53, Taxicabs
Section 53-228 (a)

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10 performed during the preceding August by a state-certified inspector in good
11 standing.

12

* * *

13

14 **Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date.**

15 The Council declares that this legislation is necessary for the immediate
16 protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date it becomes
17 law.

Approved:

Tom Hucker, President, County Council Date

Approved:

Marc Elrich, County Executive Date

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq., Clerk of the Council Date