

HOUSE BILL 884

L2

6lr2093
CF 6lr3662

By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2016

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – Taxicabs – Repeal of Local Provisions**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing provisions of law that relate to the regulation of taxicabs in
4 St. Mary's County; and generally relating to the repeal of provisions of law that relate
5 to taxicabs in St. Mary's County.

6 BY repealing

7 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County

8 Section 133–1 through 133–3 and the chapter “Chapter 133. Taxicabs”

9 Article 19 – Public Local Laws of Maryland

10 (2007 Edition and March 2014 Supplement, as amended)

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

13 **Article 19 – St. Mary's County**

14 **[Chapter 133. Taxicabs]**

15 **[133–1.**

16 The term “taxicabs,” as used in this chapter, shall embrace any motor vehicle for hire
17 designed to carry seven (7) persons or less, including the driver, operated upon any street
18 or public highway in St. Mary's County or, on call or on demand, accepting or soliciting
19 passengers indiscriminately for transportation for hire between such points along public
20 streets or highways in St. Mary's County as may be directed by the passenger or passengers
21 so being transported, provided that nothing in this chapter shall be construed to include as
22 a taxicab a motor vehicle operated with the approval of the Public Service Commission of
23 Maryland on fixed routes and schedules.]

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 [133-2.

2 In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of St. Mary's
3 County and other persons who may use taxicab facilities therein, the County
4 Commissioners of St. Mary's County are hereby authorized and empowered to enact, amend
5 and repeal resolutions to fix requirements for ownership and operation of taxicabs in St.
6 Mary's County and to provide for inspection and licensing of taxicabs, their owners and
7 operators, provided that all necessary duties of inspection shall be performed by the office
8 of County Sheriff. The annual license fees set by the County Commissioners pursuant to
9 the power given them by this section shall not be less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the first
10 taxicab owned and operated by any person and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each
11 additional taxicab owned and operated by said person. The regulation herein provided for
12 the taxicab industry in St. Mary's County shall be in addition to any regulation by the
13 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles of Maryland or the Public Service Commission of
14 Maryland. However, any applicant seeking a license for a taxicab who has not been in the
15 taxicab business in St. Mary's County for at least one (1) year prior to his application shall,
16 before the County Commissioners pass upon his application, obtain a written permit from
17 the Public Service Commission. Said permit shall be issued by the Public Service
18 Commission only upon written application and only if, in its judgment, after investigation,
19 the granting of the permit would be for the public welfare and convenience. Any person,
20 firm or corporation subject to this chapter who shall be aggrieved by any resolution of the
21 County Commissioners of St. Mary's County, enacted pursuant to the authority herein
22 conferred, may commence an action in the Circuit Court of St. Mary's County against the
23 County Commissioners to vacate and set aside any such resolution on the ground that the
24 regulation, practice, act or service established by such resolution is unreasonable or
25 unlawful. The decision of the Circuit Court shall be appealable to the Court of Appeals of
26 Maryland by either party, provided that such appeal is entered within twenty (20) days
27 after the judgment of the Circuit Court is rendered.]

28 [133-3.

29 A. Any person, firm or corporation violating any resolution promulgated under
30 the authority of § 133-2 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall
31 be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for each offense.
32 In addition, the County Commissioners of St. Mary's County, upon proof of any violation of
33 any ordinance promulgated under § 133-2, shall have authority to revoke or suspend any
34 license issued under the authority of Section 189 after according reasonable opportunity to
35 the licensee to be heard.

36 B. If any provision, clause, sentence, phrase or part of this chapter, or the
37 application thereof to any person, firm or corporation or circumstances, is held invalid, the
38 remainder of this chapter and the application of such provision to other persons, firms and
39 corporations and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.]

40 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
41 October 1, 2016.