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2000 Regular Session (0lr2227)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Finance/Environmental Matters --

Introdu	aced by Senator Roesser	
	Read and Examined by Proofreaders:	
		Proofreader.
	with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this day of at o'clock,M.	Proofreader.
		President.
	CHAPTER	
1 AN	N ACT concerning	
2	For-Hire Driving Services	
3 FC 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	OR the purpose of <u>requiring certain providers of taxicab services licensed after a</u> <u>certain date to obtain certain training in a manner approved by the Commission;</u> establishing certain business and operating requirements for certain passenger for hire driving services; requiring certain providers of taxicab services licensed after a certain date to obtain certain training in a manner approved by the Commission; providing for a certain assessment on certain for-hire driver's license applications vehicle permits for certain purposes; authorizing the Public Service Commission to require an applicant to obtain a certain records check through the Department of Public Safety and Correctional	

Services; requiring certain fees for certain record checks; establishing the

certain purposes; providing a civil penalty for certain violations of certain

for-hire driving services provisions; repealing clarifying and altering the

application of a certain penalty; defining certain terms; requiring the

For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund for

Commission to establish a certain initial assessment for the For-Hire Driving

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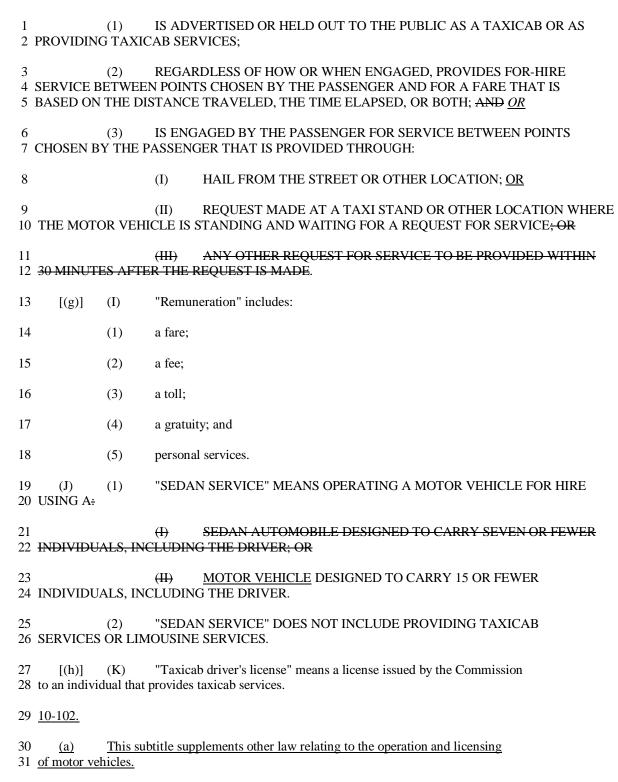
Annotated Code of Maryland

1	Services Enforcement Fund and providing for the uses of funds in the Fund; and
2	generally relating to for-hire driving services.
3	BY renumbering
4	Article Public Utility Companies
5	Section 10 301 and the subtitle "Subtitle 3. Miscellaneous Provisions"; and
6	10-401 and 10-402 and the subtitle "Subtitle 4. Prohibitions; Penalties",
7	respectively
8	to be Section 10 401 and the subtitle "Subtitle 4. Miscellaneous Provisions"; and
9	10-501 and 10-502 and the subtitle "Subtitle 5. Prohibitions; Penalties",
10	respectively
11	Annotated Code of Maryland
12	(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)
13	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14	Article - Public Utility Companies
15	Section 10-101, 10-104, <u>10-402</u> , and 13-207 <u>13-206</u>
16	Annotated Code of Maryland
17	(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)
1,	(1770 Votalite and 1777 supplement)
18	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
19	Article - Public Utility Companies
20	Section 10-103 <u>10-102, 10-103, and 10-401</u>
21	Annotated Code of Maryland
22	(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)
23	BY adding to
24	Article - Public Utility Companies
25	Section 10-112 ; 10-301 and 10-302 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 3."
26	Passenger for Hire Services"
27	Annotated Code of Maryland
28	(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)
	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
30	Article - Public Utility Companies
31	Section 10 501 and 10 502
32	Annotated Code of Maryland
33	(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)
34	(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)
35	BY repealing
36	Article Public Utility Companies
37	Section 13-206

1	(1998 Volume and 1999 Supplement)
2	Preamble
5	WHEREAS, For hire driving services represent a major component of the State's economy, with nearly 4,000 licensed taxicabs, over 1,100 sedans, 400 limousines, 1,200 vans, and 1,800 buses generating more than 2,500 jobs and \$46.5 million in annual job related earnings; and
9	WHEREAS, For hire driving services are critical to many citizens of the State, including the elderly, members of families with low income, and the physically challenged, as well as to many sectors of the State's economy, including tourism, BWI Airport, and hospital organ transports; and
	WHEREAS, Motor vehicles for hire include taxicabs, sedans, limousines, vans, and any other motor vehicles for hire designed to carry 15 or fewer individuals including the driver; and
14 15	WHEREAS, Maryland's taxicabs alone transport an estimated 15 million passengers per year, or 60,000 passengers per week, in 24 hour service; and
16 17	WHEREAS, A significant portion of the sedan services operating in Maryland appear to be doing so without proper documentation or otherwise contrary to law; and
18 19	WHEREAS, Illegal operation of sedan and taxicab services puts the public, including both Maryland citizens and tourists, at risk; and
	WHEREAS, Tourist surveys conducted by the State show dissatisfaction with taxi driver behavior in some areas, including rudeness, overcharging, and inadequate knowledge of local events and points of interest; and
	WHEREAS, Improved regulation and oversight of for hire driving services should improve the safety and quality of service to Maryland citizens and tourists; now, therefore,
28	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 10 301 and the subtitle "Subtitle 3. Miscellaneous Provisions"; and 10-401 and 10-402 and the subtitle "Subtitle 4. Prohibitions; Penalties", respectively, of Article - Public Utility Companies of the Appetited Code.

- 29 Penalties", respectively, of Article Public Utility Companies of the Annotated Code of
- 30 Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 10-401 and the subtitle "Subtitle 4.
- 31 Miscellaneous Provisions"; and 10 501 and 10 502 and the subtitle "Subtitle 5.
- 32 Prohibitions; Penalties", respectively.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland 33
- 34 read as follows:

1			Article - Public Utility Companies	
2	10-101.			
3	(a)	In this ti	tle the following words have the meanings indicated.	
4 5	(b) Code.	"Central	Repository" has the meaning stated in Article 27, § 743 of the	
6 7	(c) "Criminal Justice Information System" has the meaning stated in Article 27, § 743 of the Code.			
8	(d)	"For-hir	e driver's license" includes:	
9		(1)	a passenger-for-hire license; and	
10		(2)	a taxicab driver's license.	
			"LIMOUSINE SERVICE" MEANS OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE FOR TOR VEHICLE CLASSIFIED AS A CLASS Q (LIMOUSINE) VEHICLE F THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.	
14 15		(2) OR SED	"LIMOUSINE SERVICE" DOES NOT INCLUDE PROVIDING TAXICAB AN SERVICES.	
16 17	- 1 / -	(F) person in	(1) "Operate a motor vehicle for hire" means to transport or offer to a motor vehicle in exchange for remuneration.	
18		(2)	"Operate a motor vehicle for hire" includes:	
19			(i) providing passenger-for-hire services; and	
20			(ii) providing taxicab services.	
21	(G)	"PROVI	DE PASSENGER-FOR-HIRE SERVICES" INCLUDES:	
22		(1)	PROVIDING LIMOUSINE SERVICES; AND	
23		(2)	PROVIDING SEDAN SERVICES.	
24 25	[(f)] that, in addi	(H) tion to oth	"Provide taxicab services" means to operate a motor vehicle for hire her services:	
26 27	from the stre	[(1) eet;	picks up and discharges passengers at random or who hail the vehicle	
28		(2)	solicits customers at a public or private taxi stand; and	
29		(3)	is dispatched to pick up customers who call for a taxicab]	

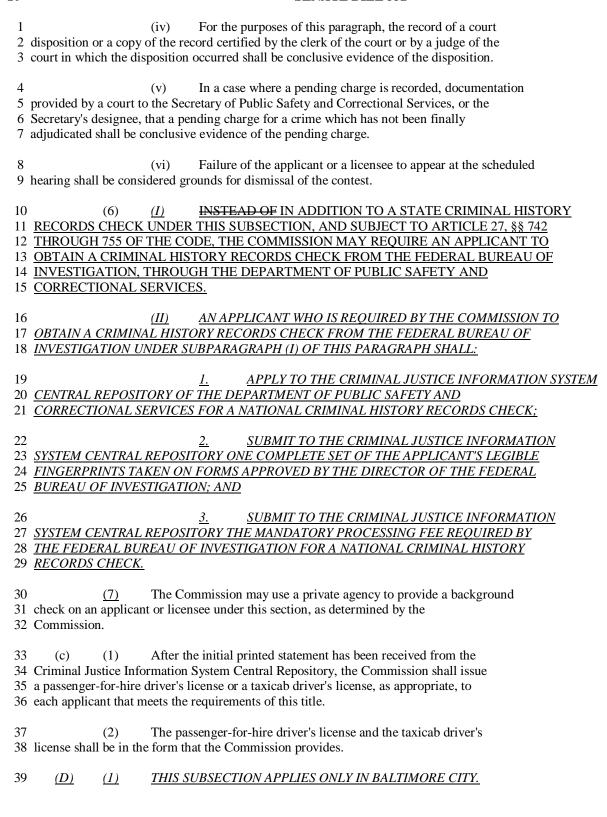


1 (b) This tit 2 in exchange for remu		s to any motor vehicle used in the transportation of persons except:
3 (1)	motor v	vehicles designed to transport more than 15 persons; and
6 and (4) of the Interna	nment, or al Revenu	rtation solely provided by or on behalf of a unit of federal, a not-for-profit organization as identified in § 501(c)(3) e Code, that requires a criminal history records check ts drivers, for clients of services including:
8	<u>(i)</u>	aging support;
9	<u>(ii)</u>	developmental and other disabilities;
10	<u>(iii)</u>	kidney dialysis;
11	<u>(iv)</u>	Medical Assistance Program;
12	<u>(v)</u>	Head Start;
13	<u>(vi)</u>	Welfare-to-Work;
14	<u>(vii)</u>	mental health; and
15	(viii)	job training.
17 <u>application of this ti</u>18 <u>operates a motor vel</u>	tle or Titl nicle for l g transpor	e) of this section may not be construed to limit the e 9 of this article to a for-hire driver or other person who hire or provides transportation of persons for hire in retation services to clients of services listed in subsection
21 <u>(d)</u> <u>Notwit</u>	hstanding	subsection (b)(2) of this section:
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	nts of ser	vices listed in subsection (b)(2) of this section may be trier permit under Title 9 of this article; but
	for-hire d	r employed by the not-for-profit organization may not be driver's license or other authorization from the portation services solely under subsection (b)(2) of this
31 <u>Criminal Justice Infectors</u>32 <u>Safety and Correction</u>	zation un ormation onal Servi	er employed or offered employment by a governmental unit or der subsection (b)(2) of this section shall apply to the System Central Repository of the Department of Public ices for a State criminal history records check on or ver's actual employment.

	(2) As part of the application for a State criminal history records check, the driver employed or offered employment by the governmental unit or not-for-profit organization shall submit to the Central Repository:
4 5	(i) one complete set of the driver's legible fingerprints taken on a form approved by the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services; and
6 7	(ii) the fee authorized under Article 27, § 746(b)(8) of the Code for access to State criminal history records.
	(3) (i) In accordance with Article 27, §§ 742 through 755 of the Code, the Central Repository shall provide a printed statement listing the driver's criminal convictions to:
11	1. the governmental unit or not-for-profit organization; and
12	<u>2.</u> the driver.
15 16	(ii) If criminal history record information is reported to the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository after the date of the initial criminal history records check, the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository shall provide a revised printed statement listing the driver's criminal convictions to:
18	1. the governmental unit or not-for-profit organization; and
19	<u>2.</u> <u>the driver.</u>
	(4) In accordance with regulations adopted by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, the governmental unit or not-for-profit organization shall verify periodically a list of its drivers.
23 24	(5) <u>Information the governmental unit or not-for-profit organization</u> obtains from the Central Repository under this subsection shall be:
25	(i) confidential and may not be redisseminated; and
26 27	(ii) used only for the employment purpose authorized by this section.
30	(6) In accordance with Article 27, § 752 of the Code, a driver employed by a governmental unit or not-for-profit organization may challenge the contents of a printed statement or revised printed statement issued by the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository.
32 33	(f) This subtitle does not limit the power of a political subdivision of the State to adopt reasonable traffic regulations such as:
34	(1) the designation of taxicab stands; and

1 2	(2) the restriction or prohibition of cruising along a public street when the cruising would menace the public safety or unduly congest traffic.
3	10-103.
6	(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person may not operate a motor vehicle for hire in the State under a permit or authorization to transport passengers issued by the Commission or the appropriate local authority unless the person holds a for-hire driver's license issued by the Commission.
10	(b) (1) A county or municipal corporation may license taxicab drivers who drive taxicabs that are based in that county or municipal corporation if, at a minimum, the county or municipal corporation conducts a criminal record check and driving record check of each applicant for a license.
12 13	(2) A taxicab driver licensed by a county or municipal corporation is not required to be licensed by the Commission.
14	10-104.
15	(a) (1) An applicant for a for-hire driver's license shall:
16 17	(i) submit to the Commission a completed application on the form that the Commission provides;
18 19	(ii) state on the form that the applicant is applying for a passenger-for-hire driver's license or a taxicab driver's license;
22	(iii) pay to the Commission an application fee set by the [Commission] COMMISSION, WHICH MAY INCLUDE AN ASSESSMENT FOR THE FOR-HIRE DRIVING SERVICES ENFORCEMENT FUND UNDER § 10-112 OF THIS SUBTITLE;
24 25	(iv) file with the application two recent photographs, of a size that may be easily attached to the license; and
	(v) apply to the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services for a State criminal history records check as provided in subsection (b) of this section.
29	(2) The Commission shall:
30	(i) require a driving record check of the applicant;
31 32	(ii) attach one of the photographs to the for-hire driver's license when issued; and
33 34	(iii) file the other photograph with the for-hire driver's license application in the Commission's office.

			of the application for a criminal history records check, the riminal Justice Information System Central
		(i) Director	one complete set of the applicant's legible fingerprints taken on r of the Criminal Justice Information System Central
7 8	access to Maryland cri	(ii) minal hi	the fee authorized under Article 27, § 746(b)(8) of the Code for story records.
11		minal Ju	In response to an application for an initial criminal history stice Information System Central Repository shall d the applicant a printed statement of the applicant's
15 16	Criminal Justice Infor criminal history recor Repository shall provi	mation S ds check de to the	If criminal history record information is reported to the System Central Repository after the date of the initial, the Criminal Justice Information System Central e Commission and the applicant or licensee a revised ant's or licensee's State criminal record.
		al Servic	dance with regulations adopted by the Department of Public ees, the Commission shall verify periodically a list of
21 22			tion the Commission obtains from the Criminal Justice epository under this subsection shall be:
23		(i)	confidential and may not be redisseminated; and
24		(ii)	used only for the licensing purposes described in this title.
27	driver's license or a license		As provided by this paragraph, an applicant for a for-hire any contest the contents of a printed statement or a ed by the Criminal Justice Information System Central
	printed statement, an		To contest the contents of a printed statement or a revised tor a licensee shall contact the office of the Secretary nal Services, or the Secretary's designee.
32 33	Secretary's designee,	(iii) shall:	The Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
34 35		by the ap	1. convene a hearing within 20 workdays, unless oplicant or the licensee; and
36			2. render a decision within 5 workdays after the hearing.



- 11 **SENATE BILL 552** ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2002, AN INDIVIDUAL APPLYING FOR A 1 2 TAXICAB LICENSE OR RENEWAL OF A TAXICAB LICENSE, SHALL SUBMIT PROOF OF 3 HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A COURSE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION 4 THAT INCLUDES IN THE CURRICULUM: 5 **COURTEOUS TREATMENT OF PASSENGERS;** (I)GEOGRAPHY AND MAP READING FOR THE JURISDICTION IN 6 (II)WHICH THE TAXICAB SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED; AND 7 TOURIST INFORMATION FOR THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH 8 (III)TAXICAB SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED. 9 10 (D) (1)THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IN BALTIMORE CITY. 11 (2)BEFORE THE COMMISSION ISSUES A TAXICAB DRIVER'S LICENSE TO 12 AN INDIVIDUAL WHO FIRST APPLIES FOR THE LICENSE ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2001, 13 THE APPLICANT SHALL COMPLETE A COURSE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION THAT 14 INSTRUCTS THE APPLICANT IN COURTESY TO PASSENGERS, LOCAL GEOGRAPHY, AND 15 TOURIST INFORMATION FOR THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH THE APPLICANT SHALL 16 PROVIDE TAXICAB SERVICES. THE COURSE SHALL INCLUDE BOTH ACADEMIC 17 TEACHING AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE. 18 The Commission may deny an applicant a license or suspend or (E)19 revoke the license of a licensee if the applicant or licensee has been convicted of a 20 crime that bears a direct relationship to the applicant's or licensee's fitness to serve 21 the public as a for-hire driver. 22 10-112. 23 (A) THERE IS A FOR-HIRE DRIVING SERVICES ENFORCEMENT FUND. 24 THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 25 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE. THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR 26 (C) 27 THE COMMISSION TO ENFORCE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS TITLE AND TITLE 9. 28 SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE CONCERNING FOR-HIRE DRIVING SERVICES. 29 THE FUND CONSISTS OF ASSESSMENTS MADE ON APPLICATIONS FOR 30 FOR HIRE DRIVER'S LICENSES UNDER § 10 104 OF THIS SUBTITLE PERMITS FOR
- 31 VEHICLES REGULATED BY THE COMMISSION TO PROVIDE FOR-HIRE DRIVING
- 32 SERVICES IN THE STATE.
- 33 (2)THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH AN ASSESSMENT NOT
- 34 EXCEEDING \$40 TO BE PAID WITH EACH APPLICATION FOR A NEW OR RENEWED
- 35 FOR-HIRE DRIVER'S LICENSE UNDER THIS TITLE ANNUALLY WITH RESPECT TO EACH
- 36 VEHICLE PERMIT TO PROVIDE FOR-HIRE DRIVING SERVICES, EXCEPT FOR A LICENSE
- 37 VEHICLE PERMIT TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR:

1		(I)	LIMOUSINE SERVICE; OR
2	WORK SITE.	(II)	EMPLOYEE VAN TRANSPORTATION TO OR FROM A DESIGNATED
4	(3)	THE FU	ND MAY NOT EXCEED \$200,000 IN ANY FISCAL YEAR.
			O BE USED SOLELY FOR <u>STATEWIDE</u> ENFORCEMENT IISSION RELATING TO TAXICAB SERVICES AND SEDAN
8			SUBTITLE 3. PASSENGER FOR HIRE SERVICES.
9	10-301.		
10 11	A PROVIDER O BUSINESS:	F SEDA l	N SERVICES SHALL HAVE A REGULAR PLACE OF
12 13			A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE BUSINESS ACTIVITY OF ROUTINELY CONDUCTED;
14	(2)	THAT S	ATISFIES ALL APPLICABLE LOCAL ZONING REQUIREMENTS;
15 16	(3) PROVIDER TO MA		IOUSES ALL RECORDS THAT THIS TITLE REQUIRES THE AND
17 18	(4) NAME OF THE PRO		S EQUIPPED WITH A WORKING TELEPHONE LISTED IN THE
19	10 302.		
	()	ED BAS	F SEDAN SERVICES MAY PROVIDE THOSE SERVICES ONLY IS AND STARTING AT LEAST 30 MINUTES AFTER THE IS MADE.
25	VEHICLE A TRIP S	HEET O	TIDER OF SEDAN SERVICES SHALL CARRY IN EACH MOTOR R CONTRACT ORDER THAT IDENTIFIES THE NAME AND PASSENGERS WHO HAVE ARRANGED FOR THE USE OF THE EAPPROXIMATE TIME OF PICKUP.
27	(2)	THE TR	IP SHEET OR CONTRACT ORDER SHALL BE:
		FHORIZ	MADE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY ON REQUEST TO THE ED LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, AND AIRPORT
31 32	BUSINESS FOR AT	(II) LEAST	MAINTAINED AT THE PROVIDER'S REGULAR PLACE OF 3 YEARS.
33	(3)	THE TR	IP SHEET OR CONTRACT ORDER MAY BE RETAINED:

1	(I) AS A PAPER RECORD;				
2	(II) BY MICROFILM, MICROFICHE, OR SIMILAR MICROPHOTOGRAPHIC PROCESS; OR				
4	(III) IN ELECTRONIC FORM.				
7 8 9	(C) THE FACT THAT A PROVIDER OF SEDAN SERVICES STATIONS A MOTOR VEHICLE AT AN AIRPORT, IN FRONT OF OR ACROSS FROM A HOTEL OR MOTEL, OR WITHIN 100 FEET OF A RECOGNIZED TAXI STAND IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE PROVIDER IS OPERATING IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE PROVIDER HAS A COMPLETED TRIP SHEET OR CONTRACT ORDER THAT RELATES TO THE PRESENCE OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE IN THAT LOCATION AT THAT TIME.				
11	10-501. <u>10-401.</u>				
	(a) A person may not transport, solicit for transport, or agree to transport any person or baggage in a motor vehicle for hire unless the operator of the motor vehicle is licensed by the Commission.				
	(b) A person who owns or is in charge of a motor vehicle may not allow the motor vehicle to be used in violation of this section, § 10-109, {or § 10-209} § 10-209, OR § 10-302 of this title.				
18	10 502. <u>10-402.</u>				
19 20	(a) A person may not operate a vehicle that provides passenger-for-hire services in the State:				
21 22	(1) unless the person is licensed as a passenger-for-hire driver by the Commission; OR				
23 24	(2) IN VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE OR TITLE 9, SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE.				
25 26	(b) A person may not operate a vehicle that provides taxicab services in the State:				
27 28	(1) unless the person is licensed as a taxicab driver by the Commission or a county or municipal corporation; OR				
29 30	(2) THAT IS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COMMISSION, IN VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE.				
	(c) Subject to the hearing provisions of § 3-102(c) of this article, the Commission may impose on a person who violates this section a civil penalty not exceeding \$500 for each violation.				

- 1 [13-206.
- 2 An individual who is convicted of violating <u>VIOLATES</u> a provision of this article
- 3 concerning taxicabs FOR-HIRE DRIVING SERVICES is GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR
- 4 AND ON CONVICTION IS subject to a fine not exceeding \$50 for a first offense and not
- 5 exceeding \$100 for each additional or subsequent offense.}
- 6 [13 207.] 13 206.
- 7 A contract, assignment, or transfer in violation of this article is void.
- 8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the For-Hire Driving
- 9 Services Enforcement Fund established under § 10-112 of the Public Utility
- 10 Companies Article, as enacted by this Act, shall be used to fund enforcement staff
- 11 positions, equipment, and related resources for statewide enforcement by the Public
- 12 Service Commission of the for-hire driving services provisions of the Public Utility
- 13 Companies Article under the jurisdiction of the Commission on and after the effective
- 14 date of this Act.
- 15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Public Service
- 16 Commission shall establish the initial assessment of with respect to for-hire driver's
- 17 license fees vehicle permits payable to the For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement
- 18 Fund under § 10-112 of the Public Utility Companies Article, as enacted by this Act,
- 19 at a level expected to generate \$200,000 per fiscal year an amount not exceeding \$40
- 20 for each vehicle permit, starting in fiscal year 2001.
- 21 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
- 22 October 1, 2000.