

General Section and Incumbents

Chapter	Item	Subsection	Summary	Explanation
46	1		Introduces definition for certificate of registration	Ties definition to section 46-451
46	1		Introduces definition for certification decal	Covers vehicles that work under permittees and registrants
46	1		Introduces definition for compensation	
46	1		Introduces definition for disability	Ties definition to section 17-2
46	1		Introduces definition for place of business	
46	1		Introduces definition for ridesharing	Distinguishes traditional ridesharing from new TNC services
46	1		Amends definition of pre-arranged	The new definition relies on a plain-meaning interpretation of pre-arranged instead of on an arbitrary time limit. This is more in line with national trends.
46	1		Changes definition of mobile dispatch	Now refers to mobile dispatch section in the ordinance
46	1		Creates a definition for customer service liaison	Clarifies that companies should maintain a contact to help solve customer complaints in conjunction with the City
46	2		Moves non-discrimination provision from the taxi section to the general section	Prohibits all vehicle for hire classes from discriminating
46	5	3	Removes "3 strike rule" for hearings	
46	6		Requires all VFH licensees to undergo a physical, a drug test, and a fingerprint-based background check	Applies vital public safety protections to all drivers
46	9		Adds requirement for VFH permittees to inform the City of all accidents and have their vehicles undergo a post-accident inspection	
46	9.1		Moves the passenger comfort and courtesy section to apply to all VFH classes	
46	9.2		Moves the vehicle condition section to apply to all VFH classes	

Chapter	Item	Subsection	Summary	Explanation
46	9.3		Requires drivers of all VFH classes to inspect his or her vehicle for lost items	
46	10		Adds language allowing 3rd parties to file complaints with ARA about VFH operators	Currently ARA can only accept complaints from passengers. This new language will allow ARA to follow up on complaints received from non-passengers who might also witness ordinance violations.
46	11		Data submission requirements for all VFH classes	
46	11	(d)	Allows a permittee or registrant to request a waiver to the data submissions requirements that are technologically unfeasible for them to report	
46	11.1		Requires that all VFH classes except pedicabs be equipped with a fire extinguisher	In line with federal safety requirements
46	11.2		Prohibits the use of electronic communication devices by a VFH operator when providing service	Helps improve customer service and decreases distracted driving
46	11.3		Prohibits salvage vehicles from being used as a VFH	
46	11.4		Allows the City of Houston to impound vehicles for ordinance violations	
46	11.6		Exempts wheelchair accessible vehicles from all vehicle age requirements pursuant to passing a vigorous 3rd party inspection	
46	14-15.6		Creates a section for a general VFH driver's license	
46	15.1	a(8)	Requires all drivers to demonstrate successful completion of a training course approved by the director	
46	20		Codifies existing 7th year taxi pilot program	
46	24		Modifies requirements for stool lights	

Chapter	Item	Subsection	Summary	Explanation
46	30	b	Allows taxis to charge a deposit or scheduling fee in the case of "no-show" passengers	
46	33		Requires that all taxis have an integrated credit card/GPS system	
46	35		Requires permittees to provide quarterly reports detailing the percentage of their taxicabs in operation	
46	37		Allows the use of an electronic inspection form	
46	61		Removes the requirement that all shareholders with more than 10% interest in a company submit themselves for a fingerprint background check	
46	191	d	Changes manufacturer's rated passenger capacity to passenger capacity	Allows the use of Mercedes sprinter vans as limousines
46	191		Creates a definition for passenger vans	
46	204	a(5)	Requires a charter/sightseeing/limousine company to have a place of business in the metropolitan area	
46	216		A permit for a sightseeing/charter/limousine company may not be transferred	
46	236	a(3)	Removes the 4 vehicle requirement for limo fleets	
46	237	b	Allows limousines to operate for an extra year pursuant to passing a rigorous 3rd party inspection	
46	238		Increases insurance requirement for limos	Requested by the industry
46	239	c	Limits the consecutive number of hours a licensee shall work	
46	241		Allows ads inside of limousines	
46	243		Eliminates the minimum limousine fare	Little rational basis to maintain a minimum limousine fare. Most other jurisdictions do not have a minimum fare

Chapter	Item	Subsection	Summary	Explanation
46	287	5	Requires school vehicle companies to have a place of business in the metropolitan area	
46	331		Requires jitney companies to have a place of business in the metropolitan area	
46	338		Increases insurance requirement for jitneys	
46	353		Allows jitneys to operate for an extra year pursuant to passing a rigorous 3rd party inspection	
46	398		Increases insurance requirement for low speed shuttles	
46	423	(d)(2)(b)	Removes references to doors for low speed shuttles	