

**Chapter 185
TAXICABS**

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[**HISTORY: Adopted by the Hoard of Selectmen of the Town of Peterborough 8-3-98~; amended in its entirety by the Annual Town Meeting 3-9-1993. Subsequent amendments noted where applicable.**]

GENERAL REFRENCES

Vehicles and traffic - See Ch. 193.

§ 185-1. License required.

No person or persons shall operate on any public way in the Town of Peterborough a taxicab for the purposes of picking up passengers for hire unless a license is first obtained from the Chief of Police,

§ 185-2. Definition.

- A. Taxicab shall mean a vehicle for hire, having a manufacturer's rated capacity of not more than seven (7) passengers, that uses the streets of the Town for the purpose of carrying passengers for hire to or from points chosen or designated by the passenger under circumstances where the passenger does not control the operation of the vehicle or the route or routes taken, A taxicab shall mean a vehicle which is offered to the public principally as a means of Transportation as opposed to a mixed use having social or recreational connotations as in the case of a limousine.
- B. It shall not include a vehicle licensed by another jurisdiction as a taxicab that sporadically enters the Town of Peterborough.

§ 185-3. Applications and License.

- A. Applications for a license shall be made upon forms provided by the Chief of Police and a record of such licenses shall be kept by the Police Department. All information required by the Chief of Police shall be completely furnished by the applicant.
- B. The Chief of Police may in his or her reasonable discretion, grant a license permitting taxicabs to be operated within the Town of Peterborough upon such reasonable terms and conditions as he or she may determine to be appropriate. In determining whether or not to grant a license, the Chief of Police shall investigate whether the taxicab proposed to be operated is reasonably safe and suitable for its intended use, and that its proposed operation will be conducted in a reasonable manner for the convenience of the public. The Chief of Police may rely upon State mandated vehicle inspections as evidence of the reasonable safety of said vehicles, but this shall not restrict any reasonable periodic inspections.
- C. All licenses issued under this inspection shall expire on the first day of July next following their date of issuance. The fee for each vehicle licensed hereunder shall be Twenty-five dollars (\$25 .00) and shall be paid to the Town of Peterborough and delivered to the Police Department at the time the license is issued. Such license shall not be sold, assigned, or transferred or it shall be void,
- D. Every license granted hereunder shall apply only to the particular vehicle designated therein by its vehicle identification number and New Hampshire registration number or otherwise made certain,

§ 185-4. Insurance.

- A. It shall be unlawful to operate a taxicab or permit the same to be operated until and unless the applicant for license deposits with the Police Department a certificate of liability insurance for each vehicle for which a License is sought.
- B. Said certificate of liability insurance shall pertain to insurance issued by a company authorized to do

business in the State of New Hampshire, in coverage amounts deemed reasonable by the Chief of Police and Town Attorney.

- C. The policy of insurance shall contain a clause obligating the company issuing the same to give ten (10) days written notice to the Chief of Police before cancellation.
- D. The license for the operation of such conveyance shall automatically expire upon the lapse or termination of said insurance, The Town of Peterborough shall be listed as the certificate holder.

§ 185-5. Schedule of Rates.

Every owner of a licensed taxicab shall prepare and file with the Police Department a complete and detailed schedule of rates and services plainly setting forth the fare to be charged for the use of a Taxicab and the hours of operation during which service will be available, and cause a copy of the schedule to be displayed in all of its licensed taxicabs in such a place as to be in plain view of all passengers.

§ 185-6. Equipment.

Every vehicle licensed under this section shall be equipped with safety belts, pass the State inspection requirements for motor vehicles, and shall be kept in a clean and safe condition.

§ 185-7. Taxicab Ownership and Operation.

- A. The entire responsibility and liability for a conveyance operator's behavior, actions, and proper licensing shall rest with such individual licensee by whom any such operators are employed. At the time of issuance or re-issuance of each conveyance license, the licensee shall provide to the Chief of Police a complete listing of the name, address, and age of all conveyance operators currently employed by them. Such information regarding such operators shall be furnished to the Chief of Police on a continuously updated basis as new operators are hired. Each operator shall have prominently displayed in the taxicab they are driving a 3" x 5', enlargement of their current driver's license with a readily identifiable photograph and legible driver's license information.
- B. All operators shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age and shall be able to read, write and speak the English language. The licensee shall verify that any and all operators employed by him or her shall at all times hold a valid and proper license issued by the State of New Hampshire, Director of Motor Vehicles, and that such operator is physically, mentally, and morally qualified to operate a taxicab. All operators of said taxicab shall be approved by the Chief of Police and be deemed free from a motor vehicle record which shows violations of an unsafe nature or a criminal record that would deem him/her unfit for said position.
- C. The suspension or revocation of any operator's license by the New Hampshire Director of Motor Vehicles shall automatically disqualify such operator from further operations. The licensee shall see to the immediate suspension of said operator. Any such operator shall not operate a vehicle in the Town of Peterborough until the New Hampshire Director of Motor Vehicles has restored the license issued by his or her office and the licensee notifies the Chief of Police in writing of his or her intent to return said operator to conveyance operations.

§ 185-8. Record Keeping.

Each duly licensed taxicab company shall be required to keep a log detailing at the minimum, on a daily basis, the time and place of each pickup, the item and place of each discharge and the fare charged therefore. The log shall be maintained in order by date at the principal place of business of each duly licensed taxicab company for the current calendar year and for the calendar year immediately preceding the current calendar year and shall be made available, upon request, for review by any law enforcement agency.

§ 185-9. Suspension.

- A. Any license may be suspended, revoked, or modified by the Chief of Police in the event of a violation of a condition of its issuance or in the event of a violation of this ordinance. In any cases where suspension, revocation, or modification of a license is being considered, said action shall not be affected unless and until the Chief of Police shall have conducted a hearing at which the holder of said license shall have the opportunity to be present, to give evidence and give witnesses and arguments and otherwise present his or her position with respect to the action after due notice thereof, and to hear the evidence supporting said action, unless he or she fails to appear for said hearing.
- B. Any holder of a license pursuant hereto aggrieved by a decision of the Chief of Police under this section

may petition the Board of Selectmen for review.

§ 185-10. Violations and Penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a violation. Each day a taxicab is operated on the public ways of Peterborough without a License shall constitute a separate offense.