

Sec. 376.15. - Taxicab driver's license.

- (a) *License required.* Effective March 15, 1991, no person may drive a taxicab, nor may any owner or lessee of a taxicab allow any other person to drive a taxicab, within the city unless that person has first obtained and displayed a taxicab driver's license under the provisions of this Code.
- (b) *Drivers from other cities.* Any driver licensed to operate a taxicab in another city may carry passengers from that city to any place within the city and may freely enter and travel upon the streets for that purpose. In that case, it will not be deemed necessary for the taxicab driver to obtain a city license, but the driver will not be permitted to accept or offer any passenger for hire in the city, or otherwise operate a taxicab within the city without first obtaining a license under the provisions of this Code. While within the city, the taxicab driver must observe all of the applicable regulations and conditions of this section and must have in possession and display to any person upon demand the license certificate for the taxicab.
- (c) *License application.* Every applicant for a taxicab driver's license must file an application with the department of safety and inspections. The application must be made on a form provided by said division, containing such information as the license inspector may require, including, but not limited to, a complete employment history, to verify that the terms and conditions of this chapter have been met. The application must be signed and sworn to by the applicant. Prior to the issuance of the license, every licensee must be photographed. The chief of police or his representative will investigate each applicant and will forward the results of the application to the license inspector. Any false statement on the application is grounds for denial, refusal to renew or revocation of a license.
- (d) *License fee.* The fee required for a license will be established by ordinance as specified in section 310.09(b) of the Legislative Code.
- (e) *Prerequisites to license.* Eligibility to be licensed to operate a taxicab is as follows:
 - (1) Possess a valid Minnesota or Wisconsin driver's license;
 - (2) Be at least eighteen (18) years old;
 - (3) Not be under sentence or have been discharged from sentence for a felony conviction within the ten (10) years immediately preceding application for a license for the following offenses: Murder (Minn. Stat. §§ 609.185 to 609.195), manslaughter (§§ 609.20 to 609.205), criminal vehicular homicide and injury (§ 609.21), assault I-III (§§ 609.221 to 609.223), criminal sexual conduct (§§ 609.342 to 609.3451), indecent conduct (§ 617.23, subd. 2 or 3); or any violation of the controlled substance law (§ 152 et al) which is punishable by a maximum sentence of fifteen (15) years or more; as allowed under Minn. Stat. § 364.09.
 - a. Not be under sentence or have been discharged from sentence for any felony conviction within the five (5) years immediately preceding application for a license, or under sentence or have been discharged from sentence for any non-traffic gross misdemeanor or non-traffic misdemeanor conviction within the three (3) years immediately preceding application for a license.
 - b. The license inspector may grant, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 364.03, an exception to paragraph a. upon evidence that either the offense is not related to the occupation of taxicab driver, or upon evidence of rehabilitation.
 - c. A person holding a license on the effective date of this section (July 14, 2006) will be disqualified from license renewal only for convictions that occur after the effective date of this section. However, no licensee will be eligible for renewal if the licensee has any felony convictions in the five (5) years preceding renewal; or any nontraffic gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor convictions in the three (3) years preceding renewal involving the use or threat of use of force, possession or sale of a controlled substance, prostitution or indecent conduct.
 - (4) Must have a driving record meeting the following standards:

- a. No convictions in the last ten (10) years for any of the following offenses involving injury or death; no conviction in the last three (3) years for any of the following offenses not involving injury or death:
 - 1. Leaving the scene of an accident under Minn. Stat. 609.21, or 169.09, or similar law of another state or Minnesota law as amended;
 - 2. Driving while impaired under Minn. Stat. § 169A.20, subd. 1, or similar law of another state or Minnesota law as amended.
 - 3. Misdemeanor Reckless or Careless Driving under Minn. Stat. § 169.13, or similar law of another state.
 - 4. Refusal to submit to a chemical test under Minn. Stat. § 169A.20, subd. 2.
 - 5. A person holding a license on the effective date of this section (July 14, 2006) will be disqualified from license renewal only for convictions that occur after the effective date of this section. However, no licensee will be eligible for renewal if the licensee has any convictions for the above-listed offenses in the five (5) years preceding renewal or in the three (3) years preceding renewal if the offense did not involve injury or death.
 - b. No prior license revocation within one year immediately preceding application as defined in Minn. Stat. § 169A.03, subd 21.
 - c. For original licensure: No more than four (4) moving violations within the last three (3) years, and no more than two (2) moving violations in the last year. For renewal: No more than four (4) moving violations within the last three (3) years and no more than three (3) moving violations in the last year. A moving violation means, for this subsection, a violation of a traffic regulation but does not include a parking violation, vehicle equipment violation, or warning citation.
 - d. Every new applicant must have at least one (1) year's driving experience as a licensed driver.
 - e. An applicant who has had a driver's license outside the state of Minnesota at any time during the ten (10) years prior to application must submit a copy of that applicant's driving record from that state.
 - f. Upon submission of proof of suitability and evidence of insurability, the license inspector may waive one (1) or more of the requirements listed above; provided, that any such waiver will indicate the grounds for the inspector's decision and must be approved by the director of the department of safety and inspections.
- (5) Have a demonstrated knowledge of the provisions of the taxicab ordinance relating to the conduct of taxicab drivers and the operation of a taxicab.
 - (6) Failure to apply for renewal of any taxicab operator's license within thirty (30) days after expiration will be deemed an abandonment of the licensee's right to such renewal.
 - (7) For any driver seeking original licensure, or any driver whose taxi license has lapsed for more than one (1) year if the driver never completed the taxicab driver training course, or whose taxi license has lapsed for more than two (2) years if the driver previously completed the taxicab driver training course, or as deemed necessary by the license inspector: must have successfully completed the taxicab driver training course as set forth in section 376.17.
- (f) *Duty to exhibit license.* Effective March 15, 1991, every taxicab driver while on duty must display the front of his or her taxicab driver's license on the dashboard of the vehicle in a location readily visible to passengers, which license displays the driver's photograph and license number on the front in a manner approved by the license inspector. In addition to any other penalties, a deputy inspector or police officer may order the licensee to discontinue operations until such time as the licensee has a license in possession.

- (g) *Issuance of license.* Each taxicab driver's license must have upon it a number by which the license will be designated, a photograph of the licensee, and such other information as the license inspector may require. The license inspector may issue licenses for a term of less than one (1) year for a prorated initial fee in order to evenly distribute license expiration dates throughout the year.
- (h) *Requirement of valid Minnesota or Wisconsin driver's license.* Any time that a licensee's Minnesota or Wisconsin driver's license is suspended, revoked or canceled, his or her taxicab driver's license will likewise be immediately suspended, revoked or canceled. No person may operate a taxicab without a valid Minnesota or Wisconsin driver's license.
- (i) *Renewals.* A taxicab driver's license will be issued annually. The license inspector may cause the renewal of a taxicab driver's license from year to year by appropriate endorsement upon the application for renewal and payment of an annual fee as set forth in Saint Paul Legislative Code section 310.18. The driver must make such renewal application upon a form to be furnished by the department of safety and inspections. The renewal form must be filled out with the full name and address of the applicant, together with the date and number of the original license. If a driver has not been licensed in the previous license year, he or she will be considered a new applicant.
- (j) *Suspension, revocation and nonrenewal.* A taxicab driver's license may be revoked, suspended or not renewed by the license inspector at any time for cause pursuant to the provisions of this chapter and chapter 310 of the Legislative Code. When a taxicab driver's license has been revoked or suspended, it must immediately be returned to the department of safety and inspections. If the city council stipulates that a licensee whose taxicab driver's license has been revoked may reapply after a specific period of time has elapsed, that period of time will not commence until the taxicab driver's license has been returned to the department of safety and inspections.
- (k) *Revocation of state driver's license; limited licenses; impaired driving conviction.*
 - (1) Any person holding a taxicab driver's license whose Minnesota or Wisconsin driver's license is suspended, canceled or revoked for any reason must immediately surrender his or her taxicab driver's license to the department of safety and inspections. The taxicab driver's license will be returned to the licensee upon reinstatement of the Minnesota or Wisconsin driver's license or issuance of a limited license authorizing operation of a taxicab; provided, however, that suspension, cancellation or revocation of a Minnesota or Wisconsin driver's license due to refusal to submit to a legally required blood alcohol test under the state implied consent statute is grounds for the revocation, non-issuance or nonrenewal of the taxicab driver's license.
 - (2) Any licensed taxicab driver whose Minnesota or Wisconsin driver's license has been revoked and who has been issued a limited license authorizing the operation of a taxicab must immediately notify the department of safety and inspections of the same. At that time, the licensee must furnish to the license inspector a copy of the limited license and a written statement containing a schedule of the days and hours of each day during which he or she will be driving a taxicab during the term of the limited license. No deviation from the schedule will be permitted. In addition, the licensee must personally furnish to the license inspector copies of all trip sheets for all shifts worked during the term of the limited license.
 - (3) Any person holding a taxicab driver's license must notify the department of safety and inspections immediately whenever he or she is convicted of an impaired driving offense.
 - (4) Refusal to take and/or failure to pass a chemical test administered pursuant to 169A.51 while on duty is grounds for revocation of a taxicab driver's license.
 - (5) Failure to comply with the provisions of this section is grounds for revocation of a taxicab driver's license.
- (l) *Notification of change of address.* Any person holding a taxicab driver's license, must notify the department of safety and inspections immediately whenever he or she has a change of address.

(Ord No. 17767, § 1, 9-18-90; C.F. No. 94-199, § 16, 3-23-94; C.F. No. 96-486, §§ 2—4, 6-26-96; C.F. No. 97-870, § 1, 8-13-97; C.F. No. 99-231, § 1, 5-12-99; C.F. No. 00-574, § 1, 7-12-00;

C.F. No. 03-123, § 1, 3-5-03; C.F. No. 04-187, § 1, 3-3-04; C.F. No. 05-823, § 1, 9-28-05; C.F. No. 06-461, § 1, 6-14-06; C.F. No. 07-149, § 127, 3-28-07; Ord No. 11-50, § 1, 6-8-11; Ord 12-72, § 1, 1-23-13; Ord 13-9, § 1, 2-27-13; Ord 16-16, § 1, 7-27-16)

Editor's note— Former § 376.16. See editor's note § 376.10.