



February 7, 2025

City of Chicago
Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection
Seeks comments on

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
CITY OF CHICAGO**

PUBLIC CHAUFFEUR RULES

Pursuant to Chapters 2-25 and 9-104 of the Municipal Code of Chicago, notice is hereby given of proposed amendments to the Public Chauffeur Rules. Copies of the proposed amendments are available online at the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) Public Vehicles webpage: Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles.

Comments must be submitted in the form posted on the BACP webpage: Chicago.gov/PublicVehicles before 6:00 PM (CT) on February 25, 2025.

The Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection proposes to amend the Public Chauffeur Rules by deleting the language struck through and by inserting the language underscored, as follows:

PUBLIC CHAUFFEUR RULES

SECTION 1. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

RULE CH1.02 Training Course and Written Exam Requirements

Except as provided in RULES CH1.03 and CH1.04, a new applicant for a public chauffeur license must complete a training course and pass the required written examination, as follows:

- a. A new taxi chauffeur license applicant must complete the taxi chauffeur training course and successfully pass the examination.
- b. A new restricted chauffeur license applicant must complete the restricted chauffeur training course and successfully pass the examination.
- c. Applicants are responsible for the payment of costs associated with required licensing training courses and exams. ~~Eligible applicants may qualify for the Taxi Chauffeur Rebate Program described in Section 10 of these rules.~~
- d. All training class certificates expire after six (6) months.

RULE CH1.03 Exemption to Taxi Chauffeur Training Course

- a. A new applicant may be eligible for a taxi chauffeur license without completing the applicable training course if the applicant meets all of the following conditions at the time of exemption request:
 1. Applicant has possessed a valid driver's license for at least five (5) years, which has not at any time been suspended, ~~or~~ revoked, excluding suspensions due to failure to comply with child support obligations, debt payment obligations, or insurance reporting obligations;
 2. Applicant previously held a City of Chicago taxi chauffeur license for a minimum of three (3) years;

3. Applicant previously held a City of Chicago taxi chauffeur license which lapsed in good standing within the last three (3) years;
 4. Applicant passes written exam required in RULE CH1.02; and
 5. Taxi chauffeur applicant completes an approved accessibility course covering service to people with disabilities.
- b. Applicant must complete and submit an exemption request form prescribed by the Commissioner for approval.
 - c. Applicant must meet all other application criteria.

RULE CH1.04

Exemption to Taxi Chauffeur Training Course for Experienced Restricted Chauffeurs

- a. A new applicant for a taxi chauffeur license may be eligible for an exemption to the taxi chauffeur training course if the applicant currently possesses a restricted chauffeur license, which has been in good standing for at least two (2) years prior to the date of exemption request;
- b. Applicant passes taxi chauffeur written exam required in RULE CH1.02; ~~and~~
- c. Applicant completes an approved accessibility course covering service to people with disabilities; ~~and~~
- d. Applicant must complete and submit an exemption form prescribed by the Commissioner; ~~and~~

RULE CH1.05

Background Check Requirement

- a. New applicants for a public chauffeur license are subject to a fingerprint background check and a criminal history investigation. The fingerprint background check must be performed by a BACP-approved vendor and the results must be dated within six months of the date of application.
- b. Applicants are responsible for the payment of costs associated with fingerprint background checks and criminal history investigation. Eligible applicants may qualify for the Taxi Chauffeur Rebate Program described in Section 10 of these rules.
- c. Upon receipt of a complaint or an allegation, the Commissioner may request a public chauffeur licensee to immediately submit

to a new fingerprint background check and a criminal history investigation.

- d. Failure to submit to a background check when requested shall result in the immediate suspension or denial of the public chauffeur license.

RULE CH1.06

Driving History Review Requirement

- a. An applicant for new or renewal public chauffeur license must submit a certified copy of their state driving record as directed by the Department.
- b. Illinois driver license holders are required to submit abstract pages of his or her Illinois driving history, labeled "Court Purposes" and "Supervision." Out of state driver license holders are required to submit equivalent abstract driving history documents.
- c. Required driving history documents must be dated within sixty (60) days of the date of application.
- d. Applicants and licensees are responsible for payment of costs associated with obtaining copies of their driving history.
- e. An applicant issued a state driver's license with restrictions related to the times of day or areas where an applicant can drive is not eligible for a public chauffeur license.
- f. An applicant, new or renewal, must complete a safe and/or defensive driving course prescribed by the Commissioner if the applicant's state driving history records indicate that the applicant has been convicted, pled liable, found liable, or placed on supervision by any court or any administrative adjudication process for two violations of traffic regulations or laws governing the movement of vehicles, or any public chauffeur rule or regulation:
 - 1. For new license applicants, within a 12-month period preceding the date of application; or
 - 2. For renewal license applicants, within a 12-month timeframe during the applicant's last license term.

~~g. Acceptable safe and/or defensive driving courses: A course must be a minimum of four (4) hours of instruction to satisfy the requirement of sub-section f of this rule.~~

~~1. Only in-person courses will be accepted. On-line courses will not be accepted to satisfy the requirement in sub-section f of this rule.~~

~~2. A course must be a minimum of four hours of class room instruction to satisfy the requirement in sub-section f of this rule.~~

SECTION 2. CONVICTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

RULE CH2.01

An Applicant with Four or More Convictions wWithin 12 mMonths

In addition to the qualifications listed in MCC 9-104-050, at the discretion of the Commissioner and in the interest of public safety and welfare, an applicant may be denied renewal of the applicant's license if the applicant has within a 12-month time frame during the applicant's last license term acquired four (4) or more convictions, pleas of liability, and/or findings of liability for violations of any of the following: the Public Chauffeur Rules; the Municipal Code of Chicago sections concerning the operation of taxis and public passenger vehicles; rules related to the operation of taxis or public passenger vehicles, the Illinois motor vehicle code; or any other similar rules, laws, or regulations.

RULE CH2.02

Physical Examination Certification

- a. Pursuant to Chapter 9-104, the Commissioner, upon receiving a complaint, is authorized to require any licensee to be evaluated by an Illinois-licensed physician or mental health practitioner that the licensee has the capability to safely operate a public passenger vehicle.
- b. Licensee must follow the processes outlined in the issued notice for physical examination certification.
- c. Licensee must submit a physical exam certification on a form designated by the Commissioner.
- d. Licensee is responsible for the payment of costs associated with physical exams.

- e. Failure to submit to physical examination when requested shall result in the immediate suspension or denial of the public chauffeur license.
- f. If the physician or mental health practitioner does not certify that the licensee has the capability to safely operate a public passenger vehicle, the Commissioner shall immediately suspend the licensee's public chauffeur license. The licensee must be certified by a physician to have the capability to safely operate a public passenger vehicle before reinstating his or her public chauffeur license.

RULE CH2.03

Drug Testing

- a. Pursuant to Chapter 9-104, the Commissioner, upon receiving a complaint, is authorized to require any licensee to take a test, conducted by authorities approved by the commissioner, for the presence of cannabis or other illegal drug or inebriating substance in the body.
- b. Licensee must follow the processes outlined in the issued drug test authorization form.
- c. Licensee is responsible for the payment of costs associated with drug testing.
- d. Failure to submit to drug testing when requested shall result in the immediate suspension or denial of the public chauffeur license.
- e. If the licensee fails the drug test, the Commissioner shall immediately suspend or deny the licensee's public chauffeur license. The licensee must take and pass a subsequent drug test before reinstating his or her public chauffeur license.

RULE CH2.04

Rehabilitative Educational Course May Be Required

- a. The Department shall post on the Department Web page a list of approved rehabilitative educational courses (safe driving, defensive driving, attitudinal, professionalism, etc.).
- b. Upon receipt of a complaint or an allegation, the Commissioner or an adjudicative body may require a licensee to enroll and complete a rehabilitative educational course.
- c. If an applicant or licensee is required to take a rehabilitative educational course by agreement, court order, or Commissioner's directive, the applicant shall have up to sixty (60) days to complete such course. The commissioner is

authorized to allow extensions to complete the course if the course is not available within the first sixty (60) days.

- d. ~~Acceptable~~ Only BACP-approved rehabilitative educational courses ~~will be accepted.~~
 - 1. ~~Only in-person courses will be accepted. On-line courses will not be accepted.~~
 - 2. ~~A course must be a minimum of four hours of classroom instruction.~~
- e. Failure to complete the rehabilitative educational courses as directed shall result in the immediate suspension of the public chauffeur license.

SECTION 3. LICENSE RENEWALS AND LOST LICENSES

RULE CH3.01 License Expiration and Time for Renewal

A license shall terminate at 11:59 pm Central Time on the expiration date of the license. The license expiration date shall be listed on the Department issued chauffeur license card. A licensee may renew his or her license in good standing up to sixty (60) days prior to the listed expiration date. Expired licenses must be surrendered to BACP.

RULE CH3.04 Lost Public Chauffeur License Card

- a. Loss or theft of a public chauffeur license card shall be ~~reported~~ immediately reported to the Department and the licensee must also make a formal report with the Chicago Police Department.
- b. No duplicate public chauffeur license card will be issued to a licensee unless an affidavit detailing the circumstances surrounding the loss of the public chauffeur license card is completed and a copy of the police report are submitted to the Commissioner.
- c. ~~The fee to issue a duplicate public chauffeur license card is \$5.00.~~

SECTION 4. DUTY TO REPORT CURRENT INFORMATION

RULE CH4.01 Legal Residential Address

- a. Licensees and applicants must notify the Department of any change of legal residential address within thirty (30) days of such change, and such notice must be submitted on a form approved by the Commissioner with any requested or required supporting documentation.

- b. The legal residential address on file with the Department shall be a proper address for service of notice for any violations or any notices sent by the Department.
- c. A P.O. Box, virtual, rental or paid-for address shall not be accepted as legal residential address. ~~Mail box~~ Mailbox services shall not be accepted as legal residential addresses.

SECTION 5. PUBLIC CHAUFFEUR CONDUCT

RULE CH5.01 Discrimination is Prohibited

No chauffeur shall discriminate against a passenger or prospective passenger in violation of the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance. For more information, visit the Commission on Human Relations Web page (~~www.cityofchicago.org/humanrelations~~). (Chicago.gov/HumanRelations). The Human Rights Ordinance is Chapter 2-160 of the MCC and contains a list of protected classes.

A violation of this rule is considered an aggravated offense.

RULE CH5.04 Refusal of Service

- a. After engaged in communication, no taxi chauffeur shall refuse any person transportation ~~to any destination~~.
- b. No taxi chauffeur shall ask a ~~passenger~~ person his or her destination on the public way prior to the passenger entering the vehicle and being seated in the vehicle.

RULE CH5.08 Professionalism and Vehicle Operation

All public chauffeur licensees when in possession of or operating a taxicab licensed pursuant to MCC 9-112 or public passenger vehicle licensed pursuant to MCC 9-114 must:

- a. Maintain a professional demeanor and appearance at all times.
- b. Not insult, use verbal or non-verbal profane language, or racial slurs around any person.
- c. Not assault, physically attack, or harm any person. A violation of this section c of this rule is considered an aggravated offense.
- d. Operate a taxicab or public passenger vehicle in a safe and lawful manner at all times. Conduct constituting a violation of this rule includes, but is not limited to, operating a taxicab or

public passenger vehicle in such a manner as to constitute a violation of any provision of Articles 2 through 12 of the Rules of the Road of the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/11-100 et seq.) or any other similar local and state laws. A taxicab or public passenger vehicle pick up or drop off of a passenger in the following locations is considered unsafe operation of a taxicab or public passenger vehicle in violation of this subsection:

- i. on Lake Shore Drive;
 - ii. in designated bus stops;
 - iii. in zones marked with signs indicating “no loading,” “no stopping,” or “no standing”;
 - iv. delineated pedestrian cross-walks;
 - v. bike lanes; and
 - vi. Upon any bridge, except those located on North Stockton Drive between North Avenue and Diversey Parkway
- e. Not, with a passenger in the taxicab or public passenger vehicle, use a mobile telephone, computer, notepad, or any other electronic device, whether or not hands-free, while operating such taxicab or public passenger vehicle; unless, the use of the hands-free electronic device is essential to servicing passengers (i.e. GPS navigational technology or dispatching equipment) and the use of the hands-free device does not result in distracted driving.
- f. Not, while under influence of alcohol, a controlled substance, cannabis, or any similar substance, operate a taxicab or public passenger vehicle, or consume or possess any alcohol, controlled substance, cannabis, or any similar substance. A violation of this section f of this rule is considered an aggravated offense and allows for the chauffeur license card to be immediately confiscated by authorized personnel.
- g. In the event of an accident, chauffeur must tender proof of insurance to the other party involved in the accident, authorized personnel, or law enforcement.

RULE CH5.09

Confiscation of Public Chauffeur License

- a. Authorized Personnel may confiscate a chauffeur license card when:
 1. The chauffeur license or driver’s license is expired, suspended, rescinded, canceled or revoked; or
 2. As part of an investigation, including but not limited to possible fraud or forgery of the chauffeur license card.
- b. Upon notice of any suspension, ~~or~~ revocation, or any otherwise invalidation of his or her public chauffeur license or state

issued driver's license, the public chauffeur must tender the public chauffeur license card to the Department. The public chauffeur must immediately tender the public chauffeur license card to the Department during normal operating hours.

RULE CH5.10 Display of Public Chauffeur License

- a. A public chauffeur must conspicuously display ~~in an approved display holder~~ his or her public chauffeur license card so that the chauffeur's name, license number, and photograph are clearly visible when the public passenger vehicle is in operation or when there is a passenger in the public passenger vehicle.
- b. Only the public chauffeur license of the lessee driver may be on display.

RULE CH5.15 Submission of Fraudulent Documents, Forms, or Statements

Any person who submits fraudulent documents, forms, or statements with the intent to be issued a license will be denied a license, new or renewed. Any license issued based on the submission of fraudulent documents, forms, or statements shall be rescinded or revoked in addition to any other fines or penalties.

A violation of this rule is considered an aggravated offense.

SECTION 6. VEHICLES AND VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

RULE CH6.03 Taxicab Fares

- a. Taxi chauffeurs must always activate the taximeter whenever the taxicab is engaged for hire.
- b. Unless otherwise provided in the MCC, no taxi chauffeur shall demand, charge, or collect any fare which exceeds any rate established by City ordinance. In addition to any other penalties, a taxi chauffeur demanding, charging, or collecting a fare other than the rates established by City ordinance will be required to refund the full amount collected.
- c. All tips are at the discretion of passengers and no taxi chauffeur shall ever demand or request a tip.
- d. No taxi chauffeur shall request prepayment of the taxi fare.

A violation of this rule is considered an aggravated offense.

RULE CH6.04

Payment of Taxicab Fares.

- a. Taxi chauffeurs ~~are required to~~ must accept cash and readily accepted forms of electronic payment, including major credit and debit cards, for cab fare payment without exception ~~processed on equipment approved by the Department.~~
- b. A credit card must be accepted as follows:
 1. No minimum charge may be imposed for the use of an electronic form of cab fare payment;
 2. Service may not be refused to any person desiring to use an electronic form of payment described in section (a) of this rule; ~~and~~
 3. Electronic payments ~~may only~~ must be processed on the Department-approved, rear-mounted credit card processing equipment unless this equipment is not operational. If the Department-approved credit card processing equipment is not operational, the taxi fare payment must be called into the applicable affiliation or contracted electronic payment processing company for processing. ~~A taxi chauffeur processing electronic taxicab fare on unauthorized equipment is subject to license suspension or revocation and may be required to refund the taxicab fare processed on unauthorized equipment.~~
 4. A taxi chauffeur who processes electronic fare payment by means other than those set out in Rule CH6.04(b)(3) is subject to license suspension or revocation and shall be required to refund the full taxicab fare.
- c. Public chauffeur licensees shall safeguard all financial information and must not store, keep, or personally retain any passenger's personal and financial information.

A violation of this rule is considered an aggravated offense.

RULE CH6.07

Required Signage Inside and Outside Taxicabs

- a. Taxi chauffeurs shall exercise due diligence ensuring that mandated signage, decals, and bumper stickers are affixed inside and outside the taxicab as required when driving the taxicab with passengers.
- b. If a taxi chauffeur is charged with a violation of this rule for failing to operate a taxicab with Department required signage,

the taxi chauffeur may present a defense to the charge by establishing that the violation was corrected within ~~two business days~~ thirty-six (36) hours.

RULE CH6.08 Required Vehicle Lights Must be Operational

- a. Public chauffeur licensees shall exercise due diligence ensuring that mandated vehicle lights (top light, headlights, taillights, brake lights, etc.) are operational and lit as required while driving the taxicab or public passenger vehicle.
- b. If a public chauffeur licensee is charged with a violation of this rule for failing to operate a taxicab or public passenger vehicle with required operational vehicle lights, the licensee may present a defense to the charge by establishing that the violation was corrected within ~~two business days~~ thirty-six (36) hours.

SECTION 7. TAXICAB TWO-WAY DISPATCH TECHNOLOGY

RULE CH7.01 Two-Way Dispatch Equipment and E-Hail Dispatch Apps
Taxi licensees and taxi chauffeurs are required to participate in and accept payment through E-Hail Dispatch Apps approved by the City of Chicago Consolidated Taxicab Dispatch (E-Hail) Program pursuant to MCC §9-112-565.

The Department shall publish and post compliance requirements for taxi chauffeurs to follow, participate, and support the City of Chicago Consolidated Taxicab Dispatch (E-Hail) Program at the Department Web page.

SECTION 8. OPERATIONS AT AIRPORTS

RULE CH8.02 Airport “Short Trip”

“Short Trip” means a passenger’s destination is within the following boundaries or suburbs for a trip originating at the specified airport:

Taxi Trips from O’Hare International Airport

1. The boundaries within the City of Chicago are as follows:
 - a. On the South: Irving Park Road;
 - b. On the East: Nagle St. /Narragansett St.;
 - c. On the North: Howard St.; and
 - d. On the West: ~~€~~The City Limits.
2. The following suburbs are within the O’Hare International Airport Short Trip boundaries:

- a. Bensenville
- b. Des Plaines
- c. Elk Grove Village
- d. Franklin Park
- e. Harwood Heights
- f. Niles
- g. Norridge
- h. Park Ridge
- i. Schiller Park
- j. Rosemont

Taxi Trips from Midway International Airport

- 1. On the South: 103rd Street;
- 2. On the East: Loomis Street;
- 3. On the North: Cermak Road; and
- 4. On the West: Harlem Avenue.

RULE CH8.04 Airport Taxi Shared Ride

As referenced in MCC 9-112-560 (f), airport taxi “Shared Rides” are flat taxi shared rides that allow two or more independent travelers to choose to share a taxi from a designated airport cab stand for a flat rate per person. Authorized Personnel have complete authority to make final decisions pertaining to the loading of Shared Ride passengers at the airports. Taxi chauffeurs must follow the instructions from ~~of~~ Authorized Personnel at all times.

SECTION 10. TAXI CHAUFFEUR REBATE PROGRAM RESERVED

~~RULE CH10.01 Pursuant to MCC 9-104-100, taxi chauffeur license applicants and taxi chauffeur licensees may be eligible for the following rebates:~~

- ~~a. Taxi chauffeur license applicants may be eligible for a one-time reimbursement of authorized taxi chauffeur training course tuition in excess of \$50.00 associated with the issuance of a taxi chauffeur license, if that course has been approved by BACP.~~
- ~~b. Taxi chauffeur license applicants may be eligible for a one-time reimbursement of up to \$50.00 of the total cost of the required fingerprinting background check associated with the issuance of a taxi chauffeur license.~~

~~RULE CH10.02 Authorized Taxi Chauffeur Training Course Associated with Rebate Program~~

~~Only tuition costs incurred through Department-approved taxi chauffeur training courses offered by the City Colleges of Chicago or a~~

~~not-for-profit institution accredited by the State of Illinois Board of Education qualify for the taxi chauffeur tuition rebate.~~

~~RULE CH10.03~~ — ~~Minimum Eligibility Requirements for All Rebate Program Applicants~~

~~a. — Applicant must be an actual City of Chicago resident, living physically within the geographical boundaries of the City of Chicago at the time of application and issuance of rebate funds;~~

~~Verification of applicant's legal residential address within the City of Chicago may be established by one of the following documents:~~

- ~~1. — two most recent cancelled monthly rent checks;~~
- ~~2. — two most recent monthly mortgage statements;~~
- ~~3. — two most recent monthly utility bills;~~
- ~~4. — two most recent post-secondary educational loan statements; or~~
- ~~5. — current Illinois voter registration card.~~

~~b. — Applicant must possess a valid Illinois driver's license in good standing;~~

~~c. — Applicant must have zero convictions for moving violations on his or her state driving history record for at least one year preceding application;~~

~~d. — Applicant must have no record of a prior DUI conviction;~~

~~e. — Applicant must have no record of a criminal conviction within the immediately preceding two-year period; and~~

~~f. — Applicant must not have a domestic order of protection entered against him or her within the two-year period immediately preceding application.~~

~~RULE CH10.04~~ — ~~Additional Eligibility Requirements for the Tuition and Fingerprinting and Background Check Rebate Program for New Taxi Chauffeur Licensee Applicants~~

~~a. — Applicant must possess a valid Illinois driver's license in good standing for two consecutive years preceding date of application for rebate program funds;~~

~~b. — Applicant must meet all requirements for a taxi chauffeur license and must receive a Department-issued taxi chauffeur license; and~~

~~c. — At time of application for the rebate program funds, applicant must present a current, executed taxicab lease agreement.~~

RULE CH10.06 — Applying for Rebate Funds

- a. — Eligible taxi chauffeur license applicants may apply for the reimbursement of taxi chauffeur training course tuition in excess of \$50.00 associated with the issuance of a taxi chauffeur license on forms prescribed by the Commissioner. The applicant must submit all documentation requested on the forms. The applicant must apply for the rebate within 60 days of being issued the taxi chauffeur license.
- b. — Eligible taxi chauffeur license applicants may apply for reimbursement of up to \$50.00 of the total cost of the fingerprinting and background check associated with the issuance of a taxi chauffeur license on forms prescribed by the Commissioner. The applicant must submit documentation requested on the forms. The applicant must apply for the rebate within 60 days of being issued a taxi chauffeur license.

RULE CH10.07 — Submission of Fraudulent Documents, Forms, or Statements

Any person who submits fraudulent documents, forms, or statements with the intent to receive rebate program funds will be denied a license, new or renewal, and will be required to reimburse the City funds received based on fraudulent representations.

A violation of this rule is considered an aggravated offense.

SECTION 11. PENALTIES

RULE CH11.01 Definitions

For the purpose of this section:

- a. “Repeated Offense” means a second or subsequent conviction, plea of liability, or finding of liability of **any** Department rule or regulation within a ~~twelve (12)~~ twenty-four (24) month period; This does not preclude the admission of prior violations in aggravation.
- b. “Aggravated Offense” means (i) an intentional, knowing or reckless violation; (ii) an offense demonstrating reckless disregard for the public safety; or (iii) a violation of any of the following: RULE CH5.01; RULE CH5.02; RULE CH5.03, RULE CH5.08(c); RULE CH5.08(f); RULE CH5.11; RULE CH5.12; RULE CH5.14; RULE CH5.15; RULE CH6.03; RULE 6.04; and RULE CH9.01; and RULE CH10.7.

RULE CH11.02 Penalties

Except as otherwise specified in any particular rule or ordinance, any violation of these rules ~~may~~ shall be subject to the following penalties:

- a. Non-Aggravated First Offense: ~~\$50~~ \$75.00 to ~~\$100~~ \$1,000.00 fine for each offense.
- b. Repeated ~~or Aggravated~~ Offense: ~~\$50~~ \$150.00 to ~~\$400~~, \$1,000.00 fine for each offense, license suspension up to sixty (60) days, revocation of license, drug test, physical exam, and/or public chauffeur training courses.
- c. Aggravated Offense: \$300.00 to \$1,000.00 fine for each offense, license suspension up to sixty (60) days, revocation of license, drug test, physical exam, and/or public chauffeur training courses.