



2011 SENATE BILL 437

February 7, 2012 – Introduced by Senators LASEE, CARPENTER, DARLING and TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives FARROW, YOUNG, ZAMARRIPA, STONE, D. CULLEN and RICHARDS. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Elections.

- 1 **AN ACT** *to create* 349.24 (1m) of the statutes; **relating to:** licensing of taxicabs
2 by a 1st class city.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a city, village, or town may regulate and license taxicabs and chauffeurs and operators of taxicabs and may prohibit the use of motor vehicles for taxicab purposes on the highways of the city, village, or town if the vehicle or operator of the vehicle is unlicensed.

Under this bill, a 1st class city (currently, only the city of Milwaukee) may regulate and license taxicabs by use of a taxicab medallion license system. Under this system, medallion licenses are initially issued to certain currently licensed taxicab operators upon payment of a fee not to exceed \$500 and, annually, the city may issue additional medallion licenses by public auction. Not more than an additional two percent of the initial medallion licenses issued during the first five years, and one percent of existing medallion licenses thereafter, may be issued annually. Medallion licenses are transferable upon the payment of a transfer fee to the city and a holder of a medallion license may allow another person to operate a taxicab under his or her medallion license.

For further information see the *local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SENATE BILL 437

1 **SECTION 1.** 349.24 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:

2 349.24 **(1m)** (a) The common council of a 1st class city may enact an ordinance
3 establishing a taxicab medallion licensing system. An ordinance under this
4 paragraph shall provide all of the following:

5 1. That the city shall issue to any person holding an unexpired taxicab license
6 from the city on the effective date of this subdivision ... [LRB inserts date], that was
7 issued after October 31, 2011, a taxicab medallion license upon the payment of a fee
8 established by the city not exceeding \$500, in addition to any renewal or inspection
9 fees charged by the city.

10 2. That the city shall annually commission a study regarding whether there is
11 new demand for the issuance of additional taxicab medallion licenses and hold a
12 hearing on the study and that, after the hearing, the city shall determine whether
13 to issue additional taxicab medallion licenses.

14 3. That if the city issues additional taxicab medallion licenses in any year, the
15 number of new taxicab medallion licenses may not exceed 2 percent of the number
16 of taxicab medallion licenses issued under subd. 1. for the first 5 years beginning
17 after the enactment of the ordinance, and may not exceed 1 percent of the number
18 of taxicab medallion licenses existing at the end of the previous year for each year
19 thereafter.

20 4. Notwithstanding subd. 2., that an initial annual issuance of taxicab
21 medallion licenses under subd. 2. shall occur within 1 year of the enactment of an
22 ordinance under this paragraph.

23 5. That taxicab medallion licenses issued under subd. 2. shall be distributed
24 by public auction.

SENATE BILL 437

1 6. That a taxicab medallion license is transferrable, except that a city may
2 require a transferee to pay a transfer fee of not more than 10 percent of the highest
3 price paid for a new taxicab medallion license at the most recent auction under subd.
4 5.

5 7. That a taxicab medallion licensee may enter into an agreement with another
6 person to operate a taxicab under the licensee’s taxicab medallion license. The
7 ordinance shall require that a person operating a taxicab under an agreement under
8 this subdivision be subject to any other licensing requirements imposed by the city
9 under this section.

10 (b) Upon issuing a taxicab medallion license under this subsection, the city
11 shall issue a taxicab medallion plate to the licensee. The licensee shall affix the plate
12 to the outside of his or her taxicab in the manner directed by the city.

13 (c) Notwithstanding s. 66.0628 (2), any fee imposed or price charged under par.
14 (a) is not required to bear a reasonable relationship to the cost of regulating taxicabs
15 in a 1st class city.

16 (END)