

the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 24. Headings as used in this act constitute no part of the law.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 25. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect June 30, 1984.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1984.

Passed the House February 23, 1984.

Approved by the Governor March 7, 1984.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 7, 1984.

CHAPTER 126

[Substitute Senate Bill No. 3064]

TAXICAB COMPANIES REGULATED

AN ACT Relating to the regulation of taxicab companies; and creating a new chapter in Title 81 RCW.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds and declares that privately operated taxicab transportation service is a vital part of the transportation system within the state and provides demand-responsive services to state residents, tourists, and out-of-state business people. Consequently, the safety, reliability, and economic viability and stability of privately operated taxicab transportation service are matters of state-wide importance. The regulation of privately operated taxicab transportation services is thus an essential governmental function. Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to permit political subdivisions of the state to regulate taxicab transportation services without liability under federal antitrust laws.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. To protect the public health, safety, and welfare, cities, towns, counties, and port districts of the state may license, control, and regulate privately operated taxicab transportation services operating within their respective jurisdictions. The power to regulate includes:

(1) Regulating entry into the business of providing taxicab transportation services;

(2) Requiring a license to be purchased as a condition of operating a taxicab and the right to revoke, cancel, or refuse to reissue a license for failure to comply with regulatory requirements;

(3) Controlling the rates charged for providing taxicab transportation service and the manner in which rates are calculated and collected, including the establishment of zones as the basis for rates;

- (4) Regulating the routes of taxicabs, including restricting access to airports;
- (5) Establishing safety, equipment, and insurance requirements; and
- (6) Any other requirements adopted to ensure safe and reliable taxicab service.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. A city, town, county, or port district may enter into cooperative agreements with any other city, town, county, or port district for the joint regulation of taxicabs. Cooperative agreements may provide for, but are not limited to, the granting, revocation, and suspension of joint taxicab licenses.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. Sections 1 through 3 of this act shall be added to Title 81 RCW.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1984.
 Passed the House February 25, 1984.
 Approved by the Governor March 7, 1984.
 Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 7, 1984.

CHAPTER 127

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 3059]
 PETS IN NURSING HOMES

AN ACT Relating to pets for the elderly and disabled; adding a new section to chapter 18.51 RCW; and creating a new section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. The legislature finds that the senior citizens of this state, particularly those living in low-income public housing or in nursing homes, often lead lonely and harsh lives. The legislature recognizes that the warmth and companionship provided by pets can significantly improve the quality of senior citizens' lives. This legislation is intended to insure that senior citizens and persons in nursing homes will not be deprived of access to pets.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 18.51 RCW a new section to read as follows:

- (1) A nursing home licensee shall give each patient a reasonable opportunity to have regular contact with animals. The licensee may permit appropriate animals to live in the facilities and may permit appropriate animals to visit if the animals are properly supervised.
- (2) The department shall adopt rules for the care, type, and maintenance of animals in nursing home facilities.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1984.
 Passed the House February 25, 1984.
 Approved by the Governor March 7, 1984.
 Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 7, 1984.