

1 [Urging the Legislature to support and amendment to allow a City and/or County to impose a  
2 business license fee and adopt reasonable rules and regulations.]

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4 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to support an amendment to the**  
5 **California Public Utilities Code that would allow a city and/or county to impose a**  
6 **business license fee, and adopt reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to charter**  
7 **party carriers operating within city and/or county jurisdictions.**

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9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Taxi Commission has heard continuous complaints  
10 from the taxi industry regarding limousine operators and other charter party carriers in  
11 violation of the laws, ordinances and regulations that prohibit limousines and similar vehicles  
12 from rendering taxi services; and

13 WHEREAS, These violations of the law have both economic and public safety  
14 implications because the California Public Utilities Commission, which regulates limousines  
15 and other charter-party carriers, does not require criminal background checks for limousine  
16 drivers or provide enforcement when limousine drivers overcharge passengers; and

17 WHEREAS, Among the reasons this situation has persisted over the years is that there  
18 are inadequacies in the laws and regulations governing limousine operators. For example,  
19 over the past few years, there has been an explosion of limousines unlawfully soliciting  
20 passengers in San Francisco, and the volume of repetitive and continuing offenses has  
21 reached epidemic proportions. Certain limousine operators are walking a fine line of  
22 supposedly “prearranging” a passenger fare ten seconds before turning on the ignition to  
23 drive a passenger to his or her destination; and

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1           WHEREAS, The California Public Utilities Commission simply lacks the resources to  
2 enforce its rules and regulations and agrees that sanctions for violations of the law are on the  
3 low end and not enough of a deterrence; and

4           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Taxi Commission believes that local government body  
5 should have the option to license and regulate the limousine industry and other charter party  
6 carriers that provide services within their jurisdictions; therefore be it

7           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California State  
8 Legislature to support an amendment to the California Public Utilities Code that would allow a  
9 city and/or county to impose a business license fee, and adopt reasonable rules and  
10 regulations pertaining to charter party carriers operating within city and/or county jurisdictions.

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