

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Business and Tax Regulations Code - Extending Temporary Suspension of Business Registration and Fee for Transportation Network Company Drivers and Taxi Drivers]

Ordinance amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code to extend through Fiscal Year 2021-2022 the temporary suspension of the application of the business registration and fee requirements to transportation network company drivers and taxi drivers.

Existing Law

In general, the City requires each business operating within the City, including taxi drivers and persons who drive for ride-hailing entities known as transportation network companies (“TNCs”) that are independent contractors, to obtain a registration certificate and pay an annual registration fee. In April 2018, the Board of Supervisors passed Ordinance 93-18, which temporarily suspended these requirements for all TNC drivers and taxi drivers whose only business activity in the City is TNC driving or tax driving for registration years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, and for registration year 2017-2018 for such TNC drivers and taxi drivers who commenced business in the City on or after January 1, 2018. Ordinance 298-19 extended the temporary suspension to registration year 2020-2021.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would extend the temporary suspension described above to registration year 2021-2022.

Background Information

In 2017, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 182 (“SB 182”), the effect of which is to largely immunize automobile drivers who drive for TNCs from local business license requirements. SB 182 requires a city, purportedly including a charter city, to allow such a driver to conduct business within its borders without obtaining any locally-issued business license or paying business license tax, unless that driver lives in that city. On February 8, 2018, the City filed a lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court challenging the validity of SB 182. To ensure that drivers that live in the City are not treated less favorably than drivers that live outside the City, Ordinance 93-18 temporarily suspended the business registration and fee requirements for all TNC drivers pending the resolution of the City’s litigation challenging the validity of SB 182. Ordinance 93-18 also temporarily suspended the business registration and fee requirements for taxi drivers so that they are not treated less favorably than TNC drivers that live outside the City with respect to the City’s business registration and fee requirements. Ordinance 298-19 extended these temporary suspensions for an additional year.