

File No. 220057

Committee Item No. 10

Board Item No. 2

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: Budget and Finance Committee Date March 16, 2022

Board of Supervisors Meeting Date April 5, 2022

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OTHER (Use back side if additional space is needed)

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Completed by: Brent Jalipa Date March 8, 2022

Completed by: Brent Jalipa Date March 18, 2022

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

3 **Ordinance amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code to extend, through Fiscal**
4 **Year 2022-2023, the temporary suspension of the application for the business**
5 **registration and fee requirements applied to transportation network company drivers**
6 **and taxi drivers.**

7 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
8 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
9 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
10 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
11 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
12 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
13 subsections or parts of tables.

14 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

15 Section 1. Background, Purpose, and Findings.

16 (a) The California Constitution gives charter cities, including San Francisco, the power
17 to “make and enforce all ordinances and regulations in respect to municipal affairs, subject
18 only to restrictions and limitations” contained in their own charters. (Cal. Const., art. XI, § 5,
19 subd. (a).) This constitutional power of charter cities to regulate their own municipal affairs
20 without interference from the Legislature has long been held to encompass the power to
21 license and tax local businesses for revenue purposes.

22 (b) In 2017, the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 182 (“SB 182”), the effect of which is
23 to largely immunize automobile drivers who drive for online ride-hailing entities known as
24 transportation network companies (“TNCs”) from local business license requirements. (Cal.
25 Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 16550-16550.2.) Under SB 182, a city – purportedly including a charter
city – must allow such a driver to conduct business freely within its borders without obtaining

1 again with the intention that the suspension remain in place through the resolution of the
2 litigation.

3 (f) Because the litigation challenging SB 182 is ongoing, and because the fees for
4 business registration certificates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, are due by
5 June 1, 2022, this ordinance extends the temporary suspension for an additional year.

6 (g) In applying SB 182 and temporarily suspending the business registration and fee
7 requirements for TNC drivers and taxi drivers, the City is not conceding the validity of SB 182
8 in whole or in part, as applied to the City or as applied elsewhere.

9

10 Section 2. Article 12 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code is hereby amended by
11 revising Section 853, to read as follows:

12

13 **SEC. 853. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE – REQUIRED.**

14 (a) Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e), no person may engage in business
15 within the City unless the person has obtained a current registration certificate pursuant to this
16 Article 12. Every person engaging in business within the City shall conspicuously display a
17 current registration certificate on the business premises, regardless of whether such person is
18 subject to tax pursuant to the provisions of the Business and Tax Regulations Code.

19 (b) Any organization having a formally recognized exemption from income taxation
20 pursuant to Section 501(c), 501(d), or 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as
21 amended, as qualified by Sections 502, 503, 504, and 508 of Title 26 of the Internal Revenue
22 Code of 1986, as amended, and engaging in business within the City shall obtain a
23 registration certificate.

24 (c) Failure to obtain a registration certificate shall not absolve any person from
25 payment of any tax imposed or license required by the City.

1 (d) A person receiving rental income in connection with the operation of any of the
2 following shall not, by reason of that fact alone, be required to obtain a registration certificate
3 pursuant to this Article 12:

4 (1) a cooperative housing corporation, as defined in Section 216(b) of the
5 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

6 (2) one residential structure consisting of fewer than four units; or

7 (3) one residential condominium.

8 (e) The requirements to obtain a registration certificate and pay a fee under this
9 Article 12 shall be suspended for any driver for a transportation network company and for any
10 taxi driver for registration years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, ~~and 2021-2022,~~

11 and 2022-2023. Additionally, the requirements to obtain a registration certificate and pay a fee
12 under this Article 12 shall be suspended for any driver for a transportation network company
13 and for any taxi driver commencing business in the City on or after January 1, 2018, for
14 registration year 2017-2018. The suspensions in this subsection (e) are further qualified and
15 defined solely for purposes of this subsection (e) as follows:

16 (1) The suspensions apply only to drivers whose business activity in the City is
17 limited to transportation network company driving and/or taxi driving.

18 (2) "Transportation network company" has the same meaning as in
19 Section 5431(c) of the California Public Utilities Code.

20 (3) "Taxi" has the same meaning as in Section 1102 of Article 1100 of the
21 Transportation Code.

22 (4) The Board of Supervisors may at any time, by ordinance, extend or
23 terminate the suspensions.

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 2022-2023 the temporary suspension of the application of the business registration and fee requirements applied 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 taxi 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, and Ordinance 43-21 extended the temporary suspension to registration year 2021-2022.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would extend the temporary suspension described above to registration year 2022-2023.

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. Ordinances 298-19 and 43-21 extended these temporary suspensions through registration year 2021-2022.

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Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

The text is listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

For Clerk's Use Only