

THE CITY OF FREDERICK  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ORDINANCE NO: G-19-30

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Horse-drawn vehicles for hire

FOR the purpose of revising a certain provision relating to hours worked by horses.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Sec. 22-60

The Code of the City of Frederick, 1966 (as amended)

**SECTION I. BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FREDERICK,** That Section 22-60 of The Code of the City of Frederick, 1966 (as amended) is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, as follows:

**Sec. 22-60. Care and condition of horses.**

- (a) **Generally.** Horses that may be used as a part of a commercial operation must meet the criteria of this section. All horses used as part of a commercial operation must be at least four years old and may not be stallions or mares with unweaned foals.
- (b) **Annual certification.** Operators shall provide a physical bill of health certified by an equine veterinarian each year on or before the anniversary of the date a permit is issued under Sec. 22-54 of this article.
- (c) **Medical concerns.** Operators and drivers shall ensure that horses engaging in a commercial operation are physically capable of doing so. Horses must be in good condition and must not have any:
  - (1) evidence of lameness;
  - (2) open or bleeding wound, oozing sore, cut below skin level, or bleeding wound; or
  - (3) obvious signs of emaciation, malnutrition, dehydration, or exhaustion.
- (d) **Shoes.** Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, all horses engaged in a commercial operation must be shod with four metal shoes coated with driltex or [burium] Borium or, in the alternative, rubber shoes. For a period not to exceed two hours per day, horses may wear only two shoes (on the front feet only). All shoes must be tight and in place at all times.
- (e) **Tie ropes.** Tie ropes used around the neck or attaching to the halter must be carried on all commercially operated vehicles while the vehicle is in service. A person may not tie a horse using the bridle, bit or reins.

- (f) **Hours.** [A driver or operator may not allow a horse to work for more than two (2) hours before receiving a thirty (30) minute break or for more than six (6) hours per day.]
- (1) For purposes of this subsection, a horse is deemed to be working whenever it is attached to a horse-drawn vehicle and pulling passengers or goods.
  - (2) A driver or operator must provide each horse with a minimum of 30 minutes of rest in any two hour period.
  - (3) During a rest period, two wheels of the vehicle must be chocked in front and behind and a brake must be set if available.
  - (4) A driver or operator may not allow a horse to work for a total of more than 6 hours per day.
- (g) **Water.** Operators and drivers shall ensure that all horses under their ownership or control have access to an adequate supply of water. Specifically, operators and drivers shall ensure that potable, liquid water is available at designated boarding areas and shall make reasonable efforts to lead the horses under their ownership or control to such water [at least once every two hours] during each stop to load and unload passengers. Operators and drivers shall ensure that horses are physically free to drink the water provided. Failure to make a horse drink does not constitute a violation of this subsection.
- (h) **Temperature.** Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a commercial operation may not operate if the temperature is less than 15° F or higher than 90° F as determined by the automated weather observation system at the Frederick Municipal Airport. If the operator submits written proof of a reservation having been made for the service at least one week previously, the operator is permitted to perform the service and then shall cease operations until the temperature is within the required parameters.
- (i) **Violations.** Violation of this section is a municipal infraction punishable by a fine of \$400.

**SECTION II. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FREDERICK** that this ordinance shall take effect on the date it is approved by the Mayor and all other ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance will as of that date be repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**PASSED:**

**DATE:**




**Michael C. O'Connor, President,  
Board of Aldermen**

**October 3, 2019**

**APPROVED:**

**DATE:**

  
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Michael G. O'Connor, Mayor

October 3, 2019

**Approved for Legal Sufficiency:**

  
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City Attorney