

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICIAL CODE

TITLE 50.
MOTOR AND NON-MOTOR VEHICLES AND
TRAFFIC.

CHAPTER 9.
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

2001 Edition

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIAL CODE
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CHAPTER 9. DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

SUBCHAPTER I. ESTABLISHMENT AND ORGANIZATION.

§ 50-901. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) Pursuant to § 1-204.04(b), there is hereby established in the Executive Branch of the government of the District of Columbia a Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV").

(b) The Director of the DMV shall have authority over the department and all functions and personnel assigned thereto, including the power to re-delegate to other employees and officials of the department such powers and authority as, in the judgment of the Director is warranted in the interests of efficiency and sound administration.

(Mar. 26, 1999, D.C. Law 12-175, § 1822, 45 DCR 7193.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 40-151.

Emergency Act Amendments

For temporary addition of §§ 50-901 to 50-906, see §§ 1422-1427 of the Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Support Emergency Act of 1998 (D.C. Act 12-401, July 13, 1998, 45 DCR 4794), §§ 1422-1427 of the Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Support Congressional Review Emergency Act of 1998 (D.C. Act 12-564, January 12, 1999, 46 DCR 669), and §§ 1422-1427 of the Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Support Congressional Review Emergency Act of 1998 (D.C. Act 13-41, March 31, 1999, 46 DCR 3446).

For temporary (90-day) addition of Chapter 1A, see §§ 1421 to 1427 of the Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Support Congressional Review Emergency Act of 1999 (D.C. Act 13-41, March 31, 1999, 46 DCR 3446).

For temporary (90 day) provisions for budget submission by the Division of Transportation, see § 1603 of Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Support Emergency Act of 2001 (D.C. Act 14-124, August 3, 2001, 48 DCR 7861).

For temporary (90 day) reclassification of positions at the Department of Motor Vehicles, see § 642 of Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Support Emergency Act of 2003 (D.C. Act 15-105, June 20, 2002, 50 DCR 5613).

For temporary (90 day) reclassification of positions at the Department of Motor Vehicles, see § 642 of Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Support Congressional Review Emergency Act of 2003 (D.C. Act 15-149, September 22, 2003, 50 DCR 8360).

Legislative History of Laws

Law 12-175, the "Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Support Act of 1998," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 12-618, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on May 5, 1998 and June 2, 1998, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on June 23, 1998, it was assigned Act No. 12-399 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 12-175 became effective on March 26, 1999.

For D.C. Law 14-28, see notes following § 50-332.

Law 15-39, the "Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Support Act of 2003", was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 15-218, which was referred to Committee on Whole. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on May 6, 2003, and June 3, 2003, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on June 20, 2003, it was assigned Act No. 15-106 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 15-39 became effective on November 13, 2003.

For Law 15-105, see notes following § 50-203.

Section 1830 of D.C. Law 12-175 provided that this chapter shall apply as of October 1, 1998.

Department of Motor Vehicles Establishment Act of 1988: Section 1821 of D.C. Law 12-175 provides that this chapter may be cited as the "Department of Motor Vehicles Establishment Act of 1998."

Section 1703 of D.C. Law 14-28, as amended by Mar. 13, 2004, D.C. Law 15-105, § 91, 51 DCR 881, provides:

"Budget submission -- Division of Transportation of the Department of Public Works.

"(a) In the budget which the Mayor is required to submit to the Council each year, the Mayor shall provide sufficient revenues or funds for the operation and administration of the Division of Transportation of the Department of Public Works. The budgeted revenues or funds shall not include any funds which have been or will be deposited in the Local Roads Construction and Maintenance Fund pursuant to section 102 of the Highway Trust Fund Establishment Act of 1996, effective April 9, 1997 (D.C. Law 11-184; D.C. Official Code 9- 111.01).

"(b) In FY 2002, \$28,580,000 in local appropriations shall be used for the operation and administration expenses of the Division of Transportation of the Department of Public Works.

"(c) In FY 2002, not more than \$18 million may be taken from the rights-of way fees to be used for operation and administration expenses for the Division of Transportation of the Department of Public Works with all remaining rights-of-way fees dedicated to the fund established by section 102a of Highway Trust Fund Establishment Act of 1996, passed on second reading on June 5, 2001 (Enrolled version of Bill 14-144) [D.C. Official Code § 9-111.01a].

Short title of subtitle E of title VI of Law 15-39: Section 641 of D.C. Law 15-39 provided that subtitle E of title VI of the act may be cited as the Position Reclassification of Department of Motor Vehicles Staff Amendment Act of 2003.

Section 642 of D.C. Law. 15-39 provides: "The Mayor and Director of the Office of Personnel shall complete classification and compensation studies of the positions of motor vehicle inspectors and front-line counter employees at the Department of Motor Vehicles by November 1, 2003."

§ 50-902. PURPOSE.

The DMV is charged with helping to improve the District of Columbia's economic competitiveness and quality of life by fostering the safe operation of motor vehicles on District streets in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

(Mar. 26, 1999, D.C. Law 12-175, § 1823, 45 DCR 7193.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 40-152.

Emergency Act Amendments

For temporary addition of chapter, see note to § 50-901.

For temporary (90-day) addition of Chapter 1A, see notes following § 50-901.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 12-175, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

Miscellaneous Notes

Application of D.C. Law 12-175: See Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

§ 50-903. ORGANIZATION.

There is hereby established in the DMV offices and divisions as follows:

- (1) The Office of the Director, with subordinate staff offices as are required to carry out overall management responsibility for the office;
- (2) Division of Adjudication, with subordinate staff offices as required, to coordinate and manage the functions as follows:
 - (A) Traffic adjudication hearings;
 - (B) Traffic adjudication processing; and

- (C) Public space adjudication;
- (3) Customer Services Division, with such subordinate staff offices as are required, to coordinate and manage the following functions for the District:
 - (A) Vehicle inspection;
 - (B) Vehicle registration; and
 - (C) Driver testing, including medical reviews and insurance compliance; and
- (4) Support Services Division, with such subordinate staff offices as are required to coordinate and manage the procurement, financial, technology and administrative functions for the Department of Motor Vehicles, and management of the personal property inventory for the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(Mar. 26, 1999, D.C. Law 12-175, § 1824, 45 DCR 7193; Apr. 12, 2000, D.C. Law 13-91, § 151(a), 47 DCR 520.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 40-153.

Effect of Amendments

D.C. Law 13-91 validated a previously made technical amendment in subsec. (2).

Emergency Act Amendments

For temporary addition of chapter, see note to § 50-901.

For temporary (90-day) addition of Chapter 1A, see notes following § 50-901.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 12-175, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

Law 13-91, the "Technical Amendments Act of 1999," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 13-435, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on November 2, 1999, and December 7, 1999, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on December 29, 1999, it was assigned Act No. 13-234 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 13-91 became effective on April 12, 2000.

Miscellaneous Notes

Application of D.C. Law 12-175: See Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

§ 50-904. FUNCTIONS.

The primary function of the major organizational components of the DMV are to plan, program, operate, manage, control, and maintain systems, processes, and programs that serve to ensure the safe and efficient movement of people in the operation of motor vehicles within the District of Columbia. The following functional components are included within this framework:

(1) Adjudication functions as follows:

- (A) Administer the processes of collecting traffic fines and adjudicating disputes regarding traffic movement or parking movement in the public right-of-way;
- (B) Ensure that efficient information and payment processing services are provided to motorists who have been ticketed, booted, or towed;
- (C) To process all correspondence relating to contested traffic violations;
- (D) Maintain account for the ticket file;
- (E) Make determinations on violations which pertain to automobile insurance;
- (F) Make determinations on complaints filed against public vehicle operators; and
- (G) Make determinations on drivers' permits, including suspensions and revocations;

(2) Customer service functions as follows:

- (A) Title and register new or used motor vehicles and trailers in the District and issue special tags and permits;
- (B) Coordinate the issuance of special tags and permits, and to enforce activities relating to automobile dealers and vehicle inspection facilities;

- (C) License public vehicle operators;
 - (D) Provide all services which pertain to the issuance of driver permits and licensing; and
 - (E) Maintain and administer a traffic record system;
- (3) Administrative service functions to provide department wide coordination of administrative services emphasizing human resources, technology and information support, procurement, and fiscal management support services; and
- (4) Take enforcement action, including the issuance of fines, for car dealers' violations of Chapters 4 and 5 of Title 18, DCMR.

(Mar. 26, 1999, D.C. Law 12-175, § 1825, 45 DCR 7193; Apr. 8, 2005, D.C. Law 15-307, § 204, 52 DCR 1700.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 40-154.

Effect of Amendments

D.C. Law 15-307, deleted "and" at the end of par. (2)(E); substituted ": and" for a period at the end of par. (3); and added par. (4).

Emergency Act Amendments

For temporary addition of chapter, see note to § 50-901.

For temporary (90-day) addition of Chapter 1A, see notes following § 50-901.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 12-175, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

Law 15-307, the "Department of Motor Vehicles Reform Amendment Act of 2004", was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 15-1011, which was referred to the Committee on Public Works and the Environment. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on November 9, 2004, and December 7, 2004, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on December 29, 2004, it was assigned Act No. 15-704 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 15-307 became effective on April 8, 2005.

Miscellaneous Notes

Application of D.C. Law 12-175: See Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

§ 50-905. TRANSFERS.

(a) All positions, personnel, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds available or to be made available to the Department of Public Works for the vehicle and driver licensing, registration, and control functions set out in Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1983 (part D of subchapter VI of Chapter 15 of Title 1), effective March 1, 1984, are hereby transferred to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(b) All of the functions assigned, and authorities delegated to the Department of Public Works, with respect to issuing regulations for and administering motor vehicle services, except for parking services functions, as set forth in section III(H) of Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1983, effective March 1, 1984 (including only vehicle and driver licensing, registration, and control) are hereby transferred to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

(Mar. 26, 1999, D.C. Law 12-175, § 1826, 45 DCR 7193; Apr. 12, 2000, D.C. Law 13-91, § 151(b), 47 DCR 520.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 40-155.

Effect of Amendments

D.C. Law 13-91 validated a previously made technical amendment in subsec. (a).

Emergency Act Amendments

For temporary addition of chapter, see note to § 50-901.

For temporary (90-day) addition of Chapter 1A, see notes following § 50-901.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 12-175, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

For Law 13-91, see notes following § 40-903.

Miscellaneous Notes

Application of D.C. Law 12-175: See Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

§ 50-906. REORGANIZATION.

The Director of the DMV is authorized to organize the personnel and property transferred herein within any organizational unit of the DMV as the Director deems appropriate. Until such establishment, existing orders establishing the components of the pre-existing Department of Public Works remain in force, where they do not conflict with this chapter.

(Mar. 26, 1999, D.C. Law 12-175, § 1827, 45 DCR 7193.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 40-156.

Emergency Act Amendments

For temporary addition of chapter, see note to § 50-901.

For temporary (90-day) addition of Chapter 1A, see notes following § 50-901.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 12-175, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

Miscellaneous Notes

Application of D.C. Law 12-175: See Historical and Statutory Notes following § 50-901.

SUBCHAPTER II. REGULATIONS.

§ 50-921. REGULATIONS.

The Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles may amend the regulations promulgated pursuant to Regulation No. 72-13, effective June 30, 1972, that were published in Title 32 of the District of Columbia Rules and Regulations and are now contained in chapters 1 through 10 of Title 18 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, and those amendments contained in the provisions of the Motor Vehicle and Safe Driving Amendment Act of 2000, effective April 27, 2001 (D.C. Law 13-289; 48 DCR 2057). Regulations promulgated or amended pursuant to this section shall be submitted to the Council for a 45-day period of Council review, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and days of Council recess. If within the 45-day period, a resolution of disapproval has been introduced by 3 members of the Council, the regulations shall not be deemed approved.

(Apr. 27, 2001, D.C. Law 13-289, § 801, 48 DCR 2057; Apr. 13, 2005, D.C. Law 15-354, § 82, 52 DCR 2638.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Effect of Amendments

D.C. Law 15-354 validated a previously made technical correction.

Legislative History of Laws

For D.C. Law 13-289, see notes following § 50-401.

For Law 15-354, see notes following § 50-319.

Resolutions

Resolution 15-736, the "Commercial Driver's License Rulemaking Approval Resolution of 2004", was approved effective November 9, 2004.

Resolution 15-738, the "Special Use Identification Tag Rulemaking Approval Resolution of 2004", was approved effective November 9, 2004.

Resolution 16-351, the "Driver License and Reciprocity Application Rulemaking Disapproval Resolution of

2005", was approved effective November 1, 2005.