



City of South Bend Common Council

300 City Hall • 215 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
South Bend, Indiana 46601

Filed in Clerk's Office

Jul 8, 2026

Bianca Tirado
City Clerk, South Bend, IN

Canneth Lee
President

Sheila Niezgodski
Vice President

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers
Chairperson, Committee
of the Whole

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First District

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Third District

Dr. Heidi Beidinger
Fourth District

Sherry Bolden-Simpson
Fifth District

Sheila Niezgodski
Sixth District

Dr. Oliver Davis
At Large

Rachel Tomas Morgan
At Large

Karen L. White
At Large

Karen White

Chairperson Community Investment Committee

South Bend Common Council

3rd Floor, City Hall

South Bend, IN 46601

**RE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, AMENDING SECTION 4-61 OF THE
SOUTH BEND MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING TAXICAB
LICENSING AND OPERATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR THE
EXTENSION OF CURRENT LICENSES**

Dear Chairperson White:

Chapter 4 Section 4-61 of the Municipal Code addresses licenses for taxicab companies, vehicles and drivers. This is a very in-depth ordinance first enacted in 1981 with parts of the ordinance amended in 1986, 1993, 1999, and 2011. I believe that current conditions in the City, changing technology and the prevalence of services such as Uber and Lyft support a comprehensive review and revision of the ordinance to meet current needs.

Such a complete review and revision may take some time before passing by the Council. In the meantime, there are limited amendments that can be made to improve administration of the taxicab licensing program. These amendments support continued taxicab service within the City by reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens, accommodating modern dispatch operations, and providing greater administrative efficiency in the licensing process.

Additionally, the clarification of the definition of "taxicab" will promote consistency with applicable state law and assist in distinguishing locally regulated taxicab operations from transportation network companies governed by state law.

I ask that this proposed ordinance amendment be placed on the agenda for the July 27, 2026, Community Investment Committee meeting with second and third readings at the full Council meeting later that evening.

Sincerely,

Rachel Tomas Morgan

Rachel Tomas Morgan
At-Large Common Council Member



Jul 8, 2026

Bianca Tirado
City Clerk, South Bend, IN

BILL NO. 46-26
ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND,
INDIANA, AMENDING SECTION 4-61 OF THE SOUTH BEND MUNICIPAL CODE
REGARDING TAXICAB LICENSING AND OPERATIONS AND PROVIDING FOR
THE EXTENSION OF CURRENT LICENSES**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND INTENT

The City of South Bend ("City") regulates taxicab companies, vehicles, and drivers pursuant to Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 4-61 of the South Bend Municipal Code; and

The City will be undertaking a comprehensive review of Section 4-61 to evaluate opportunities to modernize, simplify, and clarify the City's taxicab regulations; and

Key provisions have already been identified within the local industry that do not reflect current business practices and operational realities; and

The Common Council finds that limited amendments are warranted at this time to improve administration of the taxicab licensing program in these areas while the broader review of Section 4-61 continues; and

These preliminary amendments are intended to support continued taxicab service within the City by reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens, accommodating modern dispatch operations, and providing greater administrative efficiency in the licensing process; and

Clarification of definitions will promote consistency with applicable state law and assist in distinguishing locally regulated taxicab operations from transportation network companies governed by state law; and

The Common Council finds that these preliminary amendments are in the best interests of the City to facilitate administration of the City's taxicab licensing program pending consideration of more comprehensive revisions to Section 4-61.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA** as follows:

SECTION I. Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 4-61 is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 4-61. Taxicabs; companies, vehicles and drivers.

(a) *Definitions:* As used in this section:

(9) *Taxicab* shall have the meaning set forth in I.C. 8-2.1-17-16, as amended.

(d) *License and overall service required of taxicab companies; manifest required; refusal deemed a violation; revocation:*

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- (2) Holders of taxicab company licenses may maintain a properly zoned physical office with a telephone line for the purpose of receiving calls and dispatching cabs or may receive calls and dispatch cabs from a mobile location. The telephone line must be answered by a dispatcher or other person who is not operating a taxicab at the time he or she is answering the telephone or dispatching taxicabs. No taxi company may accept calls or dispatch taxicabs from a taxicab or from a property that is not properly zoned. Licensees shall answer all calls received by them for services inside the corporate limits of the City as soon as they can do so. If the services cannot be rendered within a reasonable time, licensees shall notify the prospective passengers how long it will be before the call can be answered and give the reason therefor. The failure of a company license holder to have a telephone call for service answered within a reasonable time shall result in the issuance of fines, license suspension or revocation, or other sanctions as provided in this chapter. Said provision notwithstanding, a taxicab company may close between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. and neither take calls nor dispatch cabs..
 - (4) All companies shall register, maintain, license and insure at least four (4) taxicabs in order to obtain taxi company licenses, and shall have in service at all times, at least two (2) taxicabs licensed under this section.
 - (5) All companies shall list on their application and at all times have registered to drive their company taxicabs at least four (4) drivers in order to obtain company licenses, with at least two (2) of those drivers operating at all times.
 - (6) If a company operating a lawful taxicab business at the time of passage of this section does not have at least four (4) taxicabs in service, and at least four (4) company drivers as required by this section, that company shall have until January 2, 2027, to meet such requirements and to submit proof of compliance to the Controller.

SECTION II. Any license issued under Section 4-61 which expires on September 30, 2026 shall be extended to an expiration date of September 30, 2027.

SECTION III. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

Canneth J. Lee, Council President
South Bend Common Council

Attest:

Bianca L. Tirado, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk

Presented by me, the undersigned Clerk of the City of South Bend, to the Mayor of the City of South Bend, Indiana on the ____ day of _____, 2026, at ____ o'clock .m.

Bianca L. Tirado, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk

Approved and signed by me on the ____ day of _____, 2026, at ____ o'clock ____ .m.

James Mueller, Mayor
City of South Bend, Indiana

Jul 8, 2026

Bianca Tirado
City Clerk, South Bend, IN

BILL NO. 46-26

ORDINANCE NO. _____

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The Common Council finds that these preliminary amendments are in the best interests of the City to facilitate administration of the City's taxicab licensing program pending consideration of more comprehensive revisions to Section 4-61.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA as follows:

SECTION I. Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 4-61 is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 4-61. Taxicabs; companies, vehicles and drivers.

(a) *Definitions:* As used in this section:

- (9) *Taxicab* ~~means a motor vehicle regularly engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire, having a seating capacity of twelve (12) or fewer persons, including the driver, and not operated on a fixed route~~ shall have the meaning set forth in I.C. 8-2.1-17-16, as amended.

(d) *License and overall service required of taxicab companies; manifest required; refusal deemed a violation; revocation:*

- (2) Holders of taxicab company licenses ~~shall~~ may maintain a properly zoned physical office with a telephone line for the purpose of receiving calls and dispatching cabs or may receive calls and dispatch cabs from a mobile location. The telephone line must be answered by a dispatcher or other person who is not operating a taxicab at the time he or she is answering the telephone or dispatching taxicabs. No taxi company may accept calls or dispatch taxicabs from a taxicab or from a property that is not properly zoned. They Licensees shall answer all calls received by them for services inside the corporate limits of the City as soon as they can do so. If the services cannot be rendered within a reasonable time, they licensees shall then notify the prospective passengers how long it will be before the call can be answered and give the reason therefor. The failure of a company license holder to have a telephone call for service answered within in a reasonable time shall result in the issuance of fines, license suspension or revocation, or other sanctions as provided in this chapter. Said provision notwithstanding, a taxicab company may close between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. and neither take calls nor dispatch cabs. ~~answered twenty four (24) hours a day for the purpose of receiving calls and dispatching cabs. The telephone line must be answered by a dispatcher or other person who is not operating a taxicab at the time he or she is answering the telephone or dispatching taxicabs. No taxi company may accept calls or dispatch taxicabs from a taxicab or from a property that is not properly zoned. They shall answer all calls received by them for services inside the corporate limits of the City as soon as they can do so. If the services cannot be rendered within a reasonable time, they shall then notify the prospective passengers how long it will be before the call can be answered and give the reason therefor. The failure of a company license holder to have a telephone call for service answered within in a reasonable time shall result in the issuance of fines, license suspension or revocation, or other sanctions as provided in this chapter.~~
- (4) All companies shall register, maintain, license and insure at least ~~six~~ four ~~(64)~~ taxicabs in order to obtain taxi company licenses, and shall have in service at all times, at least two (2) taxicabs licensed under this section.
- (5) All companies shall list on their application and at all times have registered to drive their company taxicabs at least ~~six~~ four ~~(64)~~ drivers in order to obtain company licenses, with at least two (2) of those drivers operating at all times.
- (6) If a company operating a lawful taxicab business at the time of passage of this section does not have at least ~~six~~ four ~~(64)~~ taxicabs in service, and at least ~~six~~ four ~~(64)~~ company drivers as required by this section, that company shall have until ~~January 2, 2013~~ January 2, 2027, to meet such requirements and to submit proof of compliance to the Controller.

SECTION II. Any license issued under Section 4-61 which expires on September 30, 2026 shall be extended to an expiration date of September 30, 2027.

SECTION III. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

Canneth J. Lee, Council President
South Bend Common Council

Attest:

Bianca L. Tirado, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk

Presented by me, the undersigned Clerk of the City of South Bend, to the Mayor of the City of South Bend, Indiana on the ____ day of _____, 2026, at ____ o'clock __.m.

Bianca L. Tirado, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk

Approved and signed by me on the ____ day of _____, 2026, at ____ o'clock ____m.

James Mueller, Mayor
City of South Bend, Indiana