

CHAPTER 122 PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS AND TRANSIENT MERCHANTS

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122.01 PURPOSE.

The purpose of this chapter is to protect residents of the City against fraud, unfair competition and intrusion into the privacy of their homes by licensing and regulating peddlers, solicitors and transient merchants.

122.02 DEFINITIONS.

For use in this chapter the following terms are defined:

1. "Peddler" means any person carrying goods or merchandise who sells or offers for sale for immediate delivery such goods or merchandise from house to house or upon the public street.
2. "Solicitor" means any person who solicits or attempts to solicit from house to house or upon the public street any contribution or donation or any order for goods, services, subscriptions or merchandise to be delivered at a future date.
3. "Transient merchant" as used herein shall mean and include every merchant, whether an individual person, a firm, corporation, partnership or association, and whether owner, agent, bailee, consignee or employee, who shall bring or cause to be brought within the state of Iowa any goods, wares or merchandise of any kind, nature or description, with the intention of temporarily or intermittently selling or offering to sell at retail such goods, wares or merchandise within the state of Iowa. The term "*transient merchant*" shall also mean and include every merchant, whether an individual person, a firm, corporation, partnership or an association, who shall by itself, or by agent, consignee or employee temporarily or intermittently engage in or conduct at one or more locations a business within the state of Iowa for the sale at retail of any goods, wares or merchandise of any nature or description. A merchant engaging in business shall be presumed to be temporarily or intermittently in business unless it is the intention of such merchant to remain continuously in business at each location where the merchant is engaged in business within the state of Iowa as a merchant for a period of more than sixty days. The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to apply to persons selling at wholesale to merchants, nor to transient vendors of drugs, nor to persons running a huckster wagon, or selling or distributing livestock feeds, fresh meats, fish, fruit, or vegetables, nor to persons selling their own work

or production either by themselves or employees.
(Code of Iowa, Sec. 9C.1)

122.03 LICENSE REQUIRED.

Any person engaging in peddling, soliciting or in the business of a transient merchant in the City without first obtaining a license as herein provided is in violation of this chapter.

122.04 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE.

An application in writing shall be filed with the Clerk for a license under this chapter. Such application shall set forth the applicant's name, permanent and local address and business address if any. The application shall also set forth the applicant's employer, if any, and the employer's address, the nature of the applicant's business, the last three places of such business and the length of time sought to be covered by the license, a statement as to whether or not the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor, and, if so, the nature of the offense and the penalty imposed; and a description of any motor vehicles to be used by the applicant (including make, model, year, color and registration number). The application shall include a copy of a driver's license or state issued photo identification card. An application fee of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be paid at the time of filing such application to cover the cost of investigating the facts stated therein.

122.05 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION.

Upon receipt of the application and the required application fee, the clerk, with the assistance of law enforcement, shall investigate the application. If the statements contained in the application are found to be true and correct, the clerk shall issue a registration certificate to the applicant conforming to the application. However, the clerk shall not approve a registration under any of the following circumstances:

- A. The applicant is found to have been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
- B. The application is determined to contain any false statement or information.
- C. The activities of the applicant as a solicitor, peddler or transient merchant have been the subject of complaints by citizens in this city or in other cities where the applicant has conducted business; which complaints cannot be shown to have been resolved or explained to the satisfaction of the city clerk.

122.05 LICENSE FEES.

The following license fees shall be paid to the Clerk prior to the issuance of any license.

1. Solicitors. In addition to the application fee for each person actually soliciting (principal or agent), a fee for the principal of ten dollars (\$10.00) per year.
2. Peddlers or Transient Merchants.
 - A. For one day \$ 10.00
 - B. For one week \$ 25.00
 - C. For up to six (6) months \$ 50.00
 - D. For one year or major part thereof \$ 100.00

122.06 BOND REQUIRED.

Before a license under this chapter is issued to a transient merchant, an applicant shall provide to the Clerk evidence that the applicant has filed a bond with the Secretary of State in accordance with Chapter 9C of the Code of Iowa.

122.07 LICENSE ISSUED.

If the Clerk finds the application is completed in conformance with the requirements of this chapter, the facts stated therein are found to be correct and the license fee paid, a license shall be issued immediately.

122.08 DISPLAY OF LICENSE.

Each solicitor or peddler shall keep such license in possession at all times while doing business in the City and shall, upon the request of prospective customers, exhibit the license as evidence of compliance with all requirements of this chapter. Each transient merchant shall display publicly such merchant's license in the merchant's place of business.

122.09 LICENSE NOT TRANSFERABLE.

Licenses issued under the provisions of this chapter are not transferable in any situation and are to be applicable only to the person filing the application.

122.10 TIME RESTRICTION.

All peddler's and solicitor's licenses shall provide that said licenses are in force and effect only between the hours of eight o'clock (8:00) a.m. and seven o'clock (7:00) p.m.

122.11 REVOCATION OF LICENSE.

After notice and hearing, the Clerk may revoke any license issued under this chapter for the following reasons:

1. **Fraudulent Statements.** The licensee has made fraudulent statements in the application for the license or in the conduct of the business.
2. **Violation of Law.** The licensee has violated this chapter or has otherwise conducted the business in an unlawful manner.
3. **Endangered Public Welfare, Health or Safety.** The licensee has conducted the business in such manner as to endanger the public welfare, safety, order or morals.

122.12 NOTICE.

The Clerk shall send a notice to the licensee at the licensee's local address, not less than ten (10) days before the date set for a hearing on the possible revocation of a license. Such notice shall contain particulars of the complaints against the licensee, the ordinance provisions or State statutes allegedly violated, and the date, time and place for hearing on the matter.

122.13 HEARING.

The Clerk shall conduct a hearing at which both the licensee and any complainants shall be present to determine the truth of the facts alleged in the complaint and notice. Should the licensee, or authorized representative, fail to appear without good cause, the Clerk may proceed to a determination of the complaint.

122.14 RECORD AND DETERMINATION.

The Clerk shall make and record findings of fact and conclusions of law, and shall revoke a license only when upon review of the entire record the Clerk finds clear and convincing evidence of substantial violation of this chapter or State law.

122.15 APPEAL.

If the Clerk revokes or refuses to issue a license, the Clerk shall make a part of the record the reasons therefor. The licensee, or the applicant, shall have a right to a hearing before the Council at its next regular meeting. The Council may reverse, modify or affirm the decision of the Clerk by a majority vote of the Council members present and the Clerk shall carry out the decision of the Council.

122.16 EFFECT OF REVOCATION.

Revocation of any license shall bar the licensee from being eligible for any license under this chapter for a period of one year from the date of the revocation.

122.17 REBATES.

Any licensee, except in the case of a revoked license, shall be entitled to a rebate of part of the fee paid if the license is surrendered before it expires. The amount of the rebate shall be determined by dividing the total license fee by the number of days for which the license was issued and then multiplying the result by the

number of full days not expired. In all cases, at least five dollars (\$5.00) of the original fee shall be retained by the City to cover administrative costs.

122.18 LICENSE EXEMPTIONS.

The following are excluded from the application of this chapter.

1. Newspapers. Persons delivering, collecting for or selling subscriptions to newspapers.
2. Club Members. Members of local civic and service clubs, Boy Scout, Girl Scout, 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers of America and similar organizations.
3. Local Residents and Farmers. Local residents and farmers who offer for sale their own products.
4. Students. Students representing the Milford Community School District and Arnolds Park-Okoboji Community School District conducting projects sponsored by organizations recognized by the school.
5. Route Sales. Route delivery persons who only incidentally solicit additional business or make special sales.
6. Resale or Institutional Use. Persons customarily calling on businesses or institutions for the purposes of selling products for resale or institutional use.

122.19 CHARITABLE AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Authorized representatives of charitable or nonprofit organizations operating under the provisions of Chapter 504A of the Code of Iowa desiring to solicit money or to distribute literature are exempt from the operation of Sections 122.04 and 122.05. All such organizations are required to submit in writing to the Clerk the name and purpose of the cause for which such activities are sought, names and addresses of the officers and directors of the organization, the period during which such activities are to be carried on, and whether any commissions, fees or wages are to be charged by the solicitor and the amount thereof. If the Clerk finds that the organization is a bona fide charity or nonprofit organization the Clerk shall issue, free of charge, a license containing the above information to the applicant. In the event the Clerk denies the exemption, the authorized representatives of the organization may appeal the decision to the Council, as provided in Section 122.15 of this chapter.