BERMUDA

MOTOR CAR AND AUXILIARY BICYCLES (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT ACT 2026

2026 : 38

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WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Motor Car Act 1951, the Auxiliary Bicycles Act 1954, the Motor Car (Drivers' Licences) Regulations 1952, the Motor Car (Examination, Licensing and Registration) Regulations 1952 and the Auxiliary Bicycles (Examination, Licensing and Registration) Regulations 1955 to provide for abbreviated licensing periods for private motor cars, motor cycles and auxiliary bicycles, to reduce the number of inspections required for new motor cars within the first five years following licensing and to remove the requirement for a certificate of physical fitness when renewing particular drivers' licences up to age 70;

Be it enacted by The King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Citation

1 This Act may be cited as the Motor Car and Auxiliary Bicycles (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2026.

Amends the Motor Car Act 1951

2 The Motor Car Act 1951 is amended—

(a) in section 54 by deleting subsection (6) and substituting the following—

"(6) Except where the Minister otherwise specifies, subsection (1) does not apply in relation to—

(a) the second and fourth occasions on which a motor car, which was first registered under section 63 on or after the 1st day of January 1993, is licensed;

(b) the second, third and fifth occasions on which a private motor car registered under section 63 is licensed, where on initial licensing the private motor car is a new motor car not previously in operational use,

if the period for which the motor car is licensed on each such occasion is consecutive upon the period for which it was licensed on the prior occasion.";

(b) in section 55—

(i) in the heading, by deleting the word "quarterly" and substituting "the";

(ii) in subsection (1), by deleting the words "six months" and substituting "12 months";

(iii) in subsection (2), by deleting the words "The six-monthly examinations of public service vehicles required by this section" and substituting "The examination of public service vehicles, required every 12 months, under this section";

(c) in section 59 by—

(i) inserting after subsection (1), the following new subsections—

"(1A) Notwithstanding subsection (1)(a), licence duties payable on renewal of a private motor car or motor cycle licence may upon approval by the Director, in special circumstances, be paid—

(a) in instalments, as specified in writing by the Director, provided that the full sum is paid not later than one month prior to the expiration of the licence period;

(b) in relation to a portion of the licence period being one month, three months or six months, at a rate of one-twelfth part of the rate specified in Schedule 2 for each calendar month of the licence period.

(1B) A person may make an application to the Director, in such form as the Director determines, in relation to the payment of licence duties in accordance with subsection (1A)(a) or (b).

(1C) The Director may, after considering an application made under subsection (1B), approve or refuse an application.

(1D) Where the Director refuses an application under subsection (1C) the sum payable under subsection (1) must be paid in full.

(1E) Upon expiration of the portion of the licence period to which payment under subsection (1A)(a) or (b) applies the owner of the private motor car or motor cycle shall, in the absence of a declaration made in accordance with section 68(3) approved by the Minister, be liable for any outstanding portion of the licence duties payable under subsection (1) for the licence period.";

(ii) deleting subsection (4) and substituting the following—

"(4) In this section—

(a) "licence period" means in relation to a motor car licence issued in respect of a motor car of any particular class, or in relation to a trade licence, the period of 12 months immediately preceding the date prescribed for the expiration of motor car licences issued in respect of motor cars of that class or for the expiration of trade licences, as the case may be;

(b) "special circumstances" means—

(i) the unavailability in Bermuda of a part required for the repair of the motor car;

(ii) the impending sale or transfer of the motor car;

(iii) the temporary absence from Bermuda of the owner of the motor car;

(iv) financial hardship affecting the owner of the motor car;

(v) any other circumstance as determined by the Director.";

(d) in section 80(b) by inserting after the words "prescribed form" the words ", where required under this Act or any enactment";

(e) in section 86—

(i) in subsection (1) by deleting paragraph (a) and substituting the following—

"(a) a driver's licence issued to a person who was at the time of issue 18 years of age or over—

(i) shall remain in effect for a period of 10 years after the date of issue;

(ii) may be renewed every 10 years provided that the applicant in the case of the renewal of a driver's licence—

(A) for a private motor car or motor cycle submits a completed personal medical declaration, in such form as the Director determines, or a certificate of physical fitness from a registered medical practitioner where required by the Director;

(B) for a class of motor car not specified in clause (A), submits a certificate of physical fitness from a registered medical practitioner;

(C) for any class of motor car, where the applicant has attained the age of 70 years or older at the date of application for the renewal, submits a certificate of physical fitness from a registered medical practitioner; and";

(ii) by inserting after subsection (5) the following new subsections (6) and (7)—

"(6) A person shall not provide false or misleading information on a personal medical declaration form.

(7) A person who contravenes subsection (6) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding $1,000.00.".

Amends the Auxiliary Bicycles Act 1954

3 The Auxiliary Bicycles Act 1954 is amended in section 20 by—

(a) inserting after subsection (1), the following new subsections—

"(1A) Notwithstanding subsection (1), licence duties payable in respect of auxiliary bicycle licences may upon approval by the Director, in special circumstances, be paid—

(a) in instalments, as specified in writing by the Director, provided that the full sum is paid not later than one month prior to the expiration of the licence period;

(b) in relation to a portion of the licence period being one month, three months or six months, at a rate of one-twelfth part of the rate specified in the Schedule for each calendar month of the licence period.

(1B) A person may make an application to the Director, in such form as the Director determines, in relation to the payment of licence duties in accordance with subsection (1A)(a) or (b).

(1C) The Director may, after considering an application made under subsection (1B), approve or refuse an application.

(1D) Where the Director refuses an application under subsection (1C) the sum payable under subsection (1) must be paid in full.

(1E) Upon expiration of the portion of the licence period to which payment applies, the owner of the auxiliary bicycle shall, in the absence of—

(a) a cancellation of registration under section 24; or

(b) a change of ownership under section 25,

be liable for any outstanding portion of the licence duties payable under subsection (1) in respect of the licence period.";

(b) deleting subsection (4) and substituting the following—

"(4) In this section—

(a) "licence period" means, in relation to an auxiliary bicycle licence issued in respect of an auxiliary bicycle of any particular class, or, as the case may be, an auxiliary bicycle having allotted to it any one of any particular series of identification numbers, the period of twelve months immediately preceding the date prescribed for the expiration of auxiliary bicycle licences issued in respect of auxiliary bicycles of that class or having allotted to them any of the numbers assigned to that particular series of identification numbers;

(b) "special circumstances" means—

(i) the unavailability in Bermuda of a part required for the repair of the auxiliary bicycle;

(ii) an impending sale or transfer of the auxiliary bicycle;

(iii) the temporary absence from Bermuda of the owner of the auxiliary bicycle;

(iv) financial hardship affecting the owner of the auxiliary bicycle;

(v) any other circumstance as determined by the Director.".

Amends the Motor Car (Drivers' Licences) Regulations 1952

4 The Motor Car (Drivers' Licences) Regulations 1952 are amended in regulation 11—

(a) by renumbering the current provision as sub-regulation (1);

(b) in sub-regulation (1) by revoking paragraph (a) and substituting the following—

"(a) the application form is completed and signed by the applicant and accompanied by—

(i) a certificate of physical fitness from a registered medical practitioner dated not more than three months before the date of application in the case of—

(A) an initial issuance of a driver's licence;

(B) the renewal of a driver's licence in relation to a motor car not classified as a private motor car or motor cycle;

(C) the issuance or renewal of a driver's licence for a person aged 70 years or over;

(ii) a personal medical declaration form in the case of a renewal, in relation to a private motor car or motor cycle for an applicant who has not attained the age of 70 years at the date of submission of an application for renewal;";

(c) by inserting after sub-regulation (1) the following new sub-regulations—

"(2) A personal medical declaration form under sub-regulation (1)(a)(ii) must require the applicant to state whether he has any condition that impairs—

(a) eyesight;

(b) hearing;

(c) consciousness;

(d) awareness;

(e) sleep; or

(f) his ability to drive safely and responsibly.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (2) the Director may, at his discretion, after review of the information contained in a personal medical declaration form, request that the applicant submits a certificate of physical fitness from a registered medical practitioner.".

Amends the Motor Car (Examination, Licensing and Registration) Regulations 1952

5 The Motor Car (Examination, Licensing and Registration) Regulations 1952 are amended—

(a) in regulation 7(1)—

(i) in paragraph (a) by deleting the words "vehicle licence expiration" and substituting "vehicle licence period under section 59(4) of the Act";

(ii) in paragraph (b) by deleting the words "vehicle licence expiration" and substituting "vehicle licence period under the Act";

(b) in regulation 18 by revoking paragraphs (a) and (b) and substituting the following—

"(a) with respect to private motor cars—

(i) the registered owner's date of birth; or

(ii) the licence period specified under section 59(1A)(b) of the Motor Car Act 1951, where applicable;

(b) with respect to motor cycles—

(i) 12 months succeeding the date that the licence came into force; or

(ii) the licence period specified under section 59(1A)(b) of the Motor Car Act 1951, where applicable.".

Amends the Auxiliary Bicycles (Examination, Licensing and Registration) Regulations 1955

6 The Auxiliary Bicycles (Examination, Licensing and Registration) Regulations 1955 are amended—

(a) in regulation 3(1) by deleting the words "being days which fall within the period beginning on the first day of May in each year and ending on the thirty-first day of August in each year,";

(b) in regulation 4(c) by deleting the words "regulation 4(1)" and substituting "regulation 3(1)";

(c) in regulation 7 by revoking paragraph (a) and substituting the following—

"(a) as respects a private auxiliary bicycle at the end of the licence period under section 20(1), 20(1A)(b) or 20(4) of the Auxiliary Bicycles Act 1954;".

Commencement

7 This Act shall come into operation on such day as the Minister may appoint by notice published in the Gazette.

[Assent Date: 12 October 2026]

[Operative Date: 19 October 2026]