
First published in the *Government Gazette*, Electronic Edition, on 21st December 1999 at 5:00 pm.

The following Act was passed by Parliament on 24th November 1999 and assented to by the President on 30th November 1999:—

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

No. 45 of 1999.

I assent.



S R NATHAN,
President.
30th November 1999.

An Act to amend the Road Traffic Act (Chapter 276 of the 1997 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act 1999 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 (1) of the Road Traffic Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by inserting, immediately after the definition of “police officer”, the following definition:

““public place” means any place or premises, whether privately owned or not, to which the general public or any section of the general public is permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise;”.

Amendment of section 5

3. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (5), the following subsection:

“(5A) Any person who is guilty of the offence under subsection (5) of altering a vehicle or trailer in contravention of this section shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.”.

Amendment of section 10

4. Section 10 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(3) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.”.

Amendment of section 12

5. Section 12 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (3), the following subsection:

“(4) Any person who fails to comply with subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.”.

Amendment of section 19

6. Section 19 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (3), the following subsection:

“(3A) Without prejudice to subsection (3), the Registrar may refuse to issue a vehicle licence if he is satisfied that the vehicle in respect of which the licence is to be issued is registered in the name of a person who, pursuant to a warrant of court, has been arrested in connection with an offence under this Act or the rules or any written law specified in Part I of the Schedule and the offence has not been tried and determined by the court.”.

Amendment of section 25

7. Section 25 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsections (2), (3) and (4) and substituting the following subsections:

“(2) The rules may —

- (a) provide for the issue of a permit, in respect of a vehicle not registered under this Act that is brought into Singapore from any place outside Singapore (referred to in this section as a foreign vehicle), authorising the keeping and use in Singapore of the vehicle for such period as the Registrar may determine;
- (b) prescribe the manner of application for such permit;
- (c) provide for the levy of a fee for the issue of such permit in accordance with such rates as may be prescribed by the Minister;
- (d) prescribe the conditions for the issue of such permit;
- (e) provide for the extension of the period of validity of such permit;
- (f) provide for the cancellation of such permit;
- (g) provide for such permit to be stored in an electronic form on such stored value card, device or appurtenance as may be issued by the Authority or its agent;
- (h) regulate the issue and use of such stored value card, device or appurtenance;
- (i) provide for the levy of a fee for the issue of such stored value card, device or appurtenance;
- (j) provide for the levy of a tax for the keeping or use of a foreign vehicle in Singapore in accordance with such rates as may be prescribed by the Minister;
- (k) prescribe the manner in which any fee or tax payable under the rules is to be levied and collected, including the use of electronic or computerised or other facilities, and the use by the foreign vehicle concerned of specified points of exit from Singapore, for that purpose;

(*l*) prescribe the records to be kept by the Registrar in connection with the rules; and

(*m*) empower the Registrar and any officer authorised by him to prohibit the entry into or exit from Singapore of any foreign vehicle if any fee or tax payable under the rules in respect of that vehicle is in arrears.

(3) Any rates prescribed by the rules may be made to apply only to vehicles of a specified class, category or description, and the Minister may prescribe different rates for vehicles of different classes, categories or descriptions or for vehicles used for different purposes.

(4) Where a person is convicted of an offence under any of the rules, the court before which such person is convicted may, in addition to the punishment prescribed for the offence, order him to pay the amount of such fees or taxes as may be certified by an officer appointed by the Authority to be due and payable by him at the date of his conviction, and such amount may be recovered according to the law for the time being in force for the recovery of fines.

(5) Section 77A of the Banking Act (Cap. 19) and section 14 of the Currency Act (Cap. 69) shall not apply to any stored value card, device or appurtenance issued by the Authority or its agent in accordance with the rules.”.

Amendment of section 27

8. Section 27 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(3) Any person who fails to comply with subsection (2) (*b*) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.”.

New section 95A

9. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 95, the following section:

“Power to immobilise or seize and detain vehicle belonging to person against whom warrant of arrest is in force

95A.—(1) Where a vehicle which is being used or parked on a road or in a parking place is registered in the name of a person against whom a warrant of arrest is in force, a police officer or an employee of the Authority may —

- (a) immobilise the vehicle or cause the vehicle to be immobilised, if it is stationary; or
- (b) seize the vehicle and detain it at a place of safety or cause the vehicle to be seized and detained at a place of safety,

and the vehicle shall remain so immobilised or detained at the risk of the owner thereof until it is released by order of a Magistrate, the Deputy Commissioner of Police or the Registrar.

(2) The powers conferred by subsection (1) on a police officer may also be exercised by him in respect of any vehicle which is registered in the name of a person against whom a warrant of arrest is in force and which is being used or parked in a public place.

(3) Without prejudice to subsections (1) and (2) but subject to subsection (4), where a police officer, in attempting to execute a warrant of arrest at any private premises, finds at such private premises any vehicle which is registered in the name of the person against whom the warrant of arrest has been issued, the police officer may —

- (a) immobilise the vehicle or cause the vehicle to be immobilised, if it is stationary; or
- (b) seize the vehicle and detain it at a place of safety or cause the vehicle to be seized and detained at a place of safety,

and the vehicle shall remain so immobilised or detained at the risk of the owner thereof until it is released by order of a Magistrate, the Deputy Commissioner of Police or the Registrar.

(4) Nothing in subsection (3) shall authorise a police officer to immobilise or seize and detain any vehicle which he finds at any private premises unless, despite all reasonable effort, he is unable at such private premises to effect the arrest of the person against whom the warrant of arrest has been issued.

(5) For the purposes of subsections (1), (2) and (3) —

(a) a police officer or an employee of the Authority may require any person who is driving or who is in charge of the vehicle —

- (i) to stop the vehicle;
- (ii) to take the vehicle to such place of safety as may be specified by the police officer or employee of the Authority; or
- (iii) to render such other co-operation as the police officer or employee of the Authority may reasonably require; and

(b) a Magistrate, the Deputy Commissioner of Police or the Registrar may —

- (i) refuse to order the release of any vehicle that has been immobilised or seized and detained under either of those subsections until the person in whose name the vehicle is registered has been arrested in connection with the warrant of arrest in force against him or has surrendered himself to a police officer or the warrant of arrest in force against him has been cancelled by a court; and
- (ii) require the person to whom the vehicle is released to pay such charges as may be prescribed for the release of the vehicle.

(6) Where a police officer or an employee of the Authority has immobilised or seized and detained a vehicle under this section, he shall with all reasonable despatch give notice in writing to the person in whose name the vehicle is registered of the immobilisation or seizure and shall in such notice inform that person —

(a) of the procedure by which he may secure the release of the vehicle; and

- (b) that unless within 3 months of the date specified in the notice he surrenders himself to a police officer in connection with the warrant of arrest in force against him, the Deputy Commissioner of Police or the Authority shall proceed to sell or dispose of the vehicle.

(7) A notice under subsection (6) may be served in the following manner:

- (a) where the vehicle has been immobilised, by affixing the notice onto the windscreen or any other conspicuous part of the vehicle; or
 - (b) where the vehicle has been seized and detained, by posting the notice to the person in whose name the vehicle is registered at his usual or last known place of residence or business in Singapore.
- (8) Any person who —
- (a) without the authority of a police officer or an employee of the Authority removes or tampers with any notice affixed onto a vehicle under subsection (7) (a); or
 - (b) without the authority of a Magistrate, the Deputy Commissioner of Police or the Registrar —
 - (i) removes or tampers with any device or appliance which has been fixed to a vehicle by a police officer or an employee of the Authority for the purpose of immobilising it in pursuance of this section; or
 - (ii) removes any vehicle from the place at which it has been immobilised or from the place of safety where it is being detained or causes such vehicle to be so removed,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(9) If upon the expiry of 3 months from the date specified in the notice given under subsection (6) the person in whose name the vehicle is registered has not surrendered himself to a police officer or has not been arrested in connection with the warrant of arrest in force against him, the Deputy Commissioner of Police or the Authority, after giving one month's notice in the *Gazette* of his or its intention to do so, may sell the vehicle by public auction or otherwise dispose of the vehicle in such manner as he or it thinks fit.

(10) The proceeds, if any, from the sale or disposal of any such vehicle shall be applied in payment of —

- (a) any taxes, fees or charges under this Act or the rules which may be due from the person in whose name the vehicle is registered; and
- (b) any charges incurred in carrying out the provisions of this section,

and the surplus, if any, shall be paid to the person in whose name the vehicle is registered, or if not claimed by such person within 12 months after the date of the sale or disposal shall be forfeited to the Government.

(11) Any person who obstructs or hinders the Authority or any employee thereof, the Deputy Commissioner of Police or any police officer acting in the discharge of his duty under this section shall be guilty of an offence.

(12) The Authority or any employee thereof, the Deputy Commissioner of Police and any police officer shall not be liable for any damage to or loss of any vehicle or the contents thereof which is not wilfully or negligently caused by them in the exercise of their powers under this section.

(13) In this section —

“immobilise”, in relation to a vehicle, means to prevent the removal of the vehicle by fixing to the vehicle a device or appliance which is —

- (a) designed or adapted for the purpose of preventing the removal of the vehicle; and
- (b) approved by the Authority or the Deputy Commissioner of Police for use for the purpose of this section;

“police officer” includes an auxiliary police officer who is —

- (a) appointed in accordance with any written law for the time being in force; and
- (b) authorised in writing by the Commissioner of Police to exercise the powers conferred on a police officer by this section;

“warrant of arrest” means a warrant of arrest issued by a court against a person in connection with any offence committed by him under —

- (a) this Act or the rules; or
- (b) the Parking Places Act (Cap. 214) or any rules made thereunder.”.

Amendment of section 129

10. Section 129 of the principal Act is amended by deleting “\$2,000” in the penultimate lines of subsections (1) and (2) and substituting in each case “\$5,000”.
