

All About Motor Vehicle Amendment Act 2019

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All About Motor Vehicle Amendment Act 2019

Dear Friends, The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019, that introduces several amendments in the 30-year-old law, was passed by the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha earlier this month. The government has notified 63 provisions of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019, including the ones dealing with enhanced penalties for various traffic offences.

All About Motor Vehicle Amendment Act 2019:

The new clauses would come into effect from September 1, 2019. The 63 clauses deal with penalties, licences, registration and National Transport Policy, among others.

Towards safety, the law has proposed stiffer penalties for traffic rule violations such as over-speeding, dangerous driving, driving under the influence of alcohol and other offences such as not wearing a helmet or driving without licence.

Driving without license

- The new law enhances the penalty for unauthorized use of vehicles without a license to Rs 5,000 from Rs 1.000.
- The minimum penalty for driving without a license has been increased to Rs 5,000 from Rs 500 while the fine for driving despite disqualification has been increased to Rs 10,000.

Without wearing a helmet:

Under the new law, driving without wearing a helmet will attract a penalty of Rs 1,000

Drunken Driving:

• The new rules also enhance the penalty for drunken driving to imprisonment up to 6 months and/or fine up to Rs 10,000 for first offence and imprisonment up to 2 years and/or fine of Rs 15,000 for the second offence.

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• Besides, the new rules enable state governments to designate any person/agency as the enforcement agency to detect and impose a penalty on overloaded vehicles.

Driving Licence Expiry:

- As per the new Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, an individual can apply for renewal of driving licence any time between one year before its expiry and up to one after its expiry.
- However, if you apply for renewal after one year of the expiry of licence then you will be required to undertake the driving licence test once again.

For Minors:

- A new provision has been added to the Bill with regard to underage drivers under which the guardians or vehicle owners shall be held guilty in case of an offence by a juvenile.
- A fine of Rs 25,000 with three years imprisonment will be imposed and the juvenile will be tried under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act while the registration of the vehicle will be cancelled.

The amendments mainly focus on issues relating to improving road safety, citizens' facilitation while dealing with the transport department, strengthening rural transport, last-mile connectivity and public transport, automation and computerization and enabling online services.