

#### BELIZE

## MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT CHAPTER 230

## REVISED EDITION 2011 SHOWING THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2011

This is a revised edition of the Substantive Laws, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011.

This edition contains a consolidation of amendments made to the law by Act No. 8 of 2008.

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#### **CHAPTER 230**

#### MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This Part was inserted by Act No. 8 of 2008

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R. L., 1958.	L , , , ,
CAP. 192,	
R. E. 1980-1990.	
40 of 1963.	
4 of 1965.	
4 of 1967.	
14 of 1968.	
9 of 1972.	
16 of 1972.	
30 of 1973.	
12 of 1978.	
28 of 1985.	
22 of 1987.	
20 of 1990.	
20 of 1992.	
11 of 1994.	
18 of 1998.	
42 of 1999.	
41 of 2002.	
8 of 2008.	
S.I. 88 of 2008.	

#### PART I

## Preliminary

- 1. This Act may be cited as the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.
- 2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

"at night" means from half an hour after sunset until half an hour before

sunrise;
"Board" means the Transport Board established in accordance with

"Department" means the Department of Transport established in

accordance with section 3 for the registration, licensing and control of

"Board" means the section 4 of this Act;

all vehicles;

cordance with

Short title.

Interpretation.

41 of 2002.

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vehicles and trailers which applies to Belize;

connected with such operations;

twenty-six pounds;

or other loads;

"inspector" means any person appointed under this Act to examine motor vehicles or for other purposes of this Act;

"International Convention" means any international agreement for the

time being in force relative to the international circulation of motor

"land tractor" means a tractor designed and used for work on the land in connection with forestry or road making and similar operations which is driven on a public road only when proceeding to and from such work and which when so driven hauls or carries nothing other than implements

"maximum gross weight" or "m.g.w." in reference to a goods vehicle and a freight passenger vehicle, means the tare together with the load including the weight of the driver and that of any other person carried on the vehicle, and in reference to a motor omnibus, means the tare together with the weight of the driver, conductor, the number of passengers for which the vehicle is licensed and their luggage, and for the purposes of this definition the weight of a person shall be taken as one hundred and

"motor cycle" means a motor vehicle with less than four wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed eight hundred pounds;

"motor lorry" means a goods vehicle which is, itself, constructed to carry goods, merchandise or other loads;

"motor omnibus" means a public service vehicle other than one licensed as a freight passenger vehicle or as a taxi;

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- "municipality" means the cities of Belize City and Belmopan and the towns of Corozal, Orange Walk, Benque Viejo del Carmen, San Ignacio/Santa
- of Corozal, Orange Walk, Benque Viejo del Carmen, San Ignacio/Santa Elena, Dangriga, Punta Gorda and San Pedro (including the remainder of Ambergris Caye as well as Caye Caulker and St. George's Caye);
- "municipal authority" means Belize City Council and Belmopan City Council and the Town Councils of Corozal, Orange Walk, Benque Viejo del Carmen, San Ignacio/Santa Elena, Dangriga, Punta Gorda and San Pedro.
- "overtaking" includes passing or attempting to pass any other vehicle proceeding in the same direction;
- "owner',
- (a) includes a part owner, and any agent or attorney of an owner or part owner, of a vehicle;
- (b) in the case of a vehicle which is registered, means the person in whose name the vehicle is registered;
- (c) in the case of a vehicle which is the subject of a hire purchase agreement, means the person in possession of the vehicle under that agreement; and
- (d) in case the registered owner of a vehicle is absent from Belize, means the person in actual charge or possession of the vehicle in Belize;
- "parking place" means a place where motor vehicles, or motor vehicles of any particular class or description, may wait;
- "pickup" means a goods or passenger vehicle so designed by the manufacturer the maximum tare weight of which does not exceed three thousand, three hundred and sixty pounds and which for the purpose of speed limit shall be classed under "other vehicles";

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40 of 1963.	"public road" means any road within a town and any road declared to be a public road by the Minister by Order, and any road maintained wholly or partly from public funds;
	"public service vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for carrying passengers for hire or reward, whether at separate and distinct fares for their respective places or not;
	"road" means any street, road or open space to which the public are granted access and any bridge over which a road passes, and includes any privately owned street, road or open space to which the public are granted access either generally or conditionally;
	"tare" means the actual weight of a motor vehicle when unladen but inclusive of the body, accumulators, loose tools, spare wheels and other usual equipment and a full supply of water and fuel used for the purposes of propulsion;
28 of 1985. 20 of 1990.	"taxi" means a public service vehicle having seating accommodation for not more than six passengers and which is of a type approved by the Department as suitable for the ordinary purpose of a taxi;
	"ton" means the imperial ton of two thousand, two hundred and forty pounds;
	"tractor" means any motor vehicle constructed or used for the purpose of hauling trailers whether or not it is itself capable of carrying passengers or goods but does not include a motor lorry so constructed except when such motor lorry is hauling a trailer;
	"traffic" includes bicycles, tricycles, motor vehicles, other vehicles of every description, pedestrians, and all animals being ridden, driven or led on any road;
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does not fall within the definition of a public service vehicle;

"private motor car" means any motor vehicle, other than a goods vehicle, the weight of which unladen exceeds eight hundred pounds and which

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Department of Trans-

20 of 1990.

20 of 1990. 41 of 2002.

20 of 1990.

20 of 1992.

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"traffic warden" means a person appointed in accordance with section 3 of this Act for the enforcement of traffic laws and, where the context allows, includes the Chief Transport Officer;

"trailer" means any vehicle which has no independent motor power of its own and which is attached to a tractor or other motor vehicle, but does not include a side-car attached to a motor cycle;

"transport officer" means a person appointed in accordance with section 3 and, where the context allows, includes the Chief Transport Officer;

"vehicle" includes carriages, wagons, carts, motor vehicles, bicycles, tricycles, vans, hand carts, trucks, barrows and all other machines for

the portage of goods or persons on any road. **3.**–(1) There shall be established under the Ministry for the time being responsible for Transport, a Department of Transport for the registration,

licensing and control of all vehicles in Belize, and in it shall be vested the

(2) The Department of Transport shall be headed by a public officer to be known as the "Chief Transport Officer" who shall be appointed by the Public Services Commission in accordance with section 106 of the Constitution, Cap. 4.

(3) There shall be appointed by the Public Services Commission such other traffic wardens, transport officers, inspectors and other staff as may be necessary for the due carrying out of the provisions of this Act and the regulations made thereunder.

traffic laws.

(5) The functions of the traffic wardens appointed under this section

number of traffic wardens as may be necessary for the enforcement of

(4) There shall be appointed by the Public Services Commission such

shall be as follows,

administration of this Act.

(a) direct the flow of traffic;

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	(b) to enforce the parking regulations;	
	(c) to enforce the traffic violation ticket system;	
	<ul><li>(d) to investigate and prosecute traffic accidents, including the enforcement of provisions relating to driving whilst under the influence of drinks or drugs;</li></ul>	
	(e) perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by this Act or any regulations made hereunder.	
20 of 1992. 42 of 1999.	(6) In exercise of his functions under this Act or any regulations hereunder, a traffic warden shall have the authority and powers of a member of the Belize Police Department and may exercise all the powers conferred on a member of the Belize Police Department by this Act or any regulations made hereunder.	
20 of 1992.	(7) All traffic wardens while on duty shall wear distinctive uniforms and badges approved by the Chief Transport Officer.	
20 of 1992. 42 of 1999.	(8) The powers conferred on a traffic warden by this section shall be without prejudice to the functions of a member of the Belize Police Department as contained in the Police Act, Cap.238 to enforce all laws, rules and regulations.	
8 of 2008.	(9) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section or any other law, the power to appoint and remove, and to exercise disciplinary control over traffic wardens within the municipality shall vest in the municipal authority.	
8 of 2008.	(10) The municipal authority shall appoint such number of traffic wardens as may be necessary to enforce traffic laws within the municipality.	
8 of 2008.	(11) The functions of traffic wardens appointed by the municipal authority shall in respect of municipality be the same as those set out in subsection 5 of this section.	
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8 of 2008.

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Transport Board. 41 of 2002.

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(13) All traffic wardens appointed by the municipal authority shall, while on duty, wear distinctive uniforms and badges approved by the municipality.

(14) The municipal authority shall pay the traffic wardens appointed by it such salaries and allowances as may be approved by it, but the same

shall not be less than those payable to traffic wardens appointed by the

Department of Transport. **4.**–(1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the Transport

Board consisting of seven members appointed by the Minister as follows, (a) the Chief Transport Officer or an officer from within his Department designated by him, who shall also be Secretary to the Board;

> *(b)* the Commissioner of Police or an officer from within his Department designated by him; a representative of the public transport providers; (c)

(d) the Chief Engineer or an officer of his Department designated by him; and

(e) three members from the private sector, of whom two shall be persons with knowledge and experience of the transportation business, and one shall be a representative of the users of public transport, appointed by the Minister in his discretion.

(2) The Minister shall appoint one member to be the Chairperson of the Board, and another member to be the Deputy Chairperson of the Board, and in the absence of the Chairperson at any meeting of the Board, the Deputy Chairperson shall act as Chairperson.

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(a)

appointments terminated, hold office for two years.

(4) The Board shall meet at least once every two months.

(3) Members of the Board referred to in paragraphs (c) and (e) of subsection (1) above, shall, unless they earlier resign or have their

- (5) A quorum at any meeting of the Board shall be four members, and
- decisions of the Board shall be by majority votes of the members present and voting at any meeting.
- (6) The Board shall assist the Minister in the formulation of policies and the development of regulations pertaining to public road transport, and in particular on the following,
  - to public road transportation and in particular or the operation of omnibuses and taxis;(b) registration, charges and fees in respect of motor and

rates, fares, tolls, dues or other charges pertaining

- (c) driving tests and restrictions on the issuance of driving licences and omnibus licences;
- (d) such other duties as may be assigned to it under this Act and any regulations made thereunder.
- (7) The Board shall consider and decide all applications for road service permits and other consents required to operate omnibuses, and for that purpose, a reference to the Department of Transport in Part XII of Regulations in R.E. 2003, made under the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Cap. 230 shall be read and construed as a reference to the
  - (8) The Board shall regulate its own procedure.

other vehicles;

(9) The Secretary to the Board shall maintain proper records of the proceedings of the Board.

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Board.

Motor vehicle re-

Registration of motor vehicles.

cords.

28 of 1985.

20 of 1990.

(10) Where any person is aggrieved by a decision of the Board, he shall, within twenty-one days of such decision, appeal to the Minister whose decision thereon shall be final.

#### **PART II**

#### Registration of Motor Vehicles

**5.**–(1) The Department shall keep records of motor vehicles in the prescribed forms and separate records shall be kept by the transport

officer in any locality as directed by the Department.

- (2) Every transport officer shall forward to the Department a copy of every entry made in his local record.
- (3) The Department shall supply to any person applying for a copy of the entries relating to any specified vehicle a copy of these entries on payment of a prescribed fee if he shows that he has a reasonable cause for requiring such a copy.

**6.**–(1) Except as hereinafter provided, no person shall drive, or being the

owner, shall license any other person to drive a motor vehicle on a road unless the vehicle, and any trailer drawn by such vehicle, is registered under this Act, and has affixed thereto in the prescribed manner the prescribed identification mark; but no person shall be liable to a penalty

- for a breach of this section if he proves that he has taken all reasonable steps to comply with its requirements, and that the vehicle is being driven on a road for the purpose of being registered.

  (2) Application for the registration of a motor vehicle or trailer shall be
- (2) Application for the registration of a motor vehicle or trailer shall be made by the owner on the prescribed form, which must be duly completed by the applicant and be accompanied by the prescribed registration fee.
- (3) The transport officer to whom application is made shall forthwith enter particulars of the vehicle in the records, and shall assign to the vehicle a registered number or letter and number, which shall become the identification mark of such vehicle.

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	(4) A certificate of registration in the prescribed form, shall be given to the owner of the vehicle, and such certificate of registration shall be regarded as sufficient evidence that the vehicle to which it refers has been registered, unless the contrary is shown.
20 of 1990	(5) If a motor vehicle does not bear on it an identification mark as provided by this section, this fact shall be regarded as sufficient evidence that the vehicle has not been registered unless the contrary is shown, and any constable or transport officer may detain such a vehicle until inquiries have been made.
	(6) The onus of proving that a vehicle has been registered rests upon the owner of the vehicle.
	(7) The owner of a motor vehicle shall notify the Department of all circumstances or events which affect the accuracy of the entries in the records, at the same time forwarding his certificate of registration for amendment.
	(8) A transport officer may call upon any owner of a motor vehicle at any time to furnish all information for the verification of the entries in the records relating to such vehicle.
	(9) Whenever the registered owner of a motor vehicle is about to absent himself from Belize leaving his registered vehicle in Belize, he shall notify the Department in writing of the name and address of the person in whose charge or possession the vehicle will be left.
	(10) No person shall be registered as the owner of a motor vehicle unless he is at least seventeen years of age.
41 of 2002	(11) Without prejudice to the generality of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, every person making an application to register a vehicle shall present the following additional information,
	(a) a copy of customs entry specifying that the customs duty payable in respect of the motor vehicle has been duly paid, or other documents from the Comptroller of Customs specifying that the motor vehicle is, at the time of the application, exempt from the payment of customs duty; and

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Examination of motor vehicles.

7.–(1) Before registering any motor vehicle or trailer, the transport officer shall verify all the particulars entered in the form of application, and may, if he thinks it necessary, send any vehicle to be examined and tested by an inspector for the purpose of ensuring that it is of such construction and in such condition as may be necessary for the purpose for which it is sought to register the vehicle, and the owner shall at his own expense facilitate such examination and test and shall, if requested, dismantle and expose any part of

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the maximum gross weight or the maximum number of passengers which the vehicle may be authorised to carry, and such maximum gross weight or maximum number of passengers shall be entered in the records and in the certificate of registration. (3) If any owner of a motor vehicle or trailer is aggrieved at any decision

(2) Before registering goods vehicle, freight passenger vehicle, motor omnibus or trailer, the transport officer shall ascertain in the manner prescribed,

of an inspector, he shall be licensed to appeal to the Department, which may order that the demands of the inspector are unreasonable, or that such demands shall be enforced.

**8**.–(1) The registration of a motor vehicle shall remain valid so long

- as the vehicle is kept in use for the purposes for which it was originally registered and shall only be cancelled if the Department is satisfied that the vehicle has been destroyed or rendered permanently unserviceable or permanently removed from Belize, or if it has not been re-licensed for three consecutive years.
- rendered permanently unserviceable or has been permanently removed from Belize shall notify the Department of such fact within one month of the happening of such event.

(2) The owner of any motor vehicle which has been destroyed or

9.–(1) The following classes of motor vehicles shall be exempted from the need of registration,

Cancellation of registration.

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Exemptions from

need for registra-

tion.

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the mechanism or machinery.

(b) private motor cars and motor cycles brought into Belize by visitors for their own use for a period not exceeding three months, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed;  (c) any motor vehicle the property of or used by the Governor-General for his official or personal duties;  (d) any goods vehicle used exclusively in connection with forestry, road making or similar operations which does not at any time run on any part of a public road except when a special licence has been granted by the Chief Engineer;  (e) any land tractor and any trailer drawn by such land tractor used exclusively in connection with operations for which such land tractor is used;  (f) any specific vehicle or class of vehicles exempted by the Minister.  (2) No fee on registration shall be charged in respect of the following,  (a) any motor vehicle or trailer which is the property of the Government or any City Council, Town Council or town authority, Village Council or Community Council;  (b) any motor vehicle specially exempted by an order of the Minister owned by a public body or on account of its being used for any charitable, philanthropic or other public service.		(a)	new motor vehicles in the possession of manufacturers or dealers in motor vehicles, but subject to such provisions as to the dealers' general licences as may appear hereinafter;
Governor-General for his official or personal duties;  (d) any goods vehicle used exclusively in connection with forestry, road making or similar operations which does not at any time run on any part of a public road except when a special licence has been granted by the Chief Engineer;  (e) any land tractor and any trailer drawn by such land tractor used exclusively in connection with operations for which such land tractor is used;  (f) any specific vehicle or class of vehicles exempted by the Minister.  (2) No fee on registration shall be charged in respect of the following,  (a) any motor vehicle or trailer which is the property of the Government or any City Council, Town Council or town authority, Village Council or Community Council;  (b) any motor vehicle specially exempted by an order of the Minister owned by a public body or on account of its being used for any charitable, philanthropic or other public service.  Printed by Authority of the		<i>(b)</i>	Belize by visitors for their own use for a period not exceeding three months, subject to such conditions as
forestry, road making or similar operations which does not at any time run on any part of a public road except when a special licence has been granted by the Chief Engineer;  (e) any land tractor and any trailer drawn by such land tractor used exclusively in connection with operations for which such land tractor is used;  (f) any specific vehicle or class of vehicles exempted by the Minister.  (2) No fee on registration shall be charged in respect of the following,  (a) any motor vehicle or trailer which is the property of the Government or any City Council, Town Council or town authority, Village Council or Community Council;  9 of 1972.  (b) any motor vehicle specially exempted by an order of the Minister owned by a public body or on account of its being used for any charitable, philanthropic or other public service.  FIHE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE  REVISED EDITION 2011		(c)	
tractor used exclusively in connection with operations for which such land tractor is used;  (f) any specific vehicle or class of vehicles exempted by the Minister.  (2) No fee on registration shall be charged in respect of the following,  (a) any motor vehicle or trailer which is the property of the Government or any City Council, Town Council or town authority, Village Council or Community Council;  (b) any motor vehicle specially exempted by an order of the Minister owned by a public body or on account of its being used for any charitable, philanthropic or other public service.  [FIHE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE REVISED EDITION 2011]		(d)	forestry, road making or similar operations which does not at any time run on any part of a public road except when a special licence has been granted by the
the Minister.  (2) No fee on registration shall be charged in respect of the following,  (a) any motor vehicle or trailer which is the property of the Government or any City Council, Town Council or town authority, Village Council or Community Council;  9 of 1972.  (b) any motor vehicle specially exempted by an order of the Minister owned by a public body or on account of its being used for any charitable, philanthropic or other public service.  THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE  REVISED EDITION 2011  Printed by Authority of the		(e)	tractor used exclusively in connection with operations
(a) any motor vehicle or trailer which is the property of the Government or any City Council, Town Council or town authority, Village Council or Community Council;  (b) any motor vehicle specially exempted by an order of the Minister owned by a public body or on account of its being used for any charitable, philanthropic or other public service.  (FINE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE REVISED EDITION 2011  Printed by Authority of the		<i>(f)</i>	
the Government or any City Council, Town Council or town authority, Village Council or Community Council;  9 of 1972.  (b) any motor vehicle specially exempted by an order of the Minister owned by a public body or on account of its being used for any charitable, philanthropic or other public service.  THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE  REVISED EDITION 2011  Printed by Authority of the	(2) No fe	ee on r	egistration shall be charged in respect of the following,
the Minister owned by a public body or on account of its being used for any charitable, philanthropic or other public service.  THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE  Printed by Authority of the		(a)	the Government or any City Council, Town Council or town authority, Village Council or Community
Printed by Authority of the	9 of 1972.	<i>(b)</i>	the Minister owned by a public body or on account of its being used for any charitable, philanthropic or
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[CAP. 230 Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic

(3) The exemption hereby granted from payment of the registration fee in respect of a vehicle shall cease whenever the condition justifying such exemption ceases to apply to that vehicle.

10.—(1) On the change of possession of a motor vehicle otherwise than by death,

han Transfer of registration.

[CAP. 230]

(a) the motor vehicle shall not be used for more than seven days after such change of possession unless the new owner is registered as the owner thereof;

20 of 1990.

(b) the registered owner and the new owner shall within seven days after such change of possession make application in writing signed by both of them to the Department giving the name and address of the new owner and the date of change of possession and such application shall be accompanied by the certificate of registration and the prescribed fee and the transport officer shall thereupon by endorsement of the certificate of registration and entry in the records substitute the name of the new owner for that of the registered owner and shall date and initial the substitution and from such date the new owner shall for all purposes be deemed to be the registered owner of the motor vehicle described in the relevant entry in the records and in such certificate of registration, but where the ownership in any motor vehicle is transferred under any legal or judicial process or by virtue of a bill of sale and such motor vehicle has been seized in accordance with such bill of sale and the Bills of Sale Act, Cap. 246 and the owner satisfies the Department that no order has been made restraining the removal or

4 of 1967.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, in the case of the death of the registered owner, the legal personal representative of the deceased in

OF RELIZE

sale of such motor vehicle, the application aforesaid may be made by the new owner alone subject to the other provisions of this section being complied with.

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and in the absence of any legal personal representative in Belize, the person into whose possession the motor vehicle lawfully comes, shall, for the purposes of such transfer, be deemed to be the registered owner. (3) A legal personal representative or other person as mentioned in

Belize shall be deemed to be the owner for the purposes of such transfer,

- subsection (2) of this section shall notify the Department of the death of the registered owner within one month of such event.
- (4)At the discretion of the transport officer, a new certificate of registration may be issued instead of endorsing the original certificate.

## Licensing of Motor Vehicles

**PART III** 

- 11.–(1) Except as is otherwise in this Act provided, if after the commencement
  - use or allows to be kept for use such vehicle or trailer without having obtained, or otherwise fails or omits to obtain, the relevant licence prescribed in respect of that motor vehicle or trailer:

the owner of any motor vehicle or trailer keeps for

- (b) any motor vehicle or trailer is used upon any road for a purpose which is not authorised by the licence issued in respect thereof or in contravention of any provisions of this Act; or
- any motor vehicle or trailer is used upon a road being (c) loaded so as to exceed the maximum gross weight or the number of passengers respectively covered by the licence,

the owner or the driver or other person in charge of the motor vehicle, as the case may be, who contravenes any of the provisions of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this subsection, commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars.

#### THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE

Using vehicle with-

out prescribed li-

cence an offence.

thereof,

(a)

[CAP. 230]

- (2) Where the driver of any vehicle is charged with an offence under subsection (1) of this section, the magistrate may order that a summons be issued against the owner in the case of a registered vehicle or in the case of an unregistered vehicle against any person alleged by the driver to be the owner of the vehicle, making such alleged owner the codefendant in the case, and the magistrate may, after hearing the evidence and witnesses of all parties, make such order in regard to the payment of a fine and costs as to the magistrate seems just.
- (3) A person shall not be convicted of an offence under this section if he proves that he has not had a reasonable opportunity of obtaining a licence for the motor vehicle or trailer and that it was being driven for the purpose of obtaining a licence.
- (4) Every vehicle shall, in all proceedings under this Act, be deemed to be kept for use, until the contrary is proved by the owner of such vehicle.
- (5) Upon any conviction for an offence under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section, the magistrate, in addition to any other fine which may be inflicted, shall order the owner of the motor vehicle or trailer to pay into court to the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the amount of the relevant licence duty which would have been payable if such licence had been taken out at the proper time, and in default of payment of such amount, the owner shall be liable to imprisonment for three months, but no such order shall be made if the magistrate is satisfied that such licence duty has been paid subsequent to the commission of the offence.
- **12.**–(1) No licence shall be issued for any motor vehicle or trailer which is not registered under this Act except those specified in section 9 (1) (a), (b) and (c) of this Act, and no unlicensed vehicle shall be used on any public road, nor shall any industrial machinery be hauled on any public

road by any tractor, whether registered or not, without the permission in

(2) The Department may grant a special licence to the owner of a tractor, goods vehicle or trailer for the conveyance of heavy machinery or other articles in excess of the maximum gross weight of such vehicle subject to such conditions as may be specified in the licence.

20 of 1992.

Restrictions on licensing

tor vehicles and trailers.

of certain mo-

20 of 1992.

THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE

writing of the Department.

such conditions as the Department may impose.

- bond.
  - Special permit to use vehicle. 20 of 1992.

4 of 1965.

Application for li-

cence.

20 of 1992.

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty dollars, and in addition he shall be liable for any damages occasioned by his neglect or failure to observe any of such conditions.

used for industrial purposes or of any unregistered and unlicensed motor vehicle or trailer of a class specified in section 9 (1) (d), (e) or (f), of this Act a special licence for the passage or conveyance of such machine,

(4) A special licence as is mentioned in this section may be granted on payment of such fee as may be prescribed by the Minister and subject to

(5) Any person to whom a licence has been granted under this section who fails to observe any of the conditions specified in such licence

(6) Before issuing any licence under subsections (2) and (3) of this

motor vehicle or trailer over the respective roads and streets.

section, the Department may require the person applying for such licence to provide a bond in such amount as it may think adequate, and this bond shall be forfeited in the event of the vehicle causing any damage to the road and the cost of making good the damage shall be paid out of the amount of such bond, the balance being returned to the person giving the

(7) Any person who uses or allows to be used on any public road any motor vehicle or industrial machine in contravention of subsection (1) of this section, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars.

13. The Department may grant a special licence to the owner of a motor vehicle or trailer to use the motor vehicle or trailer on any public road for such period and on such conditions as may be specified in the licence. The licence may be granted notwithstanding that the said motor vehicle or trailer or the use of such motor vehicle or trailer on a public road is not in accordance with the provisions of this Act or of any regulations made thereunder.

14. Application for the licensing of a motor vehicle or trailer shall be made on the prescribed form.

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Conditions to be satisfied before li-

cence issued.

20 of 1990.

20 of 1990.

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15.—(1) A transport officer shall not issue a motor vehicle or trailer licence until the motor vehicle or trailer licence has been duly registered, or renew a motor vehicle or trailer licence unless he is satisfied that the motor vehicle or trailer does not differ in any respect from the particulars in the records and that the provisions of this Act and the regulations have

(2) The decision of the Department as regards the class or type to which any vehicle conforms or under which it should be registered and as regards the licence that may be issued in respect of any such vehicle shall be conclusive.

(3) The Department may, in its discretion, grant permission to enable

20 of 1990.

a vehicle licensed as a goods vehicle to be used as a private motor car for the conveyance of passengers without hire or reward. The permission shall be in writing and may be either general or for a specific occasion and subject to such conditions as the Department may think fit and may be cancelled at any time.

been complied with.

in such written permission commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars. **16.**–(1) Where the holder of a motor vehicle or trailer licence desires to use the motor vehicle or trailer for a purpose not authorised by the licence, he shall apply for a new licence, and where after the issue of

a licence, a motor vehicle or trailer is altered so that a higher duty or a duty of a different class is required, the licence shall become void, and

(3) of this section, who fails to observe any of the conditions specified

(4) Any person to whom permission has been granted under subsection

licence is issued.

Alterations in conditions on which

(2) In such cases a new licence shall not be issued until the old licence has been surrendered, and there shall be deducted from the duty on the new licence a sum equal to the duty which would have been payable on the old licence, if issued on the same day as the new licence, but the minimum duty on the new licence shall be one dollar.

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the holder shall apply for a new licence.

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28	[CAP. 230	Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic
20 of 199	this section, t	a new licence is issued in the circumstances referred to in he transport officer shall duly amend the records and issue ate of registration.
Cancellati refusal of 20 of 199	renew a motor that the motor as to be a sor to other users	nsport officer may cancel or suspend or refuse to issue or r vehicle or trailer licence if an inspector certifies in writing vehicle or trailer is so constructed or is in such a condition urce of danger to any persons travelling in the vehicle or of the road, or to be injurious to the roads themselves, or venes any provisions of this Act or regulations.
20 of 199	licence is can	wner of a motor vehicle or trailer in respect of which a celled or suspended or for which the issue or renewal of a used under this section may appeal to the Minister.
Transfer ership. 20 of 199	officer shall,	er of ownership of a motor vehicle or trailer, the transport on payment of the prescribed fee, duly amend the records icate of registration.
Duplicate es.	rendered illeg	otor vehicle or trailer licence is lost, defaced, mutilated, or tible, the transport officer may issue a duplicate licence on the prescribed fee.
	subsequently deliver up to knowingly re	licence as mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, is found, the holder of the duplicate licence shall forthwith the transport officer the duplicate licence and any person taining or having in his possession both an original and ance commits an offence.
Licence d	<b>20.</b> –(1) Every prescribed for	y motor vehicle or trailer licence issued shall be in the rm.
		inister may from time to time by Order prescribe the duties motor vehicle and trailer licences, and also the fees and aid for,
20 of 199	2. (	(a) Belize Driving Licence;
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learners licence and driving test;

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(c) any duplicate or copy of a licence or licence authorised

(b)

(e)

- or required to be used;

  (d) registration of any motor vehicle or trailer, including
- certified extract;
- other than on registration;

  (f) amendment of any record or licence on change of ownership;

certified extract of any entry in motor vehicles record

- (g) any other amendment of any record or licence;(h) dealers' licence.
- (3) Any Order made under subsection (2) of this section, shall be
- subject to affirmative resolution.

  (4) Licences may be issued for three, six, nine or twelve calendar

months at rates in proportion to the annual rates, and shall expire at the end of the respective period, provided that the month in which the licence

was issued shall be counted as one full month.

(5) Where an owner of any motor vehicle, which has been duly licensed under this Act, desires to take out in respect of such motor vehicle a licence for which a different duty is payable, he shall, if such duty is higher than the duty already paid in respect of such motor vehicle,

be required to pay only the difference between such higher duty and the

- (6) No licence duty shall be payable in respect of any vehicle which is exempt from the need for registration under section 9 (1) (a), (b) and (c) or from payment of registration fee under section 9 (2) of this Act.
- (7) No licence shall be required and no licence duty payable in respect of any vehicle mentioned in section 9 (1) (c), (d), (e) and (f) of this Act.

20 of 1992.

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duty already paid.

30	[CAP. 230 Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic	
4 of 1965.	(8) The Department in its discretion may authorise, in respect of	any

20 of 1990.

20 of 1990.

Dealers'

20 of 1990.

Uses of dealers'

general licence.

licence.

general

Belize for each complete month during which the vehicle was not in use in Belize a rebate of such proportion of the licence fee paid as it thinks fit but not exceeding one-twelfth of the annual licence duty, but no claim for a rebate shall be considered unless a half-yearly licence at least was in force during the period for which a rebate is claimed and the identification plates of the vehicle were surrendered to the Department for safe keeping for the whole of such period.

(9) The Accountant General shall, on the certificate of the Department, refund to the person named in the certificate the amount certified for

motor vehicle which has been laid up for repairs or which has been rendered permanently unserviceable or removed permanently from

**21.**–(1) A transport officer may issue to a dealer in, manufacturer or repairer of motor vehicles or trailers, who make application in the prescribed form, a dealers' general licence, which subject to sections 22 to 27 of this Act, and to any other conditions which may from time

(2) A dealers' general licence issued under this section shall not authorise the use of a vehicle for the carriage of persons or goods for fee or reward.

to time be prescribed, shall authorise the use of any number of motor vehicles or trailers in the possession of the holder of such licence in the

course of his business as such dealer, manufacturer or repairer.

or reward.

22.–(1) Subject to section 21 of this Act, a motor vehicle or trailer may

be used under a dealers' general licence for any purpose connected with the business, as a dealer in or manufacturer or repairer of motor vehicles or trailers, of the holder of such licence, and so long as such vehicle is *bona fide* being used for such purpose, the holder of the licence shall not by reason only that he is making some other or further use of the vehicle be deemed to commit an offence.

(2) A dealers' general licence shall be in the prescribed form and shall be valid for a period of twelve months from the day of issue.

## THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE

**24.**–(1) A transport officer may at any time cancel a dealers' general

Record of dealer's general licence.

Cancellation of dealers' general licence.

20 of 1990.

20 of 1990.

20 of 1990.

ferable.

used.

20 of 1990.

Dealers' general licence not trans-

Dealer to accompany vehicle when

Record of vehicles used under au-

thority of dealers'

Temporary licences and internation-

al certificates.

20 of 1990.

general licence.

[CAP. 230]

20 of 1990.

licence for any breach of this Act or of any regulations. (2) The transport officer shall give notice of such cancellation to the

person to whom such licence was issued, and may at his discretion repay to him so much of the annual fee paid as is proportionate to the unexpired portion of the year in respect of which the fee was paid.

(3) Any person whose licence has been cancelled in accordance with this section or to whom a dealers' general licence has been refused may appeal to the Minister.

**25.** No dealers' licence shall be used for any purpose not provided for in this Act, nor shall it be transferred or assigned to any other person without the authority of the transport officer.

27. The holder of a dealers' general licence shall keep, in the prescribed authorised in writing by a commissioned officer of Police.

**28.**–(1) When a motor vehicle or a trailer drawn by a motor vehicle is brought into Belize temporarily for the purpose of being used by a person Department may issue a temporary licence in respect of such motor vehicle or trailer without requiring it to be registered under this Act, and

26. No motor vehicle or trailer shall be used on any road under the authority of a dealers' general licence unless the vehicle bears the prescribed identification marks and the holder of the licence, or a person duly authorised by him, accompanies such vehicle.

form, a record of every motor vehicle or trailer which is used under the authority of such licence and shall produce such record for inspection when requested by a commissioned officer of Police or by any noncommissioned officer or police officer below the rank of corporal

during a visit to Belize, and such person does not hold an international certificate issued in accordance with an International Convention, the

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20 of 1990.

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months from the date of issue, on the payment of such fee and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) When a motor vehicle or a trailer drawn by a motor vehicle is

such temporary licence shall be issued for a period not exceeding three

- brought into Belize as mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, by a person who holds an international certificate in respect of the motor vehicle or trailer issued elsewhere than in Belize in accordance with an International Convention, such person shall, while such certificate remains valid, be exempt from any requirement to register the motor vehicle or trailer under Part II, but subject to such conditions and exemptions from licence fees under this Act as may be prescribed.

  (3) No motor vehicle or trailer in respect of which an international
- certificate or temporary licence has been issued shall be used in Belize for hire or trade purposes, except under special licence from the Department and subject to such conditions as may be attached to the licence.

  (4) Where a person in Belize desires to use a motor vehicle, or trailer

drawn by such motor vehicle, in any country outside of Belize which shall have adhered to any International Convention, he shall apply to the

- Department in the prescribed manner for such international certificates as may be required in respect of such motor vehicle or trailer.

  (5) The Department is hereby authorised, on payment of the prescribed fee, and subject to such other conditions as may from time to time be prescribed, to issue such international certificates as aforesaid in accordance with any International Convention. Before any international certificate is issued by the Department, the applicant shall
- requirements of the International Convention, and for such purpose the Department may require an Inspector to examine the motor vehicle and trailer and report thereon to the Department.

  (6) The Department shall keep a record of all international certificates and temporary licences issued under this section, and of all motor vehicles or trailers being used in Belize under the authority of an international

satisfy the Department that the motor vehicle and trailer comply with the

# certificate or temporary licence.

(7) In this section the expression "international certificate" shall include

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travelling passes, driving licences, fiscal licences and other documents as may be issued in accordance with an International Convention.

#### PART IV

#### Belize Driving Licences

- **29.**–(1) Except as provided in this section, no person shall drive a motor vehicle on a road unless he is the holder of a Belize Driving Licence, and
- no person shall employ any person to drive a motor vehicle on a road unless the person so employed is the holder of a Belize Driving Licence, and if any person acts in contravention of this provision, he commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars.
- (2) If the offender has been previously refused and has not been granted a Belize Driving Licence or is disqualified from holding or obtaining a Belize Driving Licence, he may be arrested forthwith without a warrant and he shall on summary conviction be liable to imprisonment
- (3) For the purpose of learning to drive, a person not having a Belize Driving Licence may,
  - (a) use a motor cycle upon such road and during such times as may be authorised in writing by a transport officer;

drive any motor vehicle, not being a taxi or freight

passenger vehicle carrying passengers or motor omnibus, upon such road and during such times as

for six months or to a fine of five hundred dollars.

(b)

may be authorised in writing by a transport officer, if accompanied for the purpose of instruction by a person holding a valid Belize Driving Licence and sitting next to the driver, and in such case both the learner and person accompanying him shall be jointly and severally liable for any offence against this Act committed during the course of such instruction.

- 20 of 1992.

Driving without a licence an offence.

20 of 1992.

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		been exempted under section 9 (1) (f) of this Act, as the Minister may, by Order published in the <i>Gazette</i> , prescribe.
	Issue of Driving Licences. 20 of 1990.	<b>30.</b> Belize Driving Licences shall be issued by a transport officer to applicants in accordance with this Part.
	20 of 1992. Driving tests. 20 of 1990.	<b>31.</b> –(1) A transport officer in his discretion may require an applicant for a Belize Driving Licence to produce a certificate of having passed a driving test signed by such person as may be approved of by the Department.
	20 of 1990.	(2) Driving tests may be conducted by such examiners as the Department shall from time to time approve or appoint for the purpose.
	20 of 1990.	(3) The nature of the driving test shall be at the discretion of the transport officer or of such examiners as aforesaid but shall include a test of the applicant's knowledge of the rules of the road, road signals and road signs.
		(4) If the applicant requires permission to drive a particular class of vehicle only or if the applicant is being tested under section 32 (2) of this Act, then the examiner shall issue a certificate on which any appropriate restrictions are clearly set forth, after satisfying himself by means of such tests as he may deem suitable that the applicant is qualified to drive a vehicle of such particular class or of such particular construction, and in such cases, the transport officer shall clearly set forth the restrictions on the licence itself.
	Physical fitness. 20 of 1990.	<b>32.</b> –(1) The transport officer shall not issue a driving licence to any person unless the applicant satisfies him in such manner as may be prescribed that he is physically fit to drive and is by character fitted to hold a Belize Driving Licence.
	20 of 1992.	(2) If a licence is refused under this section, other than on grounds as to character, the applicant may claim to be subjected to a test as to his fitness or ability to drive a motor vehicle, or a motor vehicle of a
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(4) No driving licence shall be required in respect of a person driving a land tractor or vehicle exempted from the need for registration under section 9 (1) (d) and (e) or such vehicle or class of vehicles as may have

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12 of 1978.

20 of 1992. 20 of 1990.

20 of 1992

Applications for driving licences.

Classes of vehicles. 20 of 1990

[CAP. 230]

particular class or description, or a motor vehicle of a particular form of construction, and if he passes such test and is not otherwise disqualified, the licence shall not be refused by reason of this section.

- (3) If a transport officer has reasonable grounds for believing or suspecting that the holder of a driving licence has become unfit to drive, he may require such person to undergo a medical examination by a
- registered medical practitioner and if, as a result of such examination, the licence holder is found to be unfit to drive a motor vehicle, his driving licence shall be suspended.
- (4) Any person whose driving licence has been suspended under subsection (3) above may apply to a Judge of the Supreme Court in Chambers on the ground that he has not become unfit to drive a motor vehicle, and if the Judge is satisfied on medical evidence that the applicant is fit to drive a motor vehicle, he may order the restoration of the driving

33. Applications for driving licences shall be made to the transport officer

on such form as may from time to time be prescribed, and shall be signed

(2) For the purposes of this section, motor vehicles are classified as

- by the applicant. **34.**–(1) A driving licence shall not be valid except in respect of the class or classes of motor vehicle therein mentioned, but the licence may, by endorsement thereon by the transport officer, be extended to any other
- follows,
  - (a) motor cycles;

(b)

licence.

class of vehicle.

- vehicles;
- (c) goods vehicles;
  - (d) motor vehicles other than those in classes (a), (b) and (c) above.

public service vehicles including freight passenger

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6 [CAP. 230 Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic	
Restrictions on Belize Driving Licence for goods vehicle, etc. 20 of 1992.	<b>35.</b> No Belize Driving Licence shall be issued or endorsed as valid for a goods vehicle to an applicant who is under the age of eighteen years, nor for a public service vehicle to an applicant who is under the age of eighteen years and who has not held a valid Belize Driving Licence for at least one year.
Age. 20 of 1992.	<b>36.</b> Except as provided in section 35 of this Act, any person not being under the age of seventeen years and not being otherwise disqualified shall be eligible to obtain a learner's licence or a driving licence.
Driving test fees.	<b>37.</b> –(1) Every person undergoing a driving test under section 31 of this Act, shall pay in respect of such test and certificate of competency such fee as may from time to time be prescribed.
	(2) The fee for examination shall be paid irrespective of what the result of the test may be.
Form of driving licence.	<b>38.</b> Belize Driving Licences shall be in such form as may be prescribed by the Department and the signature of the holder shall be affixed to the licence.

ncence.

**39.**–(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, on the issue of a Belize Driving Licence there shall be payable such fee as may from time to time be prescribed. (2) Subsection (1) of this section, shall not apply to a driving licence solely to drive a vehicle the property of the Government or any Local

**40.** The driver of a motor vehicle shall, on being so required by any police

officer in uniform, forthwith produce his driving licence for examination,

so as to enable such police officer to ascertain the name and address of the holder of the licence, the date of issue, and the transport officer by

Authority, and such driving licence shall be issued on the production of a certificate from the Head of the Department concerned, and at the discretion of the Department may be made valid for a certain class of vehicles or a specific vehicle only.

whom it was issued, and if he fails to do so, he shall be liable to a fine of twenty-five dollars.

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Fees.

20 of 1990.

Production of driv-

ing licences.

30 of 1973.

Record of driving licences.

Duration of driving licences.

Re-issue of lost or defaced driving li-

Restrictions on the issue of new driv-

ing licence after

expiration of former one.

20 of 1990.

licence.

14 of 1968.

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Temporary driving licence and in-

ternational driving

20 of 1990.

30 of 1973.

[CAP. 230]

- 41. The Department shall keep a record of all driving licences issued showing the name and address of the holder, the date of issue, the class
- of vehicle authorised and a record of any convictions ordered by a competent court to be endorsed on such licences.
  - **42.** Notwithstanding anything in this or any other Act or regulations, from and after 1st January 1975, a driving licence shall be issued or renewed to be and remain valid from the holder's birth-date in the year of the issue or renewal until his birth-date in a subsequent year.
  - **43.**–(1) If a driving licence is lost, defaced, mutilated or rendered illegible, the Department shall issue a new licence on payment of the prescribed fee without further driving test.

(2) There shall be subscribed on a new licence issued under subsection (1) of this section, any endorsements made in the record in respect of

(2) The Department may refuse to issue a driving licence to an

temporary driving licence may be granted with or without any driving test on the part of the applicant, but shall be subject to such conditions as may be stipulated on the licence and to the payment of the prescribed fee.

- such driving licence. **44.**–(1) On or after the expiration of a driving licence by effluxion of
- time, and on application by the holder thereof for the issue of a new driving licence, the transport officer shall, subject to section 32 and this section, issue a new licence to the applicant.
- applicant who is for the time being disqualified by decision of the court from holding or obtaining such a licence.
- may appeal to the Minister.

than in Belize and in accordance with an International Convention, or of

- (3) Any applicant aggrieved by any act, order or refusal of the Department
- **45.**–(1) The Department may issue a temporary driving licence for any period not exceeding three months to any applicant for it, when it is shown to its satisfaction that the applicant is a bona fide visitor to Belize. Such
  - (2) The holder of a valid international driving licence issued elsewhere

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a valid domestic driving licence issued elsewhere than in Belize shall, while such licence remains valid, be exempt from the requirement to hold a driving licence under this Part during a period of twelve months from the date of his last entry into Belize,

# Provided that,

(b)

(a) this subsection shall not authorise a person to drive a motor vehicle of any class or description if, inconsequence of a conviction or of the order of a court, he is disqualified from holding a driving licence under this Part;

the Department may by Order contained in a statutory

- instrument withdraw the rights conferred by this subsection on the holders of domestic driving licences or, in the case of domestic driving licences of a description specified in the Order, or held by persons of a description so specified;
- (c) this subsection shall be without prejudice to section 36, but section 35 of this Act, shall not apply in relation to a person driving in pursuance of this subsection a motor vehicle brought temporarily into Belize if he has attained the age of eighteen years.
- (3) Where a person in Belize desires to drive a motor vehicle in any other country which shall have adhered to any International Convention, he may apply to the Department in the prescribed manner for an international driving licence. The applicant must comply with the requirements of the said Convention and shall, in addition to such other particulars as may be required by the Department, satisfy the latter that he is above the age of eighteen years and holds a valid driving licence to drive motor vehicles in Belize of the class or description mentioned in his application, and that he is ordinarily resident in Belize. The Department shall have power to issue international driving licences in accordance with any International Convention as aforesaid and on payment of the prescribed fee. Such licences shall remain in force for twelve months from the date of issue, unless such licence has ceased to be valid.

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- (4) The Department shall keep a register of all holders in Belize of valid international driving licences issued elsewhere than in Belize, and of all holders of international driving licences issued by it.
- (5) An international driving licence referred to in subsection (3) of this section, may be issued to a person under eighteen years of age, if it is restricted to motor cycles and invalid carriages.
- (6) In this section, the expression "international driving licence" means a driving licence issued under the authority of a country outside Belize which is a party to an International Convention and in accordance with such Convention, and the expression "domestic driving licence", in relation to a country outside Belize, means a document issued under the law of that country and authorising the holder to drive motor vehicles, or a specified class or description of motor vehicles in that country.
- (7) The First Schedule shall have effect as respects the driving licences referred to in this section.

#### PART V

#### Registration of Bicycles and Licensing of Dealers in Second-Hand Bicycles

allowing it to be used on a public road, register it with the Department on payment of the prescribed fee,

**46.**–(1) The owner of every bicycle shall, before using such bicycle or

Provided that the Minister may remit the whole or any part of the registration fee in respect of a bicycle used in the public service.

- (2) Any owner who uses any bicycle, or allows his bicycle to be used, without having a valid registration thereof from the Department commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars.
- (3) The rider of any bicycle in respect of which the prescribed registration has not been obtained commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

20 of 1990.

Bicycles to be licenced.

20 of 1990.

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	(4) Wh	ere the rider of any bicycle is charged with an offence under
	` ,	(3), the court may, upon the application of the rider, order

long as such bicycle remains in use.

court seems just.

been issued.

Validity of regis-

tion and transfer

of registration.

20 of 1990.

20 of 1990.

20 of 1990.

by owner.

20 of 1990.

Requisition for registration to be made

tration.

20 of 1990. Form of registra-

notify a transport officer in writing on the prescribed form.

(3) Such notification shall be signed by the registered owner and by the new owner and shall be accompanied by the registration for the bicycle and a transfer fee of the prescribed amount.

that a summons be issued against any person alleged by the rider to be the owner of the bicycle, making such alleged owner the co-defendant in the case, and the court may, after hearing the evidence of all parties, make such order in regard to the payment of any fine and costs as to the

47. The registration of a bicycle granted under this Part shall be valid as

**48.**–(1) Every registration granted under this Part shall be in the prescribed

form and shall be valid only in respect of the bicycle for which it has

(2) On the change of ownership of a bicycle, the registered owner and the new owner shall, within fourteen days of the date of such change,

(4) The transport officer shall thereupon issue a new licence in the new owner's name and enter that name in the records, and thereafter the

- new owner shall be deemed to be the registered owner of the bicycle. **49.**–(1) Before any registration under this Part is granted, a requisition for it shall be made and signed by the owner or one of the owners of the bicycle in respect of which the registration is applied for.
- (2) Every such requisition shall be in the prescribed form and shall be left at the office of the Department.(3) Any person who, on applying for a registration, does not set forth
- (3) Any person who, on applying for a registration, does not set forth truly in such requisition any of the particulars required to be set forth commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction for each offence to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars.
- (4) A registration issued on a false requisition may be revoked by the Department.

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Transport officer may require production of bicycle. 20 of 1990.

Transport officer may refuse to grant registration.

20 of 1990.

20 of 1990.

Registration plates. 20 of 1990.

20 of 1990.

Re-issue of lost or defaced registration

or registration plate.

20 of 1990.

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50. A transport officer, before granting a registration in respect of a
bicycle, may require the bicycle to be produced for his inspection.

**51.**–(1) A transport officer may refuse to grant a registration,

- (a) if proof of ownership of the bicycle sought to be registered is not furnished to the satisfaction of the
  - registered is not furnished to the satisfaction of the transport officer; or
  - (b) if the manufacturer's marks on a bicycle have been
- tampered with.

  (2) Any person who considers himself aggrieved by a decision of the transport officer (other than the Commissioner of Transport) may appeal to the Commissioner of Transport, and any person who is dissatisfied with

any decision of the Commissioner of Transport (whether on appeal or otherwise) may appeal to the Minister, and thereafter, to the Supreme Court.

- **52.**—(1) Every person obtaining a registration under this Part shall be supplied by the Department with a registration plate which the owner shall cause to be affixed to the bicycle in respect of which the registration is obtained.
- (2) The registration plate shall be affixed to such part of the bicycle as may be prescribed.(3) If any bicycle is used without having a registration plate affixed
- thereto, the owner thereof and any person using it shall each commit an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars.
- **53.**—(1) If a bicycle registration or registration plate is lost, defaced, mutilated or rendered illegible, the Department may, on payment of the prescribed fee, issue another registration or registration plate.
- (2) If any registration or registration plate as mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, is subsequently found, it shall be delivered up forthwith to the Department, and any person knowingly retaining or having in his possession such registration or registration plate commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

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42	[C.	AP. 230	Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic
Penalty f producing tration. 20 of 1990	C	without suff read by any time after re	rson who, having a bicycle registration, refuses or neglects ficient excuse to produce and deliver it to be examined and a transport officer or any police officer within a reasonable equest by such officer commits an offence and is liable to a eeding ten dollars.
Police offi detain bicy 20 of 1990	cle.	bicycle which and may det	lice officer or transport officer may take possession of any ch is being used without a registration plate affixed thereto, tain such bicycle until proof of ownership is furnished to the of the Department.
Register fo	or regis-		Department shall cause to be kept records in which shall be

entered the names of every person taking out a registration, his place

of abode or business, the number of every licence plate issued, the date on which it was granted, the sum paid for it and the description of the bicycle in respect of which such registration was granted.

(2) A copy of any entry made in any record, and purporting to be certified as a true copy by the person having charge thereof, shall be received as evidence in all courts, and shall be deemed sufficient proof of all things therein registered, without requiring the production of any such record or of

therein registered, without requiring the production of any such record or of any requisition, notice, or other document upon which any such entry may be founded.

57. In every case where there is more than one owner of any bicycle, it shall be sufficient in any complaint, summons, order, conviction, warrant, or other proceeding under this Part, to name one of such owners without

Recovery of fines.

20 of 1990.

Co-owners.

Interpretation of "deal in second-hand bicycles".

59. With respect to sections 60 to 72 of this Act inclusive, "deal in second-hand bicycles" includes any transaction of purchase, sale or exchange of second-hand bicycles as well as the carrying on of the business of

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reference to any other or others of them and to proceed as if he were sole

58. All fines imposed under this Part or any regulations shall be

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repairing bicycles.

owner.

Dealing in secondhand bicycles, etc.,

prohibited except

Application for a licence.

Consideration of application.

Grounds on which licence shall be re-

fused.

under a licence.

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**60.** No person shall deal in second-hand bicycles and second-hand bicycle parts except in accordance with a licence in the form of the Second or Third Schedule issued under this Act.

**61.**–(1) Every person who desires to be registered to deal in second-hand

bicycles shall make application in one of the forms prescribed in the Fourth and Fifth Schedules, as the case may be, to the magistrate of the district in which he desires to deal in second hand bicycles.

(2) Every application under subsection (1) of this section, shall specify the premises upon which the applicant desires to deal in second-hand

bicycles and shall be accompanied by a fee of five dollars. (3) Every person who intends to apply for a licence under this Act shall give not less than fourteen days' notice of his intention to do so to the officer or non-commissioned officer of Police in charge of the district

in which the premises upon which he desires to deal in second-hand bicycles are situate. **62.**–(1) The magistrate shall consider every application made under

section 61 and shall, subject to section 63 of this Act, either grant or refuse the licence as he may in his absolute discretion think fit. (2) Every licence granted under subsection (1) of this section shall

come into force on the date specified therein and shall expire on 31st December next after the date on which it came into force.

**63.** The magistrate shall refuse any application for a licence under this Act,

(a)

this Act during the three years next preceding the date of the application;

if the applicant has been convicted of any offence (b) involving fraud or dishonesty during the five years next preceding the date of the application; or

if the applicant has been convicted of any breach of

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		(c) unless he is satisfied that the applicant has complied with the requirements of section 61(3) of this Act.

Transfer of li-

Sign board to be erected by li-

Licensee required

Restriction on cer-

tain transactions.

to keep books.

cence.

cence.

64. The magistrate of any district may, under application of any person licensed under this Act to deal in second hand biovales upon any premises

licensed under this Act to deal in second-hand bicycles upon any premises situate in that district, order that such licence be transferred to any other premises situate in that district, and thereupon this Act shall apply to the premises specified in such order as if those premises had been the

the premises specified in such order as if those premises had been the premises specified in the application made under section 61 of this Act. **65.**–(1) Over one of the principal entrances to the premises in respect of which a licence has been granted under this Act, there shall be placed a board on which shall be printed in legible letters at least two inches in height the name in full of the licensee and the words "Licensed to deal

(2) Any licensee who contravenes or fails to comply with subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months.

in second-hand bicycles", but where any person is licensed to repair bicycles only, there shall be printed on the board the words "Licensed to

- exceeding three months. **66.**–(1) Every licensee shall keep such books and shall enter therein such particulars in relation to his dealings in second-hand bicycles as are necessary to comply with the requirements of the Sixth and Seventh
- Schedules.

  (2) Every licensee shall licence any police officer at all reasonable times to inspect a book kept under this section and any bicycle or bicycle part upon his premises on which he is licensed to deal in second-hand bicycles and second-hand bicycle parts, and he shall afford to any police officer all such information as may be required concerning such book or his dealings in second-hand bicycles or second-hand bicycle parts or any
- repairs to bicycles effected or to be effected by him.

  67.–(1) No licensee shall purchase or exchange any second-hand bicycle,

  (a) except between the hours of six o'clock in the morning
  - except between the hours of six o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening;

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repair bicycles".

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- (b) from or with any person apparently under the age of sixteen years;
- (c) from or with any person as to whose identity he is not satisfied.
- (2) No licensee shall receive for repair any bicycle,
- (a) except between the hours of six o'clock in the morning and eight o'clock in the evening, unless specially authorised to do so under a licence in writing granted by the Police;
  - (b) from any person apparently under the age of sixteen years;
  - (c) from any person as to whose identity he is not satisfied.
- (3) No licensee shall purchase, sell or exchange any second-hand bicycle or second-hand bicycle part, or receive for repair any bicycle elsewhere than upon the premises in respect of which he is licensed under this Act.

**68.**–(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, no licensee shall within

fifteen days of the acquisition of any second-hand bicycle or second-

hand bicycle part dispose of, disfigure, dismantle or in any way alter the

- shape, colour or form of such bicycle except with the written permission of an officer or non-commissioned officer in charge of a Police Station.

  (2) Subsection (1) of this section, shall not apply to any second-hand
- (2) Subsection (1) of this section, shall not apply to any second-hand bicycle or second-hand bicycle part received by a licensee for the purpose only of effecting repairs thereto.
- **69.** Every licensee who, after notice has been given to him by a police officer that any specified bicycle or specified bicycle part has been stolen or fraudulently obtained, fails to give information to the Police that a bicycle or part of a bicycle of the like description was offered to him or

was or is in his possession commits an offence against sections 60 to 72

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of this Act.

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Restriction on disposing of, disfig-

uring or disman-

tling second-hand bicycles.

Penalty for failure to give informa-

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Search warrant.

General penalties.

any premises belonging to or occupied by any licensee, may grant a warrant in the form in the Eighth Schedule authorising any police officer with such assistance as may be necessary to enter, with force if necessary, any premises specified in the warrant and to take any such bicycle or part of a bicycle found therein and bring it before a magistrate of the district in which such premises are situate.

(2) Where, pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, any bicycle or any part of a bicycle is taken before the magistrate, he shall issue his

**70.**–(1) Any justice of the peace, upon being satisfied by evidence upon

oath that there is reasonable cause to believe that any bicycle or part of a bicycle which has been stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained is upon

- warrant or summons requiring the licensee of the premises upon which such bicycle or part of a bicycle was found to appear before him at a time and place specified in the summons to account for his possession of the bicycle or part of a bicycle.

  (3) Any licensee who fails to satisfy the magistrate that his possession
- of the bicycle or part of a bicycle was lawful commits an offence against sections 60 to 72 of this Act.

**71.** Every person who acts in contravention of any of the provisions of sections 60 to 72 of this Act, for which no special punishment is provided,

commits an offence and shall on summary conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding four hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

Power to cancel license to cancel license a person licensed under sections 60 to 72 of this Act, is license, etc.

thinks fit, cancel or suspend the licence of that person.

PART VI

Driving and other Offences and General

convicted of an offence against any of those sections, the court may, if it

# Conditions Relating to the Use of Roads

Speed. 73.–(1)No person shall drive a motor vehicle of such class or description as the Minister may by Order from time to time specify at a speed greater

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than the speed specified in the Order as the maximum speed in relation to a vehicle of that class or description and on a road described in the Order.

- (2) Any person who acts in contravention of this section commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars and shall be disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence for such period as the court thinks fit.
- (3) A person charged under this section with the offence of driving a motor vehicle of such class or description on such a road at a speed greater than the maximum speed allowed in the case of a vehicle of that class or description, shall not be liable to be convicted of the offence solely on the evidence of one witness to the effect that in the opinion of the witness the person charged was driving the vehicle at such greater speed.
- (4) Any person who aids, abets, counsels, or procures any person who is employed by him to drive a motor vehicle on a road, whether as registered owner or as a temporary possessor of the use of a motor vehicle under a hiring agreement, to commit an offence under this section commits an offence.
- (5) The Department may by Order published in the *Gazette*, prohibit the driving of motor vehicles generally or of particular classes of motor vehicles over any bridge at a speed greater than that specified in such Order or weighing more than a weight specified in such Order, and the limit of speed or weight to be observed shall be indicated on notice Departments to be fixed at such bridge.
- (6) Any Order made by the Minister under subsection (1) of this section is subject to affirmative resolution.
- **74.**–(1) Any person who, when driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle on a road or other public place, is unfit to drive through drink or drugs commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine which shall not be less than five hundred dollars, or to imprisonment for one year or to both, and in case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine which shall not be less than one thousand dollars but which may extend to five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for two years, or to

Driving, or being in charge, when under influence of drink or drugs.
20 of 1992.

both such fine and term of imprisonment.

20 of 1992.	(3) For the purpose of subsection (2) of this section, a person shall be deemed not to have been in charge of a motor vehicle if he proves that at the material time the circumstances were such that there was no likelihood of his driving it so long as he remained unfit to drive through drink or drugs, but in determining whether there was such a likelihood the court may disregard any injury to him or any damage to the vehicle.					
20 of 1992.	(4) For the purposes of this section, a person shall be taken to be unfit to drive if his ability to drive properly is for the time being impaired.					
20 of 1992.	(5) A police officer may arrest a person without warrant if he has reasonable cause to suspect that the person is or has been committing an offence under this section.					
20 of 1992.	(6) For the purpose of arresting a person under the power conferred by subsection (5) of this section, a police officer may enter any place where that person is or where the police officer, with reasonable cause, suspects him to be.					
20 of 1992.	(7) A person convicted of an offence under this section may be disqualified for a period of twelve months from the date of the conviction from holding or obtaining a Belize Driving Licence, but on a second or subsequent conviction for a like offence he shall be permanently disqualified for holding or obtaining a Belize Driving Licence.					
Driving, or being in charge, with	<b>75.</b> –(1) If a person,					
alcohol concentration above the prescribed limit. 20 of 1992.	(a) drives or attempts to drive a motor vehicle on a road or other public place; or					
	(b) is in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place;					
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(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1) of this section, a person who, when in charge of motor vehicle which is on a road or other public place, is unfit to drive through drink or drugs commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months, or to both such fine and term of

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imprisonment.

20 of 1992.

20 of 1992.

20 of 1992.

20 of 1992.

Requirement to go to police station or hospital.

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[CAP. 230]

after consuming so much alcohol that the proportion of it in his blood or urine exceeds the prescribed limit, he commits an offence.

- (2) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (1) (b) of this section to prove that at the time he is alleged to have committed the offence, the circumstances were such that there was no likelihood of his driving the vehicle whilst the proportion of alcohol in his blood or urine remained likely to exceed the prescribed limit; but in
- determining whether there was such a likelihood the court may disregard
- any injury to him or any damage to the vehicle. (3) Aperson who commits an offence under subsection (1) (a) of this section shall be liable on summary conviction to the same penalties as prescribed in subsection (1) of section 74, and a person who commits an offence under
- (4) A person convicted of an offence under this section shall be liable to disqualification for holding or obtaining a Belize Driving Licence in the same manner and for the same periods as prescribed in subsection (7) of section 74 of this Act.

section (1) (b) of this section, shall be liable on summary conviction to the same penalties as prescribed in subsection (2) of section 74 of this Act.

(a) that a person driving or attempting to drive or in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place has alcohol in his body or has committed a traffic offence whilst the vehicle was in motion:

**76.**–(1) Where a police officer in uniform has reasonable cause to suspect,

(b) that a person has been driving or attempting to drive or been in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place with alcohol in his body and that person still has alcohol in his body; or

that a person has been driving or attempting to drive

or been in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place and has committed a traffic offence

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whilst the vehicle was in motion:

(c)

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	for analysis.			
20 of 1992.	(2) If an accident occurs owing to the presence of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place, a police officer may require any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe was driving or attempting to drive or who was in charge of the vehicle at the time of the accident to accompany him to a police station or a hospital for providing specimens of blood and urine for analysis, but subject to section 78 of this Act.			
20 of 1992.	(3) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails or refuses to accompany the police officer to a police station or hospital in pursuance of this section commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months or to both, and in addition, he shall be disqualified for holding or obtaining a Belize Driving Licence for a period of twelve months from the date of conviction, unless the court for special reason thinks fit to order otherwise.			
20 of 1992.	(4) In this section, "traffic offence" means an offence under any provisions of this Act or the regulations made thereunder, or an offence under section 108 of the Criminal Code, Cap.101, caused through a motor vehicle.			
Provisions of specimens for analysis. 20 of 1992.	77.—(1) In the course of an investigation, whether a person has committed an offence under section 74 or section 75 of this Act, a police officer may, subject to the following provisions of this section and section 78 of this Act, require him to provide a specimen of blood or urine for a laboratory test.			
20 of 1992.	(2) A requirement under this section to provide a specimen of blood can only be made at a police station or at a hospital unless in presence of a registered medical practitioner and unless adequate facilities exist for the taking of such a specimen.			
20 of 1992.	(3) If the provision of a specimen is required in pursuance of this section, the question whether it is to be a specimen of blood or a specimen of urine shall be decided by the police officer making the requirement,			
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he may, subject to section 78 of this Act, require him to accompany him to a police station or a hospital for providing specimens of blood or urine

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20 of 1992.

20 of 1992.

20 of 1992.

20 of 1992.

Protection for hospital patients.

[CAP. 230]

except that if a registered medical practitioner is of the opinion that for medical reasons a specimen of blood cannot or should not be taken, the specimen shall be a specimen of urine.

- (4) A specimen of urine shall be provided within one hour of the requirement for its provision being made and after the provision of a
- previous specimen of urine.

  (5) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to provide a specimen when required to do so in pursuance of this section commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five
- specimen when required to do so in pursuance of this section commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six months or to both, and in addition he shall be disqualified for holding or obtaining a Belize Driving Licence for a period of twelve months from the date of conviction.
- (6) On requiring any person to provide a specimen in pursuance of this section a police officer shall warn him that a failure to provide it may render him liable to prosecution.

  78.–(1) While a person is at a hospital as a patient, he shall not be

required to provide a specimen for a laboratory test unless the medical

practitioner in immediate charge of his case has been notified of the

proposal to make the requirement, and,

(a) if the requirement is then made it shall be for the provision of a specimen at the hospital; but

(b)

requirement shall not be made.

(2) The ground on which the medical practitioner may object is that the requirement for the provision of a specimen or the warning required.

if the medical practitioner objects on the ground

specified in subsection (2) of this section the

- the requirement for the provision of a specimen or the warning required under section 77 (6) of this Act, would be prejudicial to the proper care and treatment of the patient.
- an offence under section 74 or section 75 of this Act.

  (2) Evidence of the proportion of alcohol or any drug in a specime.

**79.**–(1) The following provision applies with respect to proceedings for

(2) Evidence of the proportion of alcohol or any drug in a specimen of blood or urine provided by the accused shall, in all cases, be taken

Evidence in proceedings under section 74

or 75. 20 of 1992.

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(b)

the accused's blood or urine at the time of the alleged offence was not less than in the specimen; but if the proceedings are for an offence under section 75 of this Act, or for an offence under section 74 of this Act in a case where the accused is alleged to have been unfit through drink, the assumption shall not be made if the accused proves,

(a) that he consumed alcohol after he had ceased to drive,

into account, and it shall be assumed that the proportion of alcohol in

attempt to drive or be in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place and before he provided the specimen; and

that had he not done so, the proportion of alcohol

- in his blood or urine would not have exceeded the prescribed limit and, if the proceedings are for an offence under section 74 of this Act, would not have been such as to impair his ability to drive properly.
- be a certificate signed by an authorised analyst as to the proportion of alcohol or any drug found in a specimen of blood or urine identified in the certificate.

  (4) A specimen of blood shall be disregarded unless it was taken from the accused with his consent by a registered medical practitioner; but evidence that a specimen of blood was so taken may be given by the

(3) Evidence of the proportion of alcohol or a drug in a specimen of blood or urine may, subject to subsection (5) and (6) of this section, be given by the production of a document or documents purporting to

by a registered medical practitioner.

(5) Where, at the time a specimen of blood or urine was provided by the accused, he asked to be supplied with such a specimen, evidence of the proportion of alcohol or any other drug found in the specimen is not

admissible on behalf of the prosecution unless,

production of a document purporting to certify that fact and to be signed

(a) the specimen in which the alcohol or drug was found is one of two parts into which the specimen provided by the accused was divided at the time it was provided; and

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20 of 1992.

20 of 1992.

20 of 1992.

Detention of persons affected by

alcohol or a drug.

Interpretation of sections 74 to 80.

20 of 1992.

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- (b) the other part was supplied to accused.
- (6) In this section "authorised analyst" means the government analytical chemist or any other person authorised by the Minister to make analysis for the purposes of this section.
- 80. A person required to provide a specimen of blood or urine may thereafter be detained at the police station until it appears to a police officer that, were that person then driving or attempting to drive a motor.
- officer that, were that person then driving or attempting to drive a motor vehicle on a road, he would not be committing an offence under section 74 or section 75 of this Act; but,

  (a) a person shall not be detained in pursuance to this section if it appears to a police officer that there is no
  - (b) a police officer shall consult a registered medical practitioner on any question arising under this section whether a person's ability to drive properly is or might be impaired through drugs and shall act on the medical practitioner's advice.

**81.**–(1) The following provisions apply for the interpretation of sections 74

likelihood of his driving or attempting to drive whilst his ability to drive properly is impaired or whilst the proportion of alcohol in his blood or urine exceeds the

- to 80 of this Act.
  - (2) In those sections,
- "drug" includes any intoxicant other than alcohol;
- "fail" includes refuse;
- "hospital" means an institution which provides medical or surgical treatment for in-patients or out-patients;
- "the prescribed limit" means, as the case may require,
- (a) 80 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 milliliters of blood;

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or

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(b)

urine,
or such other proportion as may be prescribed by regulations made by

107 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 milliliters of

the Minister;

"nolice officer" includes a traffic worden

"police officer" includes a traffic warden.

(3) A person provides a specimen of blood if, and only if, he consents to its being taken by a registered medical practitioner or a registered nurse and it is so taken.

**82.**–(1) Any person who drives a motor vehicle on a road recklessly, or at a speed or in a manner which is dangerous to the public, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including the nature, condition and

- use of the road, and the amount of traffic which is actually at the time, or which might reasonably be expected to be on the road, commits an offence and is liable to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for six months, or to both, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, either to a fine of five hundred dollars or to such imprisonment as aforesaid, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

  (2) A person convicted of an offence under this section may be
- disqualified from holding or obtaining a Belize Driving Licence for such period as the court thinks fit subject to the following provisions,
  - (a) after the first offence, the period or disqualification shall not exceed six months;
  - (b) after the second offence the period shall not exceed two years; and
  - (c) after the third offence, the disqualification may be permanent.
- (3) Any police officer may arrest without warrant the driver of any motor vehicle who commits an offence under this section within his view, if he refuses to give his name and address or if the police officer has reason to believe that the name or address so given is false, or if the motor vehicle does not bear an identification plate.

## THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE

20 of 1992.

18 of 1998.

Reckless driving.

Careless driving.

Warning to be given of intended prosecu-

55

[CAP. 230]

**83.**–(1) Any person who drives a motor vehicle on a road without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the road commits an offence and is liable to a fine of one hundred dellars and to be disqualified for holding or obtaining a Relize Driving

using the road commits an offence and is liable to a fine of one hundred dollars and to be disqualified for holding or obtaining a Belize Driving Licence for such period as the court shall think fit.

(2) On a second or subsequent conviction for an offence under this section, the period of disqualification shall, unless the court for special reasons thinks fit to order otherwise, be not less than one month.

reasons thinks fit to order otherwise, be not less than one more assumed that the period of disqualification shall, unless the courtereasons thinks fit to order otherwise, be not less than one more assumed that the period of disqualification shall, unless the courtereasons thinks fit to order otherwise, be not less than one more assumed to the period of disqualification shall, unless the courtereasons thinks fit to order otherwise, be not less than one more assumed to the period of disqualification shall, unless the courtereasons thinks fit to order otherwise, be not less than one more assumed to the period of disqualification shall, unless the courtereasons thinks fit to order otherwise, be not less than one more assumed to the period of disqualification shall, unless the courtereasons thinks fit to order otherwise, be not less than one more assumed to the period of disqualification shall, unless the courtereason is prosecuted for an offence under the period of disqualification shall be added to the period of the period o

**84.**–(1) Where a person is prosecuted for an offence under any of the preceding sections relating respectively to the maximum speed at which motor vehicles may be driven, to reckless or dangerous driving, and to careless driving, he shall not be convicted unless either,

(a) he was warned on the day the offence was committed that the question of prosecuting him for an offence under someone or other of the sections aforesaid would be taken into consideration;

(b) within fourteen days of the commission of the offence a summons for the offence was served on him; or

(c) within the said fourteen days a notice of the intended prosecution specifying the nature of the alleged offence and the time and place where it is alleged to have been committed was served or sent by registered post to him or to the person registered as the owner of the vehicle at the time of the commission of the offence.

(2) Failure to comply with this requirement shall not be a bar to the conviction of the accused in any case where the court is satisfied that,

(a) neither the name and address of the accused nor the name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle could with reasonable diligence have been ascertained in time for a summons to be served or for

a notice to be served or sent as aforesaid; or

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failure.

*(b)* 

(a)

(2) A person

an offence.

Taking vehicle with-

out consent of owner.

- (3) The requirement of this section shall in every case be deemed to have been complied with unless and until the contrary is proved.
- **85.**–(1)Subject to subsection (2) of this section, any person who uses a vehicle without the consent of the owner or other lawful authority commits
  - (2) A person shall not be convicted under this section if he proves either,
    - been present, have consented to the vehicle being used in the manner in which it was used; or that he had reasonable cause to believe and did in

that he had good reason to believe, and did in fact

believe, that the owner of the vehicle would, had he

the accused by his own conduct contributed to the

(b) that he had reasonable cause to believe and did in fact believe, that he had lawful authority to use the vehicle.

(3) If any person is convicted under this section, the magistrate may, if he thinks fit, either in addition to or without inflicting any punishment, order

- that the person convicted do pay to the owner of the vehicle either or both of the following sums, namely,

  (a) such sum as, in the opinion of the magistrate, would have been charged if the vehicle had been hired by the
  - person convicted;(b) such sum as, in the opinion of the magistrate, represents fair compensation for any damage done to
- and for the use of the vehicle.

  (4) If, on the trial of any indictment for stealing a vehicle, the jury are of the opinion that the defendant was not guilty of stealing the vehicle but was guilty of an offence under this section, the jury may find him guilty of an offence under this section and thereupon he shall be liable to be punished

#### THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE

accordingly.

with

(5) Any police officer may arrest without a warrant any person suspected by him of having committed an offence under this section.

**86**.–(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, any person who, without the knowledge or permission of the owner, gets on to, rides on, or attempts to manipulate any of the levers, the starter, brakes, or machinery of, a

[CAP. 230]

motor vehicle, or in any way interferes with or damages a motor vehicle while the vehicle is on a road or parking place commits an offence.

(2) A person shall not be convicted under this section when such motor vehicle is obstructing his own or another motor vehicle.

87.–(1) The rider of a bicycle shall not carry on a public road any other person thereon except a child under ten years of age who may be carried only on a seat or carrier constructed and attached in front of the handle bars or over the rear wheel or on a step in a manner approved by the

Restrictions persons being carried on bicycles.

Interfering

motor vehicle.

Commissioner of Police.

(2) If any person is carried on a bicycle in contravention of subsection (1) of this section, each of the persons carried commits an offence and is liable, in the case of a first conviction, to a fine of twenty-five dollars, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine of fifty dollars.

shall not be convicted under this section in respect of the overtaking of two persons so riding and in the absence of other traffic on the road at the point of overtaking.

88.–(1) It shall not be lawful for more than two persons to ride abreast

on a road either upon motor cycles or bicycles, provided that a person

or holding on to other moving vehicles.

Restriction on cyclist riding abreast

(2) It shall not be lawful for any person while riding a motor cycle or a bicycle on a road,

to hold on to any other moving vehicle; or (a)

to ride such motor cycle or bicycle without at least (b) one hand being on the handle bars of such motor cycle or bicycle.

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(a)

(c)

the driver, to be carried on any two-wheeled motor cycle, nor shall it be lawful for any such one person to be so carried otherwise than on a proper seat securely fixed to the motor cycle behind the driver's seat.

(4) Any person who contravenes this section commits an offence and

(3) It shall not be lawful for more than one person, in addition to

is liable, in the case of a first conviction, to a fine of ten dollars, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine of twenty-five dollars.

Duty to stop, give aid, and report in case of accident.

89.—(1) Where, owing to the presence of a vehicle on a road, an accident occurs whereby injury or damage is caused to any person, animal or property, the driver of the vehicle shall immediately stop, and,

is unconscious, convey or cause to be conveyed the injured person without delay to the nearest hospital or to a doctor;(b) if requested by the injured person or by the owner of the damaged animal or property or some person on

if any person has been injured in the accident, the

driver shall render such person aid, and if the person wishes to be taken to a hospital or to a doctor, or

the damaged animal or property or some person on such owner's behalf, the driver shall give his name and address and particulars of his driving licence and the name and address of the owner of the vehicle;

unless a report is made by the driver at the time and place of the accident to a member of the Police

- Department, the person riding in, driving or in charge of the vehicle shall proceed with all proper despatch to the nearest Police station or police constable in uniform and shall report the accident, and shall give his name and address and the name and address of the owner of the vehicle and the names of any persons in the vehicle at the time of the accident.
- (2) In this section, "animal" means any horse, cattle, ass, mule, sheep, pig, goat or dog.

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42 of 1999.

(3) Any person who fails to comply with or otherwise contravenes this section commits an offence.

#### PART VII

#### Legal Proceedings, Suspension, Cancellation and Endorsement of Driving Licences

90. Where a person is charged summarily before a magistrate with an offence under section 74, 75 or 82 of this Act and the magistrate is of the opinion that the offence is not proved, then, at any time during the hearing or immediately thereafter, the magistrate may, without prejudice to any other powers possessed by him, direct or allow a charge for an offence under section 83 of this Act to be preferred forthwith against the defendant and may thereupon proceed with that charge, so however, that

the defendant or his attorney or counsel shall be informed of the new charge and be given an opportunity whether by way of cross-examining any witness whose evidence has already been given against the defendant or otherwise of answering the new charge, and the magistrate shall, if he considers that the defendant is prejudiced in his defence by reason of the

new charge being preferred, adjourn the hearing.

- 91. The court before which a person is convicted of any offence in connection with the driving of a motor vehicle may, in addition to any other penalty provided for such offence, order that the offender be disqualified for a stated period or permanently from obtaining a driving licence either generally or limited to the driving of a motor vehicle of any particular class or description, and if the offender holds a driving licence the court shall unless for special reasons it thinks fit to order otherwise, endorse upon the licence particulars of the conviction and penalty, and when an order of disqualification is made such licence shall be forfeited
- **92.** A person who by virtue of an order of a court under section 91 of this Act is disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence may appeal against the order in the same manner as against a conviction, and the court may, if it thinks fit, pending the appeal, suspend the operation of the order

Right of appeal.

Powers of court to order disqualifica-

tion from obtaining

a driving licence and to endorse and

cancel licences.

Power to proceed on charge for care-

less driving on

hearing of charges under section 74,

75 or 82.

20 of 1992.

)II

#### THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE

and returned to the Department.

AP. 230 Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic
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93. Every person who is convicted before any court of an offence in

connection with the driving of a motor vehicle, shall, if he holds a driving

licence, produce such licence within such time as the court may direct for the purpose of endorsement thereon of particulars of such conviction, and if he is not then the holder of a driving licence, but subsequently within six months of such conviction obtains a licence, shall within five days after so obtaining the licence produce it to the court for the purpose

Custody of licence while suspended or cancelled.

94.—(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, a court which suspends or cancels a driving licence, or declares a person disqualified from obtaining a driving licence shall forthwith send to the Department every suspended or cancelled driving licence, and at the expiration of the period of suspension,

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Production of driv-

ing licence for en-

Suspended licence to be of no effect.

18 of 1998.

dorsement.

(2) Where the disqualification to which a person has become subject is limited to the driving of a motor vehicle of a particular class or description, the Department shall forthwith after the receipt of the driving licence indicate on the licence in the usual manner the class or description of which which the holder of the licence is not thereby outboried to

licence indicate on the licence in the usual manner the class or description of vehicle which the holder of the licence is not thereby authorised to drive, and the licence shall then be returned to the holder, and at the expiration of the period of disqualification, the holder shall again forward the licence to the Department, which shall thereupon indicate on the licence that the restriction imposed during the period of disqualification has been removed.

95.—(1) A driving licence suspended by a court shall, during the period of suspension, be of no effect and a person whose licence is suspended, or who is declared by the court to be disqualified for obtaining a licence, shall during the period of such suspension or disqualification, be disqualified from obtaining a driving licence.

(2) A person who, by virtue of a conviction or order, is disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence, may, at any time after the expiration of three months from the date of the conviction or order, and from time to time, apply to the court before which he was convicted or by which the order was made to remove the disqualification, and on any such application the court may, as it thinks proper, having regard to the character of the person disqualified and his conduct subsequent to the conviction or

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order, the nature of the offence, and any other circumstances of the case, either by order remove the disqualification as from such date as may be specified in the order or refuse the application.

- (3) Where an application under subsection (2) of this section, is refused, a further application thereunder shall not be entertained if made within three months after the date of the refusal.
- (4) Where the court orders a disqualification to be removed, the court shall cause particulars of the order to be endorsed on the licence, if any, previously held by the applicant and the court shall in any case have power to order the applicant to pay the whole or any part of the costs of the application.
- power to order the applicant to pay the whole or any part of the costs of the application.

  96.–(1) If and when any person is charged with manslaughter arising out of the use of any motor vehicle, or with contravening section 74, 75 or

82 of this Act, the Department may order the suspension of the driving

- (2) Any such licence so suspended shall on demand by any police officer or an officer of the Department be surrendered to such officer who shall forthwith forward it to the clerk of the court before which the
- 97. If any person who under this Part is disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence applies for or obtains a licence while he is so disqualified, or if any person while he is so disqualified drives a motor vehicle or, if the disqualification is limited to the driving of a motor vehicle of a particular class or description, a motor vehicle of that class or description on a road, or if any person who has been refused a licence applies for or obtains a licence without disclosing such refusal he commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of two hundred
- **98.** On the issue of a new driving licence to any person, the particulars endorsed on any previous licence held by him shall be copied on to the new licence unless he has previously become entitled under section 100 of this Act, to have a licence issued to him free from endorsement.

and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for six months, or to both such fine

Fraudulent application for driving

licence.

Temporary suspension of licence

pending determi-

nation of charges. 20 of 1992.

41 of 2002.

Particulars of endorsement to be cop-

ied on new licence.

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person so charged is to appear.

and term of imprisonment.

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Non-disclosure endorsement.		99. If any p and who has to have a li	not prev	iously beco	ome en	titled	under sec	tion 1	.00 of tl	his Act

him a new licence free from endorsement.

Fees and duties. **101.**–(1) The fees and duties prescribed under section 20 (2) of this Act,

Issue of new licence

free from endorse-

8 of 2008.

20 of 1992.

uments.

Fraudulent imitation, etc., of doc-

THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE

(2) All fees and duties payable to and received by the Department under section 20 (2) of this Act shall be paid to the Accountant General on account of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

respect of the several matters to which they are applicable

Miscellaneous

### **PART VIII**

obtains a licence without giving particulars of the order, he commits an

**100.**–(1) Where a person in respect of whom an order has been made

under this Part requiring the endorsement of any driving licence held by him has, during a continuous period of three years or upwards since the order was made, had no such order made against him, he shall be entitled, on application and subject to payment of the prescribed fee and to the surrender of any subsisting licence, at any time, to have issued to

(2) In reckoning the period of three years specified in subsection (1), any period during which the person was by virtue of the order disqualified

offence, and any licence so obtained shall be of no effect.

from holding or obtaining a licence shall be excluded.

or under any Regulations made under this Act, shall be payable to the Department or the respective municipal authority, as the case may be, in

(3) The fees and charges levied by regulation made under this Act for

the entry of certain classes of vehicles into the limits of any city or town shall be paid to the credit of the respective City Council or Town Board.

**102.** Any person who fraudulently imitates, alters, mutilates, destroys, or uses, or fraudulently lends or allows to be used by any other person any identification mark, motor vehicle licence, certificate of registration or driving licence issued or deemed to have been issued under this Act

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Offences and general penalty.

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commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for six months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

103.—(1) Any person who, by any act or omission, contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of this Act shall, unless otherwise specially provided, be liable on summary conviction before a magistrate to a fine of one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for nine months, or to both such fine and period of imprisonment.

months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

such fine and period of imprisonment.

(2) Any person who, by any act or omission, contravenes or fails to comply with any regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary

conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for six

- (3) The driver of a motor vehicle who contravenes or fails to comply with any order made under this Act commits an offence.
- (4) Unless otherwise expressly provided, all offences under Parts I to IV inclusive and Parts VI to VIII inclusive may be prosecuted, and all penalties incurred may be imposed or recovered, on summary conviction.
- (5) Where any owner, operator, driver or conductor of an omnibus is charged with an offence under this Act, or any regulations made thereunder on more than one occasion, the Board may, depending on the gravity and prevalence of the offence and other relevant circumstances, and without prejudice to any other penalty provided for such offence,

pending the determination of the charge.

(6) Any such permit so suspended shall be delivered by the accused person or his representative, as the case may be, to the Department of

Transport where it shall be retained for the duration of the suspension.

suspend the road service permit issued in respect of such motor omnibus,

(7) Any motor omnibus which is operated or used to carry passengers without a valid road service permit may by order of the Board be temporarily impounded pending the determination of the charge, and such impounding shall be without prejudice to any other penalties which

may be incurred by the owner, operator, driver or conductor of such

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(a)

without a valid road service permit. **104.** Nothing in this Act shall affect any liability of the driver or owner of a motor vehicle by virtue of any Act or at common law.

**105.**–(1) If the driver or conductor of any motor vehicle who commits an offence against this Act or any regulations refuses to give his name and address or gives a false name or address, he commits an offence.

(2) Where the driver of a vehicle is alleged to be guilty of an offence against this Act or any regulations or of any offence involving dishonesty towards a passenger or with respect to any goods or freight carried on a vehicle,

> the satisfaction of the court that he did not know and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained who the driver was; and (b) any other person shall, if required as aforesaid, give any information which it is in his power to give and

which may lead to the identification of the driver, and

the owner of the vehicle shall give such information

as he may be required by or on behalf of the police to give as to the identity of the driver, and if he fails to do so within four days of his being notified of such request he commits an offence unless he shows to

(3) Any police officer may arrest without a warrant the driver or conductor of any motor vehicle who within his view commits an offence

if he fails to do so, he commits an offence.

under this Act or under the regulations, unless the driver or conductor either gives his name and address or produces his licence for examination.

**106.** Any person who, in or in connection with an application for a motor vehicle licence or the registration of a motor vehicle, or a Belize Driving Licence or the endorsement of such a licence, or any change or correction in a motor vehicle licence or the registration of a motor vehicle or in giving

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Liability at com-

Refusing to give

name or address or

giving false name or address.

Giving false infor-

mation.

mon law.

Duplicate licences, licences and certif-

Liability of driver and owner for of-

fence.

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any information lawfully demanded or required under this Act or any regulations made thereunder, makes any statement which to his knowledge is false or in any material respect misleading, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for six months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

107. Any authority or person having power to issue any certificate or licence under this Act shall, on proof to his satisfaction that such certificate or licence has been lost or destroyed, and on payment of the prescribed fee, issue a duplicate of the certificate or licence to the person entitled thereto.

**108.**–(1) If,

(a)

any motor vehicle is used which does not comply with or contravenes any provisions of this Act or of any

regulations, or of any order lawfully made under this

Act or any regulations;

(b) any motor vehicle is used in such a state or condition or in such manner as to contravene such provisions;

or

(c)

or default on his part.

then, unless otherwise expressly provided by this Act, the driver or

person in charge of the motor vehicle at the time of the offence commits

anything is done or omitted in connection with a motor vehicle in contravention of any such provisions,

an offence unless the offence was not due to any act, omission, neglect

(2) Any person authorised in writing by the Department may at

all reasonable times enter any premises for the purpose of ascertaining whether any vehicle is kept on such premises contrary to this Act, and for

the purpose of inspecting any vehicle on such premises.

**109.**–(1) The driver or other person in charge of a motor vehicle or trailer

licensed according to its maximum gross weight may on demand by any person authorised in writing by the Department, or by a police officer be required to satisfy such person or police officer that the load which

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Power to require motor vehicles licensed

according to maxi-

mum gross weight to be weighed.

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(2) Any person who fails or omits to comply with a request to proceed to the weighing machine as aforesaid commits an offence and may be arrested forthwith without a warrant and he shall on summary conviction be liable to a penalty of fifty dollars.

(3) Any vehicle or trailer as mentioned in subsection (1) of this

- section, may be detained at the expense and risk of the owner and taken to a place for safekeeping until such request is complied with, and any excess load found on weighing shall first be removed before the vehicle or trailer is licensed to proceed on its journey.
- (4) The Department or any person authorised by the Department, may before granting a licence (including a renewal) in respect of a motor vehicle or trailer, require such motor vehicle or trailer to be weighed by and at the expense of the owner in the presence of a person authorised by the Department or require the person applying for the licence to produce the manufacturer's specifications or such other evidence as to the weight of the vehicle as the Department may consider necessary.

Recovery of damage to road or bridge.

110.—(1) If, by reason of an offence against this Act or any regulations, any injury is caused to any road or bridge, the authority responsible for the repair of the road or bridge may cause such injury to be made good, and may, either before or after the injury is made good, recover the estimated or actual cost thereof from the owner of the motor vehicle by the use of which the offence was committed.

(2) A certificate under the hand of the Chief Engineer, or any person authorised by him in that behalf, of the amount of the cost of making good the injury mentioned in this section, shall, without proof of signature, be sufficient evidence of the amount payable by the owner of the vehicle unless the contrary is proved.

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the forms to be used under this Act;

to be carried on motor and other vehicles and the

any motor vehicle;

Certificate as to damage to be ad-

missible in evi-

in the Gazette to act as an inspector for the purposes of this Act that he has examined the vehicle and as to the result of his examination shall be admissible in evidence and shall be sufficient prima facie evidence of any fact or opinion stated therein relating to the matter in question, and the court shall not licence the officer to be called for cross-examination on the certificate unless contrary evidence is given which appears to the court to be credible, or unless for any reason the court considers crossexamination to be necessary in the interests of justice. **112.**–(1) The Minister may make regulations in respect of all or any of the following matters,

the construction, fittings, dimensions and design of

Regulations.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

*(f)* 

(g)

(h)

THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE

111. If, in any proceedings under this Act, any question arises as to whether a motor vehicle does or does not comply with any provisions of this Act or any regulations, the certificate of any person appointed by the Commissioner of Police with the approval of the Minister by notice

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anything which by this Act may or is to be prescribed;

the character and nature of horns or other instruments

capable of giving audible and sufficient warning of motor and other vehicles and regulating their use; the number, position and kind of lights and reflectors

times during which they are to be exhibited; the duties and powers of inspectors in regard to the inspection of motor and other vehicles;

the inspection of motor and other vehicles and the times, places and manner of such inspection;

the form of identification marks to be fixed on motor vehicles and trailers in respect of registration and

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		manioris and mainter of displaying savin main,
	<i>(i)</i>	the precedence of vehicles and pedestrians respectively at and in the vicinity of crossings and the erection of traffic signals and other notices;
	<i>(j)</i>	the driving of any vehicle on any specified road otherwise than in a specified direction;
	(k)	the appointment of parking places and regulating the use of such parking places;
	<i>(l)</i>	the badges to be worn by drivers and conductors of public service vehicles and the conduct of drivers, conductors and passengers;
	(m)	passenger fares and tolls in respect of public service vehicles;
	(n)	the maximum hours of employment of persons as drivers of goods vehicles;
	(0)	as regards motor omnibuses and freight passenger vehicles,
		(i) restricting the use of motor omnibuses and freight passenger vehicles using specified routes;
		(ii) regulating and restricting the number of motor omnibuses and freight passenger vehicles using specified routes;
		(iii) the time tables to be observed by drivers of motor omnibuses;
		(iv) the issue of licences by the Department and conditions of issue of such licences and conditions
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Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic

licensing and the sizes and colour of the letters and numbers and the manner of displaying such mark;

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to be observed by the holders of such licences in respect of specified routes;

- (v) the taking up and setting down of passengers;
- (vi) the carriage of goods or luggage;
- (vii) the maximum hours of employment of drivers and conductors;
- (viii) the issue, cancellation and suspension of licences of conductors;(ix) granting limited or exclusive concessions to operate motor omnibuses and the conditions under which such concessions may be granted,

but no concession shall be granted under this subparagraph except with the consent of the National Assembly signified by resolution to

- (p) generally for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Act and in particular for the safety, control and regulation of traffic and the use of vehicles or any class of vehicle on any road and the conditions under
- (q) generally for carrying the provisions of Part V into effect;
- prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters,
  - (i) the type of offences for which a traffic violation ticket may be issued;

the issue of traffic violation tickets and all matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, and without

#### THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS OF BELIZE

20 of 1992.

that effect;

which they may be used;

(r)

	(ii)	the form of the violation ticket;
	(iii)	the fine to be stated on the violation ticket;
	(iv)	persons by whom a violation ticket may be issued;
	(v)	the place or places where the fine stated on the violation ticket may be paid;
	(vi)	the time for paying such fines;
	(vii)	the penalty for failure to pay the fine within the time specified;
	(viii)	the procedure for requesting a court hearing by a person who has been issued with a violation ticket;
	(ix)	the penalty for unlawful removal of a violation ticket;
(s)		levice or instrument which may be used to ure a driver's blood alcohol content;
(t)	unaco a dri	ceptable level of blood or urine alcohol content in ver;
<i>(u)</i>		ype of instrument or device which may be used to ure the speed of a vehicle;
(v)		biting or restricting certain classes of vehicles entering town limits or any other area of the try;
(w)	•	ng of fees and charges to control the entry of fied classes of vehicles into town limits or other;
(x)	preve a kin	enting the use of a road by vehicular traffic of d which, or the use thereof by such traffic in
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Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic

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Special regulations may be made by Commissioner of

Police.

existing character of the road or adjoining property; without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (x)

make orders as to the line to be kept by persons driving

or riding any vehicle or animal on any road and as to the manner in which vehicles of any description shall be drawn up while waiting on any road and as to

regulating traffic in the neighbourhood of courts of law, public offices, churches, theatres, and other

- (y) above, for preserving the character of a road in a case where it is specially suitable for use by persons on foot;
- (z)for preventing damage to a road or to any building on or near a road, and for preserving and improving the amenities of the area through which a road passes.
- (2) Any regulations made under this section shall be subject to negative resolution.

### 113.–(1) The Commissioner of Police may,

(a)

- the route to be observed by any vehicles, horses, and persons, and for preventing obstruction on any road in any case where such road is liable to be thronged or obstructed: give directions to police officers for the purpose of (b)
- (2) Any person who, after being made acquainted with any orders made or directions given under this section, contravenes or fails to comply

with such order or directions commits an offence under this section.

places of public resort.

(3) Where a police officer in uniform is on duty in any public road or is for the time being engaged in the regulation of traffic at any place in a public road, a pedestrian or any person driving or propelling a vehicle, or leading or driving an animal, who wilfully neglects or refuses to stop or

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proceed or keep to a particular line of traffic when specifically directed to			

do so by such police officer in the execution of his duty commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

(4) Any police officer may apprehend without a warrant any person

who commits an offence under this section within his view, if such person refuses to give his name and address or gives a name or address which the police officer has reasonable grounds for believing to be false.

114. All rules, regulations, orders or directions made under any Act relating to the control of vehicles and road traffic in force at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been made under this Act and shall remain in force until other provision is made in that behalf.

to operate motor omnibuses in any area or any road or route or for any journey upon such conditions as shall be specified in the grant and subject to this Act and the regulations.

In the event of a conflict of laws.

115. The Department may, with the consent of the National Assembly

signified by resolution to that effect, grant to any person, or to two or

more persons jointly, a limited concession or an exclusive concession

in conflict with any other law relating to the control of vehicles and road

traffic, the provisions of this Act and the regulations shall prevail.

(2) Whenever any powers conferred on the Department or the Commissioner of Police under this Act are similar to powers conferred on a municipal or other authority under any other law and there arises any conflict or dispute as to the exercise of such powers, the matter at

issue shall be referred to the Minister who shall decide which authority shall exercise such powers and the manner in which powers shall be exercised.

(3) The decision of the Minister shall be final and conclusive.(4) This section shall have no application to the powers conferred upon

the municipal authority by this Act for the licensing and registration of motor vehicles, and the traffic management and control within municipality.

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Saving.

Grant of concessions to operate

motor omnibuses.

this Act to prevail.

20 of 1990.

20 of 1990.

8 of 2008.

28 of 1985.

Registration, licensing and control of vehicles the municipality.

41 of 2002.

8 of 2008

- **117.**—(1) Subject to this section, the responsibility for the registration, licensing and control of all vehicles and traffic management within the municipality shall vest in the municipal authority.
  - (2) The municipal authority shall not issue international driving licences.
- (3) The municipal authority shall issue Belize Driving Licences subject
- to regulations made by the Department of Transport.

  (4) The municipal authority shall appoint such transport officers,
- inspectors, and other staff as may be necessary for the carrying out of its functions under this Act or any regulations made thereunder.

  (5) Transport officers, inspectors and other staff appointed by the municipal authority shall have like powers as those officers and staff
- purpose of carrying out any functions conferred upon it under this Act.

  (6) The municipal authority shall maintain such registers, records and other documents with respect to vehicles registered in the municipality as are maintained by the Department of Transport.

of comparable rank appointed by the Department of Transport for the

(7) All licence fees and registration fees received by the Board or the Department from the registration and licensing of omnibuses and heavy vehicles and the issue of international driving licences in the municipality pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section, shall be paid to the credit of the municipal authority.

118.–(1) The municipal authority may, with the approval of the Minister,

make regulations for the licensing, registration and control of motor

- vehicles and traffic management within the municipality, but until such regulations are made, the regulations made under this Act by the Minister shall continue to apply.
- (2) All regulations made by the municipal authority under subsection (1) of this section, shall be subject to negative resolution.
- **119.**–(1) All officers and employees holding office on a day immediately prior to the commencement of this Act, having been appointed to their

8 of 2008

Transitional Pro-

Powers of the municipal authority

to make regula-

tions. 8 of 2008.

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visions.

Transport and concerned with the licensing, registration and control of motor vehicles within the municipality, shall be deemed to have been seconded to the municipal authority until such time as the Department of Transport or the municipal authority decides to terminate such secondment,

Provided that any officer or employee who does not wish to be so

posts by the Licensing and Transport Department or the Department of

seconded may request the Department of Transport to be provided with alternative employment on no less favourable terms than his existing employment, but if no such alternative employment can be found, he shall be deemed to have become redundant and shall be paid retirement benefits accordingly.

(2) All registers, records and other documents of whatever kind

- maintained or kept by the Department of Transport for the performance of its functions under this Act or otherwise, on the day immediately prior to the commencement of this Act, and concerned with licensing, registration and control of motor vehicles within the municipality, shall continue to be maintained or kept by the municipal authority.
- (3) All licenses, licence plates, licences, receipts, authority cards or any other document of whatever kind issued by the Department of Transport and remaining effectual on the day immediately prior to the commencement of this Act shall continue to be valid for the purpose and for the period the same had been issued.

for Traffic Management Committee.

11 of 1994.

42 of 1999.

**120.**—(1) For the purpose of effective coordination between each municipal authority and the Belize Police Department for the enforcement of traffic laws within each municipality, there shall be established a Traffic Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") in each municipality, which shall be composed of the following persons,

- 8 of 2008. (a)
  - (b) two persons nominated by the mayor;

the mayor of the municipality;

- two persons nonlinated by the mayor,
- (c) officer commanding the Belize Police Department in respective municipality or his or her representative;

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- (2) The Committee shall meet regularly, at least once a month, to discuss traffic problems in the municipality and explore ways and means to improve traffic management and control.
- (3) Minutes of the meetings of the Committee and any recommendations made by it shall be sent to the Minister at the end of every month.
- **121.**–(1) The Commissioner of Police shall render such assistance to the municipal authority as may be necessary to enable the Council to

effectively discharge its functions relating to traffic management within

(2) Any differences arising between the municipal authority and the Commissioner of Police in relation to traffic enforcement within the municipality shall be resolved by mutual negotiations, but in the event an amicable settlement cannot be reached, the matter shall be referred to the

Minister whose decision thereon shall be final.

municipality.

Commissioner of Police to assist the

municipal author-

8 of 2008.

### PART IX

## Management and Operation of Bus Terminals

- **122.**–(1) The terminals to which the provisions of this Act apply shall be
- prescribed terminals"). (2) The Minister may from time to time by Order published in the

those set out in the Ninth Schedule to this Act (hereinafter called, "the

- Gazette, amend the Ninth Schedule, and any such Order may also prescribe the boundaries of any terminal.
- **123.**–(1) The Minister shall exercise control on the management of the prescribed terminals and may make regulations for the efficient operation of such terminals.

List of terminals. 8 of 2008.

Regulations control of termi-

8 of 2008.

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Evidence of offence at terminals.

8 of 2008.

thereof shall be punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or by both such fine and term of imprisonment.

(2) Any such regulations may provide that the contravention or breach

**124.** Where an offence is alleged to have taken place at a terminal, it shall be deemed to have taken place thereat unless the contrary is proved.

**125.** An omnibus operator and an owner of an omnibus shall comply

Compliance operator and ownwith this Act and the regulations made hereunder or under any other law er of omnibus. relating to parking, loading or unloading of passengers and or freight 8 of 2008.

prescribed for and owner such omnibus.

Establishment of 126. All fees, dues and charges collected by virtue of the operation and special fund. management of the prescribed terminals shall be credited into a special 8 of 2008. fund to be known as the "Terminals Fund" and shall, with the prior approval of the Minister of Finance, be used for the maintenance and upkeep of such terminals.

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[CAP. 230]

### FIRST SCHEDULE

# MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT Visitor's Driving Licence

[Section 45(7)]

- 1. In this Schedule "visitor's driving licence" means a driving licence other than a temporary driving licence which by virtue of section 45 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Cap. 230 authorises a person to drive a motor vehicle without holding a driving licence or a temporary driving licence under this Act; and "driving licence" means a driving licence other than a visitor's driving licence issued under this Act.
- **2.**–(1) A court by whom the holder of a visitor's driving licence is convicted shall,
  - (a) if in consequence of the conviction or of the order of the court he is disqualified from obtaining or holding a driving licence; or
- (b) if it orders particulars of the conviction to be endorsed on any driving licence held by him,

send particulars of the conviction to the Department.

- (2) A court shall in no circumstances enter any particulars in a visitor's driving licence.
- **3.**—(1) The holder of a visitor's driving licence disqualified in consequence of a conviction or of the order of a court from holding a Belize Driving Licence shall, if so required by the court, produce his visitor's driving licence within five days, or such longer time as the court may determine, and the court shall forward it to the Department.
- (2) The Department, on receiving a licence forwarded under subparagraph (1),
  - (a) shall record particulars of the disqualification on the licence;

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- said particulars, to the authority by whom the visitor's driving licence was issued; and

  (c) shall retain the licence until the holder leaves Belize or
- until the period of disqualification expires, whichever is the earlier.

  (3) A person failing to produce a visitor's driving licence in compliance
- with this paragraph commits an offence under this Act.

**4.**–(1) A court, on ordering the removal under section 95 (2) of this Act

- of a disqualification on holding or obtaining a driving licence, shall, if it appears that particulars of the disqualification have been forwarded to the Department under paragraph 2 of this Schedule, cause particulars of the order also to be forwarded to it, and the Department shall transmit the particulars to the authority who issued the visitor's driving licence which the person whose disqualification is removed is shown as holding in the Department's record.
- (2) The Department shall, where appropriate, enter any particulars so forwarded to it in any visitor's driving licence held by it in pursuance of paragraph 3 of this Schedule and shall then return the visitor's driving licence to the applicant.
- **5.** References to Belize Driving Licences, in section 40 of this Act (which authorises the police to require the production of Belize Driving Licences) and in section 102 of this Act (which relate to the forgery etc., of Belize Driving Licences) shall include references to a visitor's driving licence.

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## SECOND SCHEDULE

# MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT Second-Hand Bicycle Dealers Licence

[Section 60]

( \*) is hereby licensed to carry on the business of Second-hand Bicycle Dealer on premises situate at ( †) from (  $\ddagger$ ) until the 31st December ( //) in accordance with the provisions and on the conditions set forth in the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Cap. 230.

DATED this day of 20

- \* Full Name.
- † Full description of place of business.
- ‡ Date of Approval of Magistrate.
- //Year.

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## Second-Hand Bicycle Repairers Licence [Section 60]

THIRD SCHEDULE

MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

\*) is hereby licensed to carry on the business of Second-hand Bicycle Repairer on premises situate at †) from ( ‡) until the //) in accordance with the provisions and on the 31st December ( conditions set forth in the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Cap. 230.

DATED this day of 20

- \* Full Name. † Full description of place of business.
- ‡ Date of Approval of Magistrate.
- //Year.

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## FOURTH SCHEDULE

### MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT Application for Second-Hand Bicycles Dealership Licence [Section 61(1)]

I have not been convicted of any breach of this Act during the three years preceding the date of this application.

I have not been convicted of any offence involving fraud or dishonesty during the five years preceding the date of this application.

- \* Full Name.
- † District.
- ‡ Full description of premises.

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## FIFTH SCHEDULE

## Application for Second-Hand Bicycles Repairs Licence [Section 61(1)]

THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

I ( \*) do hereby make application †) for a Licence to carry to the magistrate ( on business as a Second-hand Bicycle Repairer at premises situate at ‡).

I have not been convicted of any breach of this Act during the three years preceding the date of this application.

I have not been convicted of any offence involving fraud or dishonesty during the five years preceding the date of this application.

- \* Full Name. † District.

(

‡ Full description of premises.

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### SIXTH SCHEDULE

## THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

Second-Hand Bicycle Dealers Register [Section 66(1)]

Date	Name and Address of Depositor	Bicycle or Parts	Method of Disposal and Signature of Recipient

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## THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

SEVENTH SCHEDULE

Second-Hand Bicycle Repairers Register [Section 66 (1)]

		Description of	Method of
Date	Name and Address	Bicycle or Parts	Disposal and
	of Depositor	thereof including	Signature of
		Maker's Number	Recipient

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### EIGHTH SCHEDULE

### THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT Search Warrant [Section 70(1)]

WHEREAS it appears to me, one of Her Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the District of , by the evidence upon oath of , in the district of , that there is reasonable ground to believe that certain bicycles and/or parts of a bicycle, to wit, which have been stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained are upon certain premises at belonging to or occupied by a person licenced under this Act:

THESE ARE THEREFORE in Her Majesty's name to authorise and command you

together with to enter (by force if necessary) and to search the said premises and to seize any such bicycles or parts of a bicycle, as are specified in this Warrant and to take the same before the Court for the District of

GIVEN under my hand at in the District of

this day of , 20 .

Justice of the Peace.

For the District of

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2.

3.

## Prescribed Terminals [section 122]

NINTH SCHEDULE

MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

## A. DANGRIGA TERMINAL

- Lot No. 506A situated at Havana Street in the Town of Dangriga, Stann Creek District, held under deed of conveyance dated 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2002 recorded in Deeds Book Volume 6 at Folios Nos. 99 - 112.
  - Lot No. 506 containing 588.23 square yards situated at Havana Street in the Town of Dangriga, Stann Creek District, held under Deed of Conveyance dated 1st February, 2002 recorded in Deeds Book Volume 6 at Folios Nos. 99- 112.

Lot No. 598 situated at the corner of Havana Street and Cabbage

Road, in the Town of Dangriga, Stann Creek District, held under Deed of Conveyance dated 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2002 recorded in Deeds Book Volume 6 at Folios Nos. 77-86.

**4.** A parcel of land being parcel No. 618 Block No. 45 in Lake Independence Registration Section containing 2067.52. S.Y. held under Land Certificate No. 4404/2000 dated 15th June, 2000.

B. VENUS BELIZE CITY TERMINAL

## C. NOVELO'S BELIZE CITY TERMINAL

5. A parcel of land being Parcel No. 247 Block No.45 in Queen's Square Registration Section containing 3488.07. S.Y. held under Land Certificate No. 3615/2003.

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## D. MOSUL STREET TERMINAL

- 6. A lot situated on Mosul Street on the South Side of the City of Belize numbered 15 on Plan No. 55 of 1916 dated 27th December, 1916 held under Transfer Certificate of Title dated 14th February, 2002 recorded at Folio No. 97 Volume 40.
- 7. The Southern half of the lot numbered 1809d situated on Vernon Street in City of Belize being more particularly delineated and described on Plan No. 5 of 1940 held under Transfer Certificate of Title dated 14th February, 2002.
- 8. A parcel of land on the Western Side of Mosul Street being a portion of the lot numbered 15 on Plan No. 55 of 1916 dated 27<sup>th</sup> December 1916, held under Transfer Certificate of title dated 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2002, recorded at Folio No.98 Volume 40.

 A parcel of land being parcel No. 486 Block No. 1 in Corozal Central Registration Section containing .334 acre held under Land Certificate No. 4401/2000 dated 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2000.

E. COROZAL TERMINAL

## F. BELMOPAN TERMINAL

**10.** A parcel of land being parcel No.1192 Block No. 20 Belmopan Registration Section containing 3104.8S.Y. held under Land Certificate No.5073/94 dated 21st December, 1994.