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No. 4 of 2020

Fifth Session Eleventh Parliament Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chap. 48:50; the Companies Act, Chap 81:01; the Bills of Sale Act, Chap. 82:32; and the Public Health Ordinance, Ch. 12 No. 4 in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) pandemic and for related matters

THE MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS [2019 NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS (2019-NCOV)] BILL, 2020

Explanatory Notes

(These notes form no part of the Bill but are intended only to indicate its general purport)

The Bill seeks to amend a number of pieces of legislation to provide for certain measures in response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) pandemic.

Clause 1 would contain the short title of the Act for which this is the Bill.

Clause 2 of the Bill would amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chap 48:50 to allow for the continuation of the validity of driving permits, taxi driver licences, badges, certificates or other documents where those documents expire during the period 27th March, 2020 to 31st July, 2020 or such longer period as the Minister may, by Order, specify. The amendment would allow those documents to continue to be valid until 31st August, 2020. A new section 61B would be inserted in the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chap 48:50 to provide for this amendment.

Clause 3 of the Bill would seek to amend the Companies Act, Chap. 81:01 to create a period of amnesty for the penalties for failing to file any documents required to be filed during the period 27th March, 2020 to 31st July, 2020.

Clause 4 of the Bill would seek to amend the Bills of Sale Act, Chap. 82:32 to provide for the continuing validity of bills of sale and transfers or assignments thereof which are not registered, or whose registration is not renewed, in compliance with that Act during the period 27th March, 2020 to 31st July, 2020.

Clause 5 of the Bill would seek to amend the Public Health Ordinance, Ch. 12 No. 4 to provide for the increase in the maximum penalties which may be imposed for the breach of regulations under section 105 of that Ordinance. Section 105 of the Ordinance empowers the Minister with responsibility for health to make regulations to control and prevent the spread of dangerous infectious diseases.

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[, 2020]

ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as Enactment follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Short title Miscellaneous Provisions [2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)] Bill, 2020.

Chap. 48:50
amended

2. The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act is amended by inserting after section 61A, the following section:

“Continuation
of validity 61B. (1) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary contained in this Act, any driving permit, taxi driver licence, badge, certificate or other document issued by the Licensing Authority which expires during the period 27th March, 2020 to 31st July, 2020 or such longer period as the Minister may, by Order, specify, shall be deemed to be valid until 31st August, 2020 or such later date as the Minister may, by Order, specify.”.

Chap 81:01 amended

3. The Companies Act is amended in section 516A in—

- (a) subsection (1), by inserting after the words “, where the documents are delivered to or filed with the Registrar during the period”, the words “27th March, 2020 to 31st July, 2020 or such longer period as the Minister may, by Order, specify”; and
- (b) subsection (3), by deleting the words “by 16th September, 2016” and substituting the words “before the expiration of the period specified in subsection (1)”.

Chap. 82:32
amended

4. The Bills of Sale Act is amended by—

- (a) by inserting after section 9 the following new section:

“Validity of
unregistered
bills of sale
etc. during
specified
period 9A. (1) Notwithstanding section 9, every bill of sale and every transfer or assignment thereof, which is executed prior to or during the period 27th March, 2020 to 31st July, 2020 or such longer period as the Minister may, by Order, specify, but not registered within seven clear days

after the execution thereof, shall be deemed to be valid until 31st August, 2020 or such later date as the Minister may, by Order, specify.

(2) The preservation of validity granted under subsection (1) shall not affect the obligation of a person to register a bill of sale and a transfer or assignment pursuant to section 9.

(3) Where a person fails, on or before 31st August, 2020 or any later date specified under subsection (1), to register a bill of sale or a transfer or assignment thereof which is executed prior to or during the period specified in or under subsection (1) and which is required to be registered within seven clear days under this Act, the penalties that would have arisen in respect of such failure shall be revived and become applicable as if the waiver in subsection (1) had not been granted.”;

(b) inserting after section 17 the following new section:

“Validity of
lapsed bills of
sale, etc.
during
specified
period

17A. (1) Notwithstanding section 17, the registration of a bill of sale which is not renewed and lapses during the period 27th March, 2020 to 31st July, 2020 or such longer period as the Minister may, by Order, specify, shall be deemed to be valid until

31st August, 2020 or such later date as the Minister may, by Order, specify.

(2) The preservation of validity granted under subsection (1) shall not affect the obligation of a person to renew the registration of a bill of sale under section 17.

(3) Where a person fails, on or before 31st August, 2020 or any later date specified under subsection (1), to renew the registration of a bill of sale, the provisions of section 17 shall apply.”.

Ch. 12 No.4 amended **5.** The Public Health Ordinance is amended in section 105 by repealing subsection (3) and substituting the following subsection:

“(3) There may be attached, by way of penalty, to any breach of any regulation made under this section, a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars and a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months.”.

Passed in the House of Representatives this
day of _____, 2020.

Clerk of the House

I confirm the above.

Speaker

Passed in the Senate this day of ,
2020.

Clerk of the Senate

I confirm the above.

President of the Senate

No. 4 of 2020

FIFTH SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF
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Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time