

[AS PASSED BY THE SENATE]

A

BILL

further to amend the National Highways Safety Ordinance, 2000

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the National Highways Safety Ordinance, 2000 (Ordinance XL of 2000) for the purposes hereinafter appearing, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the National Highways Safety (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Substitution of section 68, Ordinance XL of 2000.**- In the National Highways Safety Ordinance, 2000 (Ordinance XL of 2000), for section 68, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"68. Driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.-

(1) Any person, when driving or attempting to drive, or when in charge of, a motor vehicle on a national highway is under the influence of alcohol or a drug to such an extent as to be incapable of having proper control of the vehicle, shall be punishable with fine **of ten thousand rupees** which may extend **up** to twenty-five thousand rupees, or with imprisonment of one month which may extend to six months, or with both, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction either with fine **of twenty-five thousand rupees** which may extend **up** to fifty thousand rupees or with imprisonment of six months which may extend to two years, or with both;

Provided that the driving license of the person convicted for second or subsequent times shall be suspended for the period of two years.

(2) **A police officer having reasonable suspicion that the driver is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, may subject such driver to a breathalyzer test, on an approved device having specifications prescribed by rules under section 89, and upon positive result, he shall ask such driver to accompany him to an authorized medical officer for examination and verification of the test result.**

(3) **Where a driver, either refuses to undergo the breathalyzer test, or to accompany the police officer for examination by a medical practitioner upon positive result, he shall be punishable with the same penalty as prescribed under sub-section (1)."**

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

It has been observed in the recent past that the persons driving motor cars especially public transport are found under the influence of alcohol or drugs which seriously affects motor skills such as eye, hand and foot coordination. Without crucial coordination skills, a person may be unable to avoid an impending harmful situation. Therefore, it is proposed to increase the penalty and also make the conviction transparent by determining the offence subject to an examination of a medical practitioner.

2. The bill seeks to achieve the above said purposes.

SENATOR MOHSIN AZIZ
Member-in-charge