

For Immediate release

Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2024 Road Safety a priority for the Government of The Bahamas

The amendment to the Road Traffic Act passed in Parliament in June 2024 was made to ensure that only licenced and insured vehicles are allowed on our streets.

According to the Royal Bahamas Police Force, in 2024, more than 4,000 traffic tickets were issued for unlicenced and uninsured vehicles. The presence of unlicenced and uninsured vehicles on the road compromises public safety, and places road users at greater risk of loss.

The Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2024 gives the Royal Bahamas Police Force clear authority to act against unlicenced and uninsured vehicles and provides a platform for greater cooperation among key stakeholders, namely the Road Traffic Department, the Royal Bahamas Police Force, and insurance companies.

It is the firm position of the Government of The Bahamas that unlicenced and/or uninsured vehicles should not be on our streets.

Once a valid insurance policy is presented to the Road Traffic Department, your vehicle will be inspected and licenced. For 2025 renewals only, the Road Traffic Department will accept an existing, unexpired insurance policy. However, upon the expiration of the existing policy, the owner must ensure that they possess a valid insurance policy bearing a minimum coverage of 6 months.

All road users should ensure that confirmation of valid insurance coverage is always kept in their vehicles or easily available for presentation to the police at any time.

The Ministry of Energy and Transport, Ministry of Finance, Road Traffic Department, Royal Bahamas Police Force, Insurance Commission of The Bahamas, and The Bahamas Insurance Association are continuing to dialogue to ensure that there is a full understanding of the Amendment.

The Insurance Commission of The Bahamas has published proposed guidelines on its website, <u>www.icb.gov.bs</u>. These guidelines should be reviewed.

Members of the public are also encouraged to reach out to their insurance provider with any questions that they may have.

The Ministry of Energy and Transport and the Road Traffic Department remains committed to working with all stakeholders to keep our streets safe.

8th January 2025 Ministry of Energy & Transport Commonwealth of The Bahamas