



Plain Language Summary for Bill 46: *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*

The Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing a bill to make numerous small amendments to sections of the *Motor Vehicles Act*, dealing with impaired driving and medical examinations for drivers.

The Government of the Northwest Territories found gaps and inconsistencies in the *Motor Vehicles Act's* treatment of impaired drivers and licence-holders' required medical examinations. The amendments required to fix these gaps are minor. If they are not made, they will cause ongoing confusion for users of the *Act*, and enforcement authorities might not be able to give the correct administrative penalties to drivers who violate the *Act*.

Public safety is the cornerstone of the *Motor Vehicles Act*, and this bill will enhance public safety for all road users in the NWT. It will also reduce administrative burden and create a more consistent enforcement environment.

Each of the amendments in the bill either codifies existing practices or closes narrow gaps in the *Act*. Most NWT residents will notice no changes in how the *Act* impacts them and their driving rights.

The bill includes the following changes:

- Removes a requirement for some senior drivers to complete redundant medical exams.
- Clarifies that drunk driving penalties apply to drivers who are exactly at the alcohol limit.
- Removes a loophole that lowered penalties for commercial drivers with a blood alcohol level between 0.05 and 0.08.
- Standardizes penalties for refusing to cooperate with a police officer during any kind of roadside sobriety tests.
- Clarifies that drivers may have medical drugs in their blood if those drugs do not impair driving ability.
- Treats driving bans issued by NWT courts the same way as ones by provincial courts.
- Corrects minor inconsistencies in the language of drunk driving rules.

The bill was developed by the Department of Infrastructure with input from the Department of Justice, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, and the RCMP.

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