

Serial 74

Motor Vehicles Legislation Amendment (Digital Licences) Bill 2026

Mr Yan

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949* and the *Motor Vehicles Regulations 1977*

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

**MOTOR VEHICLES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DIGITAL LICENCES)
ACT 2026**

Act No. [] of 2026

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

Act No. [] of 2026

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An Act to amend the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949* and the *Motor Vehicles Regulations 1977*

[Assented to [] 2026]
[Introduced [] 2026]

10 The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory enacts as follows:

Part 1 Preliminary Matters

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Motor Vehicles Legislation Amendment (Digital Licences) Act 2026*.

15 2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day after the day on which the Administrator's assent to this Act is declared.

Part 2 Amendment of Motor Vehicles Act 1949

3 Act amended

20 This Part amends the *Motor Vehicles Act 1949*.

4 Section 5 amended (Interpretation)

Section 5(1)

insert

5 ***digital licence document*** means a licence document that is issued in a digital form under section 14(2).

licence document, see section 14(2).

physical licence document means a licence document that is issued in a physical form under section 14(2).

5 Section 14 replaced (Form of registration certificate or licence)

10 Section 14

repeal, insert

14 Form of certificates and licences

15 (1) If the Registrar registers, or renews the registration of, a motor vehicle under this Act, the Registrar must issue the owner of the motor vehicle a certificate of registration in an approved form.

(2) If the Registrar grants or renews a licence to drive a motor vehicle (including a learner licence) to a person under this Act, the Registrar must issue the person a document, in an approved form, containing the particulars of the licence (a ***licence document***).

20 (3) The Registrar may issue a certificate or licence document mentioned in subsection (1) or (2) in more than one approved form.

Example for subsection (3)

A person may be issued a licence document in both a physical form and a digital form.

25 **14A Production, return and surrender of licence document**

(1) If, under this or another Act, a person is required to produce the person's licence to drive a motor vehicle (including a learner licence), the person must produce a licence document issued in relation to the licence.

30 (2) For subsection (1), the regulations may prescribe the manner in which a digital licence document is to be produced.

(3) If, under this or another Act, a person is required to return or surrender the person's licence to drive a motor vehicle (including a learner licence), the person must:

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(a) if the person holds a physical licence document in relation to the licence – return or surrender the document; and

(b) if the person holds a digital licence document in relation to the licence – remove the document from each mobile phone or other electronic device on which the document is capable of being displayed.

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(4) To avoid doubt, the holder of a digital licence document is not required to return or surrender any mobile phone or other electronic device used to display or store the document.

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(5) The holder of a digital licence document does not commit an offence under this or any other Act arising from the holder's use of a mobile phone or other electronic device for the purpose of displaying the holder's digital licence document in response to a request to do so by a police officer or other person authorised to require the production of the document.

6 Section 115 amended (Obtaining permit, licence, &c., by misrepresentation)

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After section 115(2)

insert

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(3) Subsection (2) does not authorise an inspector or officer to seize any mobile phone or other electronic device on which a digital licence document, or a document purporting to be a digital licence document, is displayed or stored.

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(4) If an inspector or officer inspects a digital licence document, or a document purporting to be a digital licence document, and holds the reasonable belief mentioned in subsection (2)(b), the inspector or officer may direct the person to do one or both of the following:

(a) remove the document from the mobile phone or other electronic device on which the document was inspected;

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(b) remove the document from any other mobile phone or other electronic device on which the document is capable of being displayed, within the period specified by the inspector or officer.

- (5) A person commits an offence if the person fails to comply with a direction given under subsection (4).

Maximum penalty: 20 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months.

- 5 (6) It is a defence to a prosecution for an offence against subsection (5) if the defendant has a reasonable excuse.

7 Act further amended

The Schedule has effect.

10 Part 3 Amendment of Motor Vehicles Regulations 1977

8 Regulations amended

This Part amends the *Motor Vehicles Regulations 1977*.

9 Regulation 4E inserted

After regulation 4D

15 *insert*

4E Production of digital licence document

- 20 (1) For section 14A(2) of the Act, and subject to subregulation (2), the holder of a digital licence document produces the document to another person if the holder of the document displays the document on a mobile phone or other electronic device, so that the document is visible to the other person.

- (2) The holder of a digital licence document does not produce the document to the other person if:

25 (a) the screen of the mobile phone or other electronic device on which the document is displayed is unable to be read by the other person due to damage, low screen brightness or any other fault or obstruction, or

30 (b) the holder of the document fails to comply with a reasonable request by the other person to facilitate the reading, scanning or verifying of the document; or

- (c) the holder of the document fails to comply with a reasonable direction from the other person to refresh the display of the mobile phone or other electronic device on which the document is displayed.
- 5 (3) The holder of the digital licence document is not required to give or hand over to the other person the mobile phone or other electronic device on which the document is displayed.

Part 4 Repeal

10 Repeal of Act

- 10 This Act is repealed on the day after it commences.

Schedule Act further amended

section 7

Provision	Amendment	
	<i>omit</i>	<i>insert</i>
sections 19A(2), 20(1)(a) and (2), 25T(2), 33F(2)(a), 33G(2)(a), 34(2A)(a), 43(a), 59(2), 92A(b), 107A(2)(a), 107B(2)(a) and 128A(6) and (7)	the approved	an approved