



**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
SRI LANKA**

PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT)

**A
BILL**

to amend the Penal Code (Chapter 19)

*Presented by the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and
Constitutional Reforms on 21st of August, 2024*

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Ordered by Parliament to be printed

[Bill No. 285]

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STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT

Clause 2: This clause amends certain sections of the Penal Code (Chapter 19) which appear in the Schedule to the Bill, and the legal effect of the sections as amended is to increase the fines imposed in respect of the relevant offences.

Penal Code (Amendment)

L.D.—O. 45/2019

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PENAL CODE (CHAPTER 19)

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:-

1. This Act may be cited as the Penal Code (Amendment) Act, No. of 2024. Short title
- 5 2. The sections of the Penal Code (Chapter 19) specified in Column I of the Schedule hereto, are hereby amended by the substitution for the words specified in the corresponding entry in column III, of the words specified in the corresponding entry in Column IV of that Schedule for the purpose of increasing penalties imposed in respect of the offences specified in Column II thereof. Amendment of certain sections of Chapter 19 specified in the Schedule
- 10 3. For the avoidance of doubt, it is hereby declared that the provisions of section 2 shall not apply in respect of an offence referred to in the Schedule, where such offence was committed prior to the date of coming into operation of this Act. Avoidance of doubt
- 15 4. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail. Sinhala text to prevail in case of inconsistency

SCHEDULE

[section 2]

| <i>Column I</i> | <i>Column II</i> | <i>Column III</i> | <i>Column IV</i> |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Section</i> | <i>Offence</i> | <i>Present words</i> | <i>Amended words</i> |
| 137 | Wearing the dress or carrying any token used by soldier, sailor or airman with intent that it may be believed that he is such soldier, sailor or airman | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 151 | Owner or occupier of land not giving information of riot, &c. | one thousand rupees | ten thousand rupees |
| 157 | Committing affray | one hundred rupees | ten thousand rupees |
| 165 | Misconduct by public servant in Posts or Telecommunications Department | fifty rupees | twenty thousand rupees |
| 169 | Wearing garb or carrying token used by public servant with fraudulent intent | one hundred rupees | twenty five thousand rupees |
| 169E | Bribery in connection with an election | five hundred rupees | one million rupees |
| | If bribery by treating | two hundred rupees | seven hundred fifty thousand rupees |
| 169F | Undue influence at an election | five hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| | Personation at an election | three hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |

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| 169H | Failure to keep election accounts | three hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 170 | Absconding to avoid service of summons or order proceeding from a public servant | fifty rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| | If summons or notice require attendance in person, &c., in a Court of Justice | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 171 | Preventing the service or the affixing of any summons or notice or the removal of it when it has been affixed, or preventing a proclamation | one month, or with fine which may extend to fifty rupees | six months, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees |
| | If summons &c., require attendance in person, &c., in a Court of Justice | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 172 | Not obeying a legal order to attend at a certain place in person or by agent, or departing therefrom without authority | one month, or with fine which may extend to fifty rupees | six months, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees |
| | If the order require personal attendance, &c., in a Court of Justice | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |

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| 173 | Intentionally omitting to produce a document to a public servant by a person legally bound to produce or deliver such document | one month, or with fine which may extend to fifty rupees | six months, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees |
| | If the document is required to be produced in or delivered to a Court of Justice | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 174 | Intentionally omitting to give notice or information to a public servant by a person legally bound to give such notice or information | one month, or with fine which may extend to fifty rupees | six months, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees |
| | If the notice or information required respects the commission of an offence, &c. | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 175 | Knowingly furnishing false information to a public servant | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 176 | Refusing oath when duly required to take oath by a public servant | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 177 | Being legally bound to state truth, and refusing to answer questions | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |

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| 178 | Refusing to sign a statement made to a public servant when legally required to do so | one hundred rupees | twenty thousand rupees |
| 180 | Giving false information to a public servant in order to cause him to use his lawful power to the injury or annoyance of any person | one thousand rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 181 | Resistance to the taking of property by the lawful authority of a public servant | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 182 | Obstructing sale of property offered for sale by authority of a public servant | with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees | with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees |
| 183 | Obstructing public servant in discharge of his public functions | with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees | with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to twenty five thousand rupees |

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| 184 | Omission to assist public servant when bound by law to give such assistance | one month or with fine which may extend to fifty rupees | three months or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees |
| | Willfully neglecting to aid a public servant who demands aid in the execution of process, the prevention of offences, &c. | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 185 | Disobedience to an order lawfully promulgated by a public servant, if such disobedience causes obstruction, annoyance, or injury to persons lawfully employed | one month, or with fine which may extend to fifty rupees | three months, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees |
| | If such disobedience causes danger to human life health, or safety, &c. | with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees | with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees |

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| 219A | Resistance or obstruction to lawful apprehension under a civil process | one hundred rupees | twenty thousand rupees |
| 223 | Intentional insult or interruption to a public servant sitting in any stage of a judicial proceeding | one thousand rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 265 | Adulterating food or drink intended for sale so as to make the same noxious | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 266 | Selling any food or drink as food and drink, knowing the same to be noxious | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 267 | Adulterating any drug or medical preparation intended for sale, so as to lessen its efficacy or to change its operation, or to make it noxious | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 268 | Offering for sale, or issuing from a dispensary, any drug or medical preparation known to have been adulterated | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 269 | Knowingly selling, or issuing from a dispensary any drug or medical preparation as a different drug or medical preparation | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |

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| 270 | Defiling the water of a public spring or reservoir | with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to fifty rupees | with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one hundred thousand rupees |
| 271 | Making atmosphere noxious to health | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 272 | Driving or riding on a public way so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life, &c. | with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one one hundred rupees, or with both | with fine not less than twenty five thousand rupees, and not exceeding fifty thousand rupees, and on a second conviction to a fine not less than thirty thousand rupees and not exceeding seventy five thousand rupees and the suspension of his driving licence, and on a third or subsequent conviction to a fine not less than seventy five thousand |

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| | | | rupees or to rigorous imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment and the cancellation of his driving licence |
| 273 | Navigating any vessel so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life, &c | one hundred rupee | fifty thousand rupees |
| 275 | Conveying for hire any person by water in a vessel in such a state, or so loaded, as to endanger his life | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 276 | Causing danger, obstruction, or injury in any public way or line of navigation | with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees | with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees |
| 277 | Dealing with any poisonous substance so as to endanger human life, &c. | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 278 | Dealing with fire, or any combustible matter, so as to endanger human life, &c. | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |

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| 279 | Dealing with any explosive substance so as to endanger human life, &c. | one hundred rupees | seventy five thousand rupees |
| 280 | Dealing with any machinery so as to endanger human life, &c. | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 281 | A person omitting to guard against probable danger to human life by the fall of any building over which he has a right entitling him to pull it down or repair it | one hundred rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 282 | A person omitting to take order with any animal in his possession, so as to guard against danger to human life, or of grievous hurt, from such animal | one hundred rupees | twenty thousand rupees |
| 283 | Committing a public nuisance | fifty rupees | twenty thousand rupees |
| 314 | Voluntarily causing hurt | one thousand rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 325 | Voluntarily causing hurt on grave and sudden provocation, not intending to hurt any other than the person who gave the provocation | fifty rupees | twenty thousand rupees |

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| 326 | Causing grievous hurt on grave and sudden provocation, not intending to hurt any other than the person who gave the provocation | two thousand rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 327 | Doing any act rashly or negligently which endangers human life or the personal safety of others | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 328 | Causing hurt by doing an act rashly or negligently which endangers human life, &c | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 329 | Causing grievous hurt by doing an act rashly or negligently which endangers human life, &c. | one thousand rupees | one hundred fifty thousand rupees |
| 332 | Wrongfully restraining any person | fifty rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 333 | Wrongfully confining any person | one thousand rupees | five hundred thousand rupees |
| 343 | Assault or use of criminal force; otherwise than on grave provocation | fifty rupees | fifty thousand rupees |
| 348 | Assault or use of criminal force in attempt wrongfully to confine a person | one thousand rupees | five hundred thousand rupees |

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| 349 | Assault or use of criminal force on grave and sudden provocation | fifty rupees | twenty thousand rupees |
| 433 | Criminal trespass | one hundred rupees | one hundred thousand rupees |
| 434 | House trespass | one thousand rupees | one hundred fifty thousand rupees |
| 450 | Being found in a building for unlawful purpose | fifty rupees | twenty thousand rupees |
| 451 | Loitering about by reputed thief | fifty rupees | twenty thousand rupees |
| 487 | Criminal intimidation by anonymous communication or having taken precaution to conceal whence the threat comes | two years | two years, or with fine, or with both |

