

New South Wales

### **Fines Amendment Bill 2008**

## **Explanatory note**

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

#### Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the Fines Act 1996:

- (a) to make it clear that persons may pay an amount payable under a penalty notice (or penalty reminder notice) by part payments, so long as the full amount is paid within the time required by the notice concerned, and
- (b) to provide that a person may elect to have a matter that is the subject of a penalty notice (or penalty reminder notice) dealt with by a court, even if the whole or part of the amount payable under such a notice has been paid, and
- (c) to provide that a penalty reminder notice may be issued and a penalty notice enforcement order may be made even if the relevant penalty notice or penalty reminder notice (or both) was returned as being undelivered to its sender after being sent to the person at an address supplied by the person at the time of the offence concerned or current in the records of the Roads and Traffic Authority, and

- (d) to clarify the manner in which a person served with a penalty reminder notice for a vehicle or vessel offence may name some other person as the person who was in charge of the vehicle or vessel concerned at the relevant time relating to the offence, and
- (e) to make amendments consequential on the merging of the Infringement Processing Bureau and the State Debt Recovery Office, and
- (f) to allow the State Debt Recovery Office and its staff to disclose information to certain tax and other officers, and
- (g) to make other miscellaneous amendments, and
- (h) to make law revision amendments and amendments of a savings and transitional nature.

The Bill also amends the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* to make it clear that criminal proceedings relating to an offence for which a penalty notice was issued, the prosecutor of the offence may be represented and appear by a police prosecutor.

The Bill also makes a consequential amendment to the Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Act 1998.

### Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

**Clause 3** is a formal provision that gives effect to the amendments to the *Fines Act* 1996 set out in Schedule 1.

**Clause 4** is a formal provision that gives effect to the amendments to the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* and the *Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Act 1998* set out in Schedule 2.

**Clause 5** provides for the repeal of the proposed Act after the proposed Act has commenced. Once the proposed Act has commenced it will be spent and section 30 of the *Interpretation Act 1987* provides that the repeal of an amending Act does not affect the amendments made by that Act.

#### Schedule 1 Amendment of Fines Act 1996

#### Amendments relating to part payment of penalty amounts

**Schedule 1 [2] and [8]** insert proposed sections 23 (1A) and 33 (2) into the *Fines Act 1996* (*the Principal Act*) to give effect to the object set out in paragraph (a) of the Overview above. The proposed provisions provide that a person may pay an amount payable under a penalty notice or a penalty reminder notice by part payments. However, the full amount payable is to be paid within the time required by the notice.

Schedule 1 [3], [5] and [6] and Schedule 2.2 make consequential amendments.

# Amendments relating to court election even if penalty amount has been paid

**Schedule 1 [4], [10] and [11]** insert proposed section 23A into, and amend section 36 of, the Principal Act to provide that a person may elect to have a matter that is the subject of a penalty notice or penalty reminder notice dealt with by a court, even if the whole or part of the amount payable under such a notice has been paid. Such an election must be made not later than 90 days after the penalty notice was served. Proposed sections 23A (3) and 36 (5) deal with the consequences of making such an election after any such penalty amount has been paid.

# Amendments relating to certain notices sent to recently reported address and returned to sender

Sections 25 and 26 of the Principal Act provide that a penalty reminder notice may be issued and served on a person if a penalty notice was served on the person and it appears that the amount payable under the penalty notice has not been paid within the time required by the notice. Section 42 (1) of the Principal Act provides that a penalty notice enforcement order may be made only if a penalty notice and a penalty reminder notice have been served on the person.

**Schedule 1 [31]** inserts proposed section 126A into the Principal Act to provide that:

- (a) despite sections 25 and 26, a penalty reminder notice may be issued to and served on a person even if the penalty notice to which it relates was returned as being undelivered to its sender after being sent to the person at the person's recently reported address, unless the appropriate officer concerned has received some other evidence that the penalty notice was not served on the person, and
- (b) despite section 42 (1), a penalty notice enforcement order may be made in relation to an offence even if the penalty notice or a penalty reminder notice (or both) in relation to the offence was returned as being undelivered to its sender after being sent to the person at the person's recently reported address, unless the State Debt Recovery Office has received some other evidence that the penalty notice was not served on the person.

A *recently reported address*, in relation to a penalty notice or penalty reminder notice sent to a person, is defined in the proposed section to mean:

- (a) if, at the time the offence concerned is alleged to have been committed:
  - (i) an address was duly supplied by the person to an appropriate officer in response to a request for that address, and
  - (ii) the person had a legal obligation to supply the address to that officer, unless paragraph (b) applies—the address so supplied, or
- (b) if, after an address was supplied to an appropriate officer in accordance with paragraph (a), the records of the Roads and Traffic Authority in relation to a current driver licence or vehicle registration were altered to show a different address for the person—that address, or

(c) in any other case—an address shown in the records of the Roads and Traffic Authority in relation to a current driver licence or vehicle registration as the address of the person.

**Schedule 1 [21]** inserts proposed section 49 (2) (a1) into the Principal Act to provide that the State Debt Recovery Office must grant annulment of a penalty notice enforcement order if satisfied that the penalty reminder notice, or both the penalty notice and the penalty reminder notice, in relation to a particular offence were returned as being undelivered to its sender after being sent to the person at the person's recently reported address and notice of the enforcement order was served on the person at a different address.

**Schedule 1 [22]** inserts proposed section 49 (8) into the Principal Act to make it clear that the State Debt Recovery Office may still grant an application for annulment (and annul the penalty notice enforcement order) on the ground that the person was not aware that a penalty notice had been issued until the enforcement order was served even if proposed section 126A permitted the issue and service of a penalty reminder notice in relation to a particular offence referred to in the enforcement order or permitted the making of the penalty notice enforcement order (or both).

# Amendments relating to method of naming other person in charge of vehicle or vessel at time offence occurred

Section 38 of the Principal Act provides that a person on whom a penalty reminder notice is served in relation to a vehicle or vessel offence is not liable to make any payment under the penalty notice if the person on or before the due date specified in the penalty reminder notice supplies by statutory declaration the name and address of some other person who was in charge of the vehicle or vessel concerned at all relevant times relating to the offence. It is an offence under section 25 of the *Oaths Act 1900* to wilfully and corruptly make and subscribe a statutory declaration, knowing it to be untrue in any material particular. The offence carries a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 5 years.

**Schedule 1 [12] and [13]** amend section 38 of the Principal Act to provide that such a person is to give the name and address of the person in charge of a vehicle or vessel in a notice that:

- (a) is verified by statutory declaration, and
- (b) is given to the appropriate officer for the penalty notice to which the penalty reminder notice relates (or other person or body specified in the penalty reminder notice).

**Schedule 1 [16]** inserts proposed section 38 (3A) and (3B) into the Principal Act. Proposed section 38 (3A) makes it an offence for a person, in such a notice, to make a statement or provide information knowing that it is false or misleading in a material particular. The offence is to carry a maximum penalty of 50 penalty units (currently \$5,500). Proposed section 38 (3B) makes it clear that if the same facts establish an offence under section 38 and an offence under the *Oaths Act 1900*, the person is not liable to be convicted of both offences.

Schedule 1 [7], [14], [15] and [17] make consequential amendments.

# Amendments consequent on the merger of the State Debt Recovery Office and the Infringement Processing Bureau

The following proposed amendments relating to the administration and execution of the Principal Act are made as a consequence of the merger of the State Debt Recovery Office and the Infringement Processing Bureau.

**Schedule 1** [18] replaces section 41 of the Principal Act to make it clear that the State Debt Recovery Office may, on application by an appropriate officer for a penalty notice or its own initiative, make a penalty notice enforcement order. **Schedule 1** [19], [24] and [25] make consequential amendments.

**Schedule 1 [26]** inserts proposed section 100 (4A) into the Principal Act to provide that an order under section 100 allowing further time to pay a fine may be amended or revoked by a further order made on the application of the person liable to pay the fine or on the State Debt Recovery Office's own initiative.

**Schedule 1 [27]** clarifies the functions of the State Debt Recovery Office with respect to the types of arrangements that it may enter into with persons who issue penalty notices, or on whose behalf penalty notices are issued, regarding such penalty notices.

#### Amendment relating to delegations

**Schedule 1 [28]** inserts proposed section 116A into the Principal Act to provide that the State Debt Recovery Office may delegate the exercise of certain of its functions under that Act.

# Amendments relating to disclosure of certain information to tax and other officers

Section 117A of the Principal Act sets out the circumstances in which the State Debt Recovery Office, the Director of the Office, a member of the staff of the Office and other persons engaged in the administration of that Act may disclose personal information obtained in relation to a person in the administration or execution of that Act.

**Schedule 1 [29]** inserts proposed section 117A (1) (a1) and (a2) to provide that such information may also be disclosed to:

- (a) a tax officer for the purposes of the administration or execution of a taxation law, and
- (b) a person engaged in the administration or execution of the following laws for the purposes of the administration or execution of those laws:
  - (i) the *First Home Owner Grant Act 2000* or a corresponding law of another State or a Territory,
  - (ii) the Unclaimed Money Act 1995.

**Schedule 1 [30]** inserts proposed section 117A (3A) into the Principal Act to provide that a tax officer who has obtained personal information under proposed section 117A (1) (a1) may disclose that information, in accordance with the *Taxation Administration Act 1996*, as if that information had been obtained under or in relation to the administration of a taxation law.

#### Miscellaneous amendments

Schedule 1 [1], [9], [20] and [23] make law revision amendments.

**Schedule 1 [32]** makes an amendment to enable regulations of a savings or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of the proposed Act to be made.

### Schedule 2 Amendment of other Acts

#### Amendment in relation to police prosecutors

**Schedule 2.1** inserts proposed section 36A into the *Criminal Procedure Act 1986*. The proposed section provides that in any criminal proceedings relating to an offence for which a penalty notice was issued, the prosecutor of the offence may be represented and appear by a police prosecutor. The proposed section also makes it clear that nothing in the section:

- (a) requires a police prosecutor to represent or appear for any person, or
- (b) prevents any person from appearing personally, or being represented and appearing by an Australian legal practitioner or other person empowered by an Act or other law to appear for the person, in any proceedings.

# Consequential amendment of Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Act 1998

**Schedule 2.2** makes a consequential amendment to section 14 of the *Road Transport* (*Driver Licensing*) *Act 1998*. The amendment is consequent on the amendments made by **Schedule 1 [2] and [8]** relating to part payments.



New South Wales

# **Fines Amendment Bill 2008**

## **Contents**

		Page
1	Name of Act	2
2	Commencement	2
3	Amendment of Fines Act 1996 No 99	2
4	Amendment of other Acts	2
5	Repeal of Act	2
Schedule 1	Amendment of Fines Act 1996	3
Schedule 2	Amendment of other Acts	12



New South Wales

## **Fines Amendment Bill 2008**

No , 2008

### A Bill for

An Act to amend the *Fines Act 1996* in relation to the enforcement of fines and in relation to other matters concerning the administration of that Act; and for other purposes.

#### Clause 1 Fines Amendment Bill 2008

The	Legisl	ature of New South Wales enacts:	1
1	Nam	e of Act	2
		This Act is the Fines Amendment Act 2008.	3
2	Com	mencement	4
		This Act commences on the date of assent to this Act.	5
3	Ame	ndment of Fines Act 1996 No 99	6
		The Fines Act 1996 is amended as set out in Schedule 1.	7
4	Ame	endment of other Acts	8
		The Acts specified in Schedule 2 are amended as set out in that Schedule.	9 10
5	Rep	eal of Act	11
	(1)	This Act is repealed on the day following the day on which this Act commences.	12 13
	(2)	The repeal of this Act does not, because of the operation of section 30 of the <i>Interpretation Act</i> 1987, affect any amendment made by this Act.	14 15

Sc	hedu	le 1	Α	mer	idment of Fines Act 1996	1
					(Section 3)	2
[1]	Sect	ion 15	, headi	ng		3
	Inser	t "fine	" after	"cour	<b>t</b> ".	4
[2]	Sect	ion 23	Paymo	ent of	amount required by penalty notice	5
	Inser	t after	section	23 (1	):	6
		(1A)	full aı	mount	nay pay the amount by part payments. However, the payable under a penalty notice is to be paid within the ed by the notice.	7 8 9
[3]	Sect	ion 23	(2)			10
	Omi	t "that	amount	t". Ins	ert instead "the full amount under a penalty notice".	11
[4]	Sect	ion 23	A			12
	Inser	t after	section	23:		13
	23A	Pers	on may	y elec	t to have matter dealt with by court	14
		(1)	A per to wh	son al	leged to have committed or to be guilty of the offence penalty notice relates:	15 16
			(a)	inste	ne right to elect to have the matter dealt with by a court ad of under the statutory provision providing for the of the penalty notice, and	17 18 19
			(b)	may	make that election:	20
				(i)	in the manner specified in that statutory provision, or	21 22
				(ii)	if no manner is specified in that statutory provision—in the manner specified in the penalty notice, or	23 24 25
				(iii)	if no manner is specified in that statutory provision or in the penalty notice—in the manner specified by the regulations.	26 27 28
		(2)	the ar	nount an ele	ay make such an election even if the whole or part of payable under the penalty notice has been paid, but ection may not be made later than 90 days after the ice was served.	29 30 31 32
		(3)		rt afte	elects under this section to have a matter dealt with by er any amount payable under the penalty notice has	33 34 35

		(a) section 23 (2) and the corresponding provision of the statutory provision under which the penalty notice was issued (being the provision that provides that if an amount is paid under the penalty notice, no person is liable to any further proceedings for the alleged offence concerned) then cease to have effect, and	1 2 3 4 5 6
		(b) any action taken to record demerit points against the person in the demerit points register kept under the <i>Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Act 1998</i> because of that payment is to be reversed by the Roads and Traffic Authority, and	7 8 9 10 11
		(c) the amount that has been paid under the penalty notice is repayable to the person to whom the penalty notice was directed.	12 13 14
[5]	Sections 24	1, 26, 27 (1) (b), 34 and 42 (1) (d) and (2) (b)	15
	Omit "the ar	mount" wherever occurring. Insert instead "the full amount".	16
[6]	Section 27	What a penalty reminder notice must say	17
	Omit "make	the payment" from section 27 (1) (a).	18
		d "pay the full amount (or, if one or more part payments of that have been paid, the remaining amount)".	19 20
[7]	Sections 28	3 (2) (c) and 61 (3) (c)	21
	Omit "statut	tory declaration under section 38" wherever occurring.	22
	Insert instea	d "notice given under section 38 (1) (a)".	23
[8]	Section 33	Payment under penalty reminder notice	24
	Insert at the	end of the section:	25
	(2)	A person may pay the amount by part payments. However, the full amount payable under a penalty notice is to be paid within the time required by the penalty reminder notice.	26 27 28
[9]	Section 35 court	Alleged offender's right to elect to have matter dealt with by	29 30
	Insert "remi	nder" after "penalty".	31
[10]	Section 36	How person may elect to have matter dealt with by court	32
	Omit section	n 36 (1) and (2). Insert instead:	33
	(1)	A person may elect to have a matter dealt with by a court by serving on the appropriate officer or other person or body	34 35

			ified in the penalty reminder notice a written statement that erson so elects.	1
	(1A)	even	ect to subsection (2), a person may make such an election if the whole or part of the amount payable under the penalty ee has been paid.	3 2 5
	(2)	The	statement must be served within the following time periods:	6
		(a)	if no part of the amount payable under the penalty notice has been paid, on or before the due date specified in the penalty reminder notice for payment in relation to the offence concerned,	7 8 9 10
		(b)	if the whole or any part of that amount has been paid, not later than 90 days after the penalty notice was served.	11 12
[11]	Section 36	(5)		13
	Insert after	section	n 36 (4):	14
	(5)	a co	person elects under this section to have a matter dealt with by urt after any amount payable under the penalty notice has paid:	15 16 17
		(a)	section 23 (2) and the corresponding provision of the statutory provision under which the penalty notice was issued (being the provision that provides that if an amount is paid under the penalty notice, no person is liable to any further proceedings for the alleged offence concerned) then cease to have effect, and	18 19 20 21 22 23
		(b)	any action taken to record demerit points against the person in the demerit points register kept under the <i>Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Act 1998</i> because of that payment is to be reversed by the Roads and Traffic Authority, and	22 25 26 27 28
		(c)	the amount that has been paid under the penalty notice is repayable to the person to whom the penalty notice was directed.	29 30 31
[12]			mstances in which person issued with penalty reminder e or vessel offence is not liable to pay penalty	32 33
	Omit section	on 38 (	1) (a) and (b). Insert instead:	34
		(a)	on or before the due date specified in the penalty reminder notice, gives notice in accordance with subsection (1A) of the name and address of some other person who was in charge of the vehicle or vessel concerned at all relevant times relating to the offence, or	35 36 37 38 39

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[18]	Section	41		1		
	Omit the	section.	Insert instead:	2		
	41 H	ow are p	enalty notice enforcement orders made?	3		
		appr	State Debt Recovery Office may, on application by an ropriate officer for a penalty notice or its own initiative, make nalty notice enforcement order.	4 5 6		
[19]	Section	42 Whei	n a penalty notice enforcement order may be made	7		
	Insert "n 42 (2).	nade by a	an appropriate officer" after "enforcement order" in section	8		
[20]	Section	49 Dete	rmination of applications by State Debt Recovery Office	10		
	Omit "m	ade" fro	m section 49 (2) (a). Insert instead "served".	11		
[21]	Section	49 (2) (a	ı <b>1</b> )	12		
	Insert after section 49 (2) (a):					
		(a1)	the penalty reminder notice, or both the penalty notice and the penalty reminder notice, in relation to a particular offence were returned as being undelivered to its sender after being sent to the person at the person's recently reported address (within the meaning of section 126A) and notice of the enforcement order was served on the person at a different address, or	14 15 16 17 18 19 20		
[22]	Section	49 (8)		21		
	Insert after section 49 (7):					
	(8	gran enfo that was serv offer	the avoidance of doubt, the State Debt Recovery Office may at an application for annulment (and annul the penalty notice or	23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		
[23]	Section order an		eedings for alleged offence if penalty notice enforcement	32 33		
	Omit "fi	ne enforc	cement order" from section 51 (1).	34		
	Insert ins	stead "pe	enalty notice enforcement order".	35		

[24]	Section 51	(4)				
	Omit the su	bsection. In	sert instead:	2		
	(4)	For the purposes of hearing and determining the matter, a court attendance notice in relation to each alleged offence to which the annulment of the penalty notice enforcement order relates is taken:				
			ave been filed when the penalty notice enforcement er was made, and	<del>.</del> 8		
		(b) to ha	ave been filed by the appropriate officer for the penalty ce.	10		
[25]	Section 52	Provisions	relating to annulment of enforcement orders	1		
	Omit section 52 (2).					
[26]	Section 10	0 Time to p	ay	13		
	Insert after section 100 (4):					
	(4A)	revoked by	llowing further time to pay a fine may be amended or a further order made on the application of the person by the fine or on the State Debt Recovery Office's own	15 16 17 18		
[27]	Section 11	4 Functions	s of Office	19		
	Omit section 114 (1A) (a). Insert instead:					
		pena issur inclu (i) (ii) (iii)	renter into arrangements with persons who issue alty notices, or on whose behalf penalty notices are ed, for or with respect to such penalty notices, uding but not limited to:  amending such penalty notices to correct minor errors, and reviewing or withdrawing such penalty notices, and refunding amounts paid under such penalty notices, and	2° 22° 24° 29° 20° 21° 28° 28° 28°		
		(iv)	the receipt, recovery and collection of amounts payable under such penalty notices, and	30 3 <sup>-</sup>		

[28]	Sect	ion 116A		1
	Inser	t after sect	tion 116:	2
	116A	Delegati	ion	3
		fur me	ne State Debt Recovery Office may delegate the exercise of any nction of the Office that is imposed by or under this Act to any ember of staff of the Office (except the Director of the Office), her than the following functions:	4 5 6 7
		(a	this power of delegation,	8
		(b	any function of the Office of making or issuing orders or warrants under this Act.	9 10
[29]	Sect	ion 117A l	Disclosure of information by State Debt Recovery Office	11
	Inser	t after sect	tion 117A (1) (a):	12
		(al	to a tax officer (within the meaning of the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1996</i> ) for the purposes of the administration or execution of a taxation law (within the meaning of that Act), including for the purpose of any legal proceedings arising out of a taxation law or a report of any such proceedings, or	13 14 15 16 17 18
		(a2	<ul> <li>to a person engaged in the administration or execution of the following laws for the purposes of the administration or execution of those laws (including for the purpose of any legal proceedings arising out of any of those laws or a report of any such proceedings):</li> <li>(i) the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 or a corresponding law of another State or a Territory,</li> <li>(ii) the Unclaimed Money Act 1995, or</li> </ul>	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
[30]	Sect	ion 117A (	(3A)	27
	Inser	t after sect	tion 117A (3):	28
		su wi tha	tax officer who has obtained personal information under bsection (1) (a1) may disclose that information, in accordance ith section 82 of the <i>Taxation Administration Act 1996</i> , as if at information had been obtained under or in relation to the liministration of a taxation law.	29 30 31 32 33

[31]	Sect	ion 12	6A			1		
	Inser	t after	section	126:		2		
	126A	Penalty notices and penalty reminder notices sent to recently reported address and returned to sender						
		(1)	issued which after b addres	to and it releases, under	etions 25 and 26, a penalty reminder notice may be and served on a person even if the penalty notice to lates was returned as being undelivered to its sender sent to the person at the person's recently reported aless the appropriate officer concerned has received evidence that the penalty notice was not served on the	5 6 7 8 9 10		
		(2)	made penalt return persor Debt I	in relay remed as at the Recov	tion 42 (1), a penalty notice enforcement order may be lation to an offence even if the penalty notice or a ninder notice (or both) in relation to the offence was being undelivered to its sender after being sent to the person's recently reported address, unless the State very Office has received some other evidence that the lice was not served on the person.	12 13 14 15 16 17		
		(3)			on, <i>recently reported address</i> , in relation to a penalty enalty reminder notice sent to a person, means:	19 20		
				if, at	the time the offence concerned is alleged to have been mitted:	21 22		
				(i)	an address was duly supplied by the person to an appropriate officer in response to a request for that address, and	23 24 25		
				(ii)	the person had a legal obligation to supply the address to that officer,	26 27		
				unles	ss paragraph (b) applies—the address so supplied, or	28		
			(b)	in accand T	ther an address was supplied to an appropriate officer cordance with paragraph (a), the records of the Roads Traffic Authority in relation to a current driver licence chicle registration were altered to show a different case for the person—that address, or	29 30 31 32 33		
				Road	y other case—an address shown in the records of the ls and Traffic Authority in relation to a current driver ce or vehicle registration as the address of the person.	34 35 36		
			Note. I penalty must b	Before / notic e serv	e any enforcement action can be taken in relation to a see, notice of the relevant penalty notice enforcement order yed on the person concerned: see sections 59, 65 and 71. Debt Recovery Office must annul a penalty notice	37 38 39 40		

Amendment of F	ines Act 1996	

	enforcement order if it is satisfied that the person concerned was not aware that a penalty notice had been issued until the enforcement order	1 2		
	was served on the person: see section 49.	3		
[32]	Schedule 3 Savings, transitional and other provisions			
	Insert at the end of clause 1 (1):	5		
	Fines Amendment Act 2008	6		

Schedule 2			Amendment of other Acts		
				(Section 4)	2
2.1	Criminal Procedure Act 1986 No 209 Section 36A				
	Insert after section 36:				
	36A Represe			ation and appearance in penalty notice matters	6
		(1)	pena prose	ny criminal proceedings relating to an offence for which a ulty notice was issued under this or any other Act, the ecutor of the offence may be represented and appear by a ce prosecutor.	7 8 9 10
		(2)	Nothing in this section:		
			(a)	requires a police prosecutor to represent or appear for any person, or	12 13
			(b)	prevents any person from appearing personally, or being represented and appearing by an Australian legal practitioner or other person empowered by an Act or other law to appear for the person, in any proceedings.	14 15 16 17
2.2	Road Transport (Driver Licensing) Act 1998 No 99				
	Section 14 Demerit points register				
	Insert "the whole or any part of" after "pays" in section 14 (2) (b).				

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