



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

Bill 593

**An Act to put an end to illegal taxi
services**

Introduction

**Introduced by
Madam Martine Ouellet
Member for Vachon**

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The purpose of this bill is to put an end to illegal taxi services in Québec by increasing the various sanctions imposed on individuals who illegally provide passenger transportation for remuneration.

The Highway Safety Code is amended to provide that demerit points can be prescribed for offences under the Act respecting transportation services by taxi. The Regulation respecting demerit points is consequently amended to provide that four demerit points are prescribed should a person who does not hold a taxi owner's permit offer or provide passenger transportation by automobile for remuneration.

The Act respecting transportation services by taxi is amended to allow a peace officer to immediately suspend, on behalf of the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, a licence authorizing a person to drive a road vehicle if the person has offered or provided passenger transportation by automobile for remuneration without holding a taxi owner's permit and has previously been convicted of such an offence.

The Act respecting transportation services by taxi is also amended to provide that if a person who does not hold a taxi owner's permit is convicted of offering or providing passenger transportation by automobile for remuneration, a judge may, on an application by the prosecutor, order that any and all licences authorizing operation of a road vehicle be confiscated for a maximum period of three months. The forfeiture order entails revocation of the licence or suspension of the right to obtain a licence.

LEGISLATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Highway Safety Code (chapter C-24.2);
- Act respecting transportation services by taxi (chapter S-6.01).

REGULATION AMENDED BY THIS BILL:

- Regulation respecting demerit points (chapter C-24.2, r. 37).

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AN ACT TO PUT AN END TO ILLEGAL TAXI SERVICES

THE PARLIAMENT OF QUÉBEC ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

HIGHWAY SAFETY CODE

1. Section 111 of the Highway Safety Code (chapter C-24.2) is amended by adding the following subparagraph after subparagraph 2 of the second paragraph:

“(3) for an offence against a provision of the Act respecting transportation services by taxi (chapter S-6.01).”

REGULATION RESPECTING DEMERIT POINTS

2. Section 2 of the Regulation respecting demerit points (chapter C-24.2, r. 37) is replaced by the following section:

“**2.** Demerit points shall be assigned for any offence against the provisions of the Highway Safety Code (chapter C-24.2) or the Act respecting transportation services by taxi (chapter S-6.01) listed in the tables of demerit points in the Schedule, according to the number of points listed for each offence.”

3. The heading of the Schedule to the Regulation is amended by replacing “TABLE OF DEMERIT POINTS” by “TABLES OF DEMERIT POINTS”.

4. The Schedule to the Regulation is amended by adding the following table after the first table:

“

Summary description of offence for reference purposes only	Sections of the Act respecting transportation services by taxi		
	Description	Penal Provisions	Points
1. Offering or providing passenger transportation by automobile for remuneration without holding a taxi owner’s permit	4	117, par. 1	4

”

ACT RESPECTING TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BY TAXI

5. The Act respecting transportation services by taxi (chapter S-6.01) is amended by inserting the following sections after section 71:

“71.1. A peace officer shall, in the course of an inspection under section 67, on behalf of the Société and for a period of 28 days, immediately suspend the licence authorizing a person to drive a road vehicle if the peace officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person has committed an offence under paragraph 1 of section 117 and if the person was previously convicted of such an offence.

If the person does not hold a licence or holds a licence issued by another administrative authority, the peace officer shall immediately suspend, on behalf of the Société and for a period of 28 days, the person’s right to obtain a learner’s licence, a probationary licence or a driver’s licence.

“71.2. On suspending a licence or the right to obtain a licence under section 71.1, the peace officer shall draw up a report in the form and tenor determined by the Société.

A copy of the report must be left with the person whose licence or right to obtain a licence has been suspended and sent to the Société at the latter’s request. A refusal to receive the report does not prevent the suspension from taking effect.

“71.3. The peace officer must notify the Société of every suspension of a licence or of the right to obtain a licence imposed under section 71.1 within the time and in the manner determined by the Société.”

6. The Act is amended by inserting the following section after section 117:

“117.1. Where a person is convicted of an offence under paragraph 1 of section 117, the prosecutor may apply for revocation of the licence authorizing that person to drive a road vehicle or suspension of the right to obtain a licence for a maximum period of three months. If the application is granted, the judge pronouncing the conviction shall order that the licence be confiscated and returned to the Société.

The clerk shall inform the Société of the forfeiture order.”

FINAL PROVISION

7. This Act comes into force on *(insert the date of assent to this Act)*.

