

Longer grace period

Parliament sticks to 30-day, half-minimum traffic-fine deadline despite Shura rejection

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament yesterday approved a bill to give drivers longer time to settle traffic fines at a discount, with backers citing strain on household budgets.

The change rewrites paragraph three of Article 56 of the Traffic Law so a motorist who accepts a settlement has 30 days to pay an amount equal to half the minimum fine.

It replaces the current ladder, under which a driver pays half the minimum within seven days of the offer, the full minimum within 30 days, and no less than a quarter of the maximum if settlement is taken up before the Public Prosecution.

The Shura Council rejected the measure in principle.

Rethink

The government urged a rethink, saying a longer window would blunt general deterrence because settlement stands in for punishment and should be paid without delay to keep roads safe.

Committee chairman Hassan BuKhammas said the upper chamber’s objection was stud-



Shura Council session in progress
ied in detail.

“The aim is to ease matters for citizens who want to settle. A month gives people room to organise the payment and should raise the number of settlements,” he said.

Unrealistic

MP Mohammed Al Rafaei called the one-week window unrealistic for many families.

“Most fines sit around BD100 and drop to BD50 on settlement. With bills to meet, a week isn’t enough. A month is reasonable,” he said, adding that any effect falls on drivers rather than the state budget.

MP Jalal Kadhem opposed the change.

Deterrence

“Extending the window weakens deterrence and gives cover for daily breaches. We should be firm on offences such as parking in disabled bays and using phones at the wheel,” he said, proposing a 48-hour limit to force quick payment and responsibility.

MP Ahmed Al Salloom backed the extension, saying seven days is too short for many to raise the money.

He pointed to recent debates on tougher traffic penalties and



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- HASSAN BUKHAMMAS, CHAIRMAN OF SHURA COUNCIL FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

urged simple payment routes during the new window so drivers can use the half-minimum option.

Ministry allocates 312 housing services in Northern Governorate

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A total of 312 housing services have been issued to residents of the Fourth Constituency in the Northern Governorate since the first session began, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning said. A further 1,658 applications remain on the list, with 68 due to be allocated in the next phase from schemes now being built.

In a reply to MP Hassan Ibrahim, the ministry said 58 applicants whose files date to 2004 and earlier have taken up alternative options set out under the directive of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The ministry said it has added new routes this year to speed access to suitable homes. Tas’heel+ builds on the gains of Tas’heel, which has met thousands of requests since its 2022 start.

It has also launched TumooH, which lets beneficiaries of Tas’heel and Tas’heel+, and earlier flat-purchase finance, obtain an extra BD20,000 in government-backed funding ten years after buying a flat, helping families move to a larger property.

Work with private firms



MP Hassan Ibrahim

through the Government Land Development Rights Programme has moved ahead.

Handover at the Suhail project in the Al Lawzi Suburb met 132 applications through housing-finance options. Allocation has begun at Al Naseem in Salman City, meeting 131 applications. Bookings are under way for homes at Al Wadi in Al Buhair via the off-plan sales route, a pilot opened in April during the Social Housing Conference and Exhibition.

The ministry has also signed contracts for three housing schemes in Salman City with several developers, adding 130 units for beneficiaries of housing finance. It is preparing to put to tender a project for more than 3,000 units in Khalifa City, after four memoranda of understanding were signed in April, with work to begin in the next stage.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION										CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME										CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS									
as at 30 September 2025										for the nine months ended 30 September 2025										for the nine months ended 30 September 2025									
Bahraini Dinars '000										Bahraini Dinars '000										Bahraini Dinars '000									