



Ministerial Statement to the House of Assembly

Amendments to Taxi Legislation

By
The Hon. Shawn G. Crockwell, JP, MP
Minister of Tourism Development and Transport

Friday, 21st March, 2014

Mr. Speaker,

On 20th September, 2013, I informed this House that I will be bringing forth amendments to the Motor Car legislation to address recommendations raised during consultation with the taxi industry.

Today I will inform the House of the amendments that will be processed through the negative resolution procedure and they are as follows.

The maximum number of passengers permitted to be carried in a taxi at one time, will be increase from 6 to 7. This is to accommodate the larger taxis which are fitted with seating capacity for up to 7 passengers.

Currently taxis are prohibited from displaying advertising matter in or on any taxi. We will make amendments to permit advertising matter inside of the vehicle only. The medium for the advertising will be subject to the approval of the Public

Service Vehicles Licensing Board. This will be a revenue generator for taxi owners as well as provide information to passengers.

The current annual taxi licensing period commences on 1st February. This will change to 1st October to coincide with the end of the peak tourism season.

Therefore, in 2015 taxis will be licensed from 1st February to 30th September, and subsequently from 1st October annually thereafter.

The legal charge for hiring a taxi will increase by 25%. Whilst this may appear to be exorbitant in the currently economic climate, taxi fares have not been increased since December 2007.

There will be no increase to the waiting time for the first five minutes; this will remain free. However, each subsequent period of three minutes or part therefore will increase from \$1.30 to \$1.60.

The first one-fifth of a mile will increase from \$4.15 to \$5.15 and from .45 cents to .55 cents for each subsequent one-fifth of a mile or part thereof.

Sightseeing tours will increase from \$40.00 to \$50.00 for one to four passengers and \$55.50 to \$70.00 for five to seven passengers.

Shared rides from the airport to specific locations will also increase:

Zone 1 to Grotto Bay from \$6.70 to \$8.50;

Zone 2 to Flatts or St. George from \$10.70 to \$13.50;

Zone 3 to Cobb's Hill or to the City of Hamilton from \$20.00 to \$25.00;

Zone 4 to junction of South Road and Middle Road, Southampton from

\$24.00 to \$30.00;

Zone 5 to Watford Bridge from \$29.50 to \$36.50; and,

Zone 6 to Dockyard from \$33.50 to \$42.00.

It is our intent for these amendments to be effective from 1st May, 2014:

Mr. Speaker,

As it relates to legislative amendments to make it optional for taxis to be equipped with a global positioning device which is commonly referred to as 'GPS', it is my intention to provide an update to this House within the next months.

Thank You, Mr. Speaker!