



PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD (AMENDMENT)

A

BILL

**to amend the National Water Supply and Drainage Board
Law, No. 2 of 1974**

*Presented by the Minister of Housing, Construction and Water Supply
on 21st of July, 2026*

(Published in the Gazette on March 13, 2026)

Ordered by Parliament to be printed

[Bill No. 70]

PRINTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, SRI LANKA
TO BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS BUREAU, COLOMBO 5

Price : Rs. 72.00

Postage : Rs. 150.00

This Bill can be downloaded from www.documents.gov.lk



STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT

Clause 2 : This clause amends section 16 of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board Law, No. 2 of 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) by repealing and substituting paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of that section, and the legal effect of the section as amended is to make provision to take over and carry on any water supply or sewerage undertaking of an industrial estate, industrial park or community based organization transferred to the Board under section 64.

Clause 3 : This clause amends section 17 of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the section as amended is to enhance the powers of the Board for the attainment of its objects of the Board.

Clause 4 : This clause amends section 20 of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the section as amended is to provide for an opportunity of being heard when a dispute arises from the exercise of the powers of the Board under section 19.

Clause 5 : This clause amends section 22 of the principal enactment, by making provision for the Board to construct treatment plants and pipelines.

Clause 6 : This clause amends section 31 of the principal enactment, by specifying the grounds on which, the General Manager of the Board may disconnect the water supply or remove any apparatus.

Clause 7 : This clause amends section 36 of the principal enactment by providing the General Manager or an officer authorized by the General Manager of the Board to be accompanied by a police officer when executing the duties under subsection (1).

Clause 8 : This clause amends section 37 of the principal enactment, by recognizing the certificate of the General Manager of the Board as *prima facie* evidence of the amounts due.

Clause 9 : This clause amends Part III of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the Part as amended is to include industrial estates, industrial parks and community based organizations as a general amendment.

Clause 10 : This clause inserts new section 57A of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the new section is to make provisions for the water supply and sewerage undertakings of an industrial estate, industrial park or a community based organization.

Clause 11 : This clause inserts new section 83A to the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the new section is to make provisions for contracts of insurance for employees of the Board.

Clause 12 : This clause amends Part IV of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the Part as amended is to include industrial estates, industrial parks and community based organizations as a general amendment.

Clause 13 : This clause amends section 84G of the principal enactment by making the reverse flow of the water supply through a meter an offence.

Clause 14 : This clause inserts new Section 85A to the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the new section is to provide for the fixing of charges for sewerage services.

Clause 15 : This clause amends section 87 of the principal enactment, by specifying the modes of dispatching a demand relating to water supply or sewerage charge sent by the Board.

Clause 16 : This clause amends section 88 of the principal enactment, by specifying the modes of dispatching a notice.

Clause 17 : This clause amends section 90 of the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the section as amended is to provide additional matters for which the Minister may make regulations.

Clause 18 : This clause inserts new section 97B to the principal enactment, and the legal effect of the new section is to provide the substantive and procedural law relating to expedited recovery of the value of the water wasted, misused or unduly consumed.

Clause 19 : This clause amends section 100 by inserting new definitions.

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L.D. – O. 13/2022

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL WATER SUPPLY AND
DRAINAGE BOARD LAW, NO. 2 OF 1974

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

1. This Act may be cited as the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (Amendment) Act, No. of 2026. Short title

5 2. Section 16 of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board Law, No. 2 of 1974 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section by the repeal of paragraph (d) of that subsection, and the substitution therefor, of the following
10 new paragraph: - Amendment of
section 16 of
Law, No. 2 of
1974

15 “(d) to take over and carry on any water supply or sewerage undertaking of any local authority, industrial estate, industrial park or community based organization transferred to the Board by a voluntary transfer order or a compulsory transfer order under section 64;”.

20 3. Section 17 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:- Amendment of
section 17 of
the principal
enactment

(1) by the insertion immediately after paragraph (a) thereof, of the following new paragraph: -

25 “(aa) to enter into agreements with any person to obtain water from surface and ground water resources;”;

- (2) in paragraph (c) thereof, by the substitution for the words “to acquire, hold”, of the words “to acquire, purchase, hold”;
- (3) by the insertion immediately after paragraph (j) thereof, of the following new paragraphs: -

“(ja) to engage in activities related to surface and ground water resource development for the provision, development and maintenance of water supply and sewerage services in collaboration with any Government department or person or any body approved by the Minister;

(jb) with the approval of the Minister, to establish and maintain any subsidiary organization or a strategic business unit under the provisions of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007 which may in the opinion of the Board, directly or indirectly promote the interests or be conducive to the attainment of the objects of the Board;

(jc) with the written directions of the Minister either directly or through any subsidiary organization or strategic business unit established under paragraph (jb) of this section or in association with the Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission or any other institution having similar objects to that of the Board within or outside Sri Lanka-

- (i) to provide consultancy and advisory services, training and knowledge sharing, research and development, in relation to water supply and the management of wastewater;
- (ii) to provide training facilities, programmes relating to water supply and the management of wastewater;
- (iii) to conduct diploma courses relating to water supply and the management of wastewater and to award diplomas where appropriate; and
- (iv) to conduct seminars, workshops and conferences;
- (jd) to enter into and to perform, all such agreements with any Government department or any other institution approved by the Minister for the provision of technical assistance to promote sustainability and improved service delivery of community based water supply;
- (je) to provide laboratory services to any Government or private sector entity or to any person and to charge fees for such services in accordance with such charges as may be fixed, from time to time by the Board, with the approval of the Minister in consultation with

the Minister assigned the subject of Finance;

(j) to open and maintain bank accounts in any local or foreign currency;”.

5 4. Section 20 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

Amendment of
section 20 of
the principal
enactment

(1) by the renumbering of that section as subsection (1) thereof; and

10 (2) by the addition immediately after the renumbered subsection (1) thereof, of the following new subsection: -

15 “(2) Before making a decision under
 subsection (1), the Minister shall provide
 the Board and the Government department
 or the body referred to in section 19 an
 opportunity of being heard.”.

5. Section 22 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words “tanks, aqueducts or”, of the words “tanks, aqueducts, treatment plants, pipelines or”.

Amendment of
section 22 of
the principal
enactment

20 6. Section 31 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

Amendment of
section 31 of
the principal
enactment

(1) by the renumbering of that section as subsection (1) thereof;

25 (2) in the renumbered subsection (1), by the substitution for the words “injury done to the Board’s property and without prejudice to its right to recover from him the value of any water

5 wasted, misused or unduly consumed.”, of the
words “damage done to the Board’s property and
without prejudice to its right to recover from him
the value of any water wasted, misused or unduly
consumed by affixing a pipe or apparatus to an
apparatus or other pipe without the consent of
the General Manager of the Board. The General
Manager or any other person authorized by him
on that behalf, may disconnect the water supply
10 or cause any such pipe or apparatus affixed
without the consent of the General Manager to
be removed.”; and

(3) by the addition immediately after the
renumbered subsection (1) thereof, of the
15 following subsections which shall be numbered
as subsections (2) and (3) of that section: -

“(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), a
certificate prepared and signed by the General
Manager or an officer authorized by the General
Manager stating the amount of the damages in
20 respect of any damage done to the property of
the Board and the value of any water wasted,
misused or unduly consumed shall be *prima*
facie evidence of the amounts that are due.

(3) Upon filing of such certificate by the
General Manager or an officer authorized by
the General Manager, as the case may be in the
Magistrate’s Court in any prosecution under
subsection (1), the Magistrate shall afford
30 such person an opportunity to show cause as
to why further proceedings for the recovery
of the amount shown as due shall not be taken
against such person and where such person has
not shown sufficient cause, the amount shown
35 as due or any lesser amount shall be recovered

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as a fine imposed by Court and the amount so recovered shall be paid to the general reserve fund of the Board.”.

7. Section 36 of the principal enactment is hereby
5 amended by the insertion immediately after subsection (1) thereof of the following new subsection: -
- Amendment of section 36 of the principal enactment

 “(1A) Where such General Manager or an officer authorized by the General Manager may while executing the duties under subsection
10 (1) has reasonable cause to apprehend any obstruction, enter such land or premises accompanied by a police officer.”.

8. Section 37 of the principal enactment is hereby
amended as follows:-
- Amendment of section 37 of the principal enactment

- 15 (1) by the renumbering of that section as subsection (1) thereof;
- (2) in the renumbered subsection (1), by the substitution for the words “offence shall be continued.”, of the words “offence shall be
20 continued without prejudice to the right of the Board to recover from such person the damages in respect of any damage caused to property of the Board or the fouling of any water belonging to the water works.”; and
- 25 (3) by the addition immediately after the renumbered subsection (1) thereof, of the following new subsections: -

 “(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), a certificate prepared and signed by the General Manager or an officer authorized by the
30 General Manager stating the amount of the

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5 damages in respect of any injury caused to the property of the Board or the fouling of any water belonging to the waterworks shall be *prima facie* evidence of the amounts that are due.

10 (3) Upon filing of such certificate by the General Manager or an officer authorized by the General Manager, as the case may be in the Magistrate's Court in any prosecution under subsection (1), the Magistrate shall afford such person an opportunity to show cause as to why further proceedings for the recovery of the amount shown as due shall not be taken against such person and where such person has
15 not shown sufficient cause, the amount shown as due or any lesser amount shall be recovered as a fine imposed by Court and the amount so recovered shall be paid to the general reserve fund of the Board.”.

20 **9.** Part III of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the substitution for the words “local authority” or “authority”, wherever those words or word appear in that Part of the words “local authority, industrial estate or industrial park or a community based organization”. General Amendment to Part III of the principal enactment

25 **10.** The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 57 of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 57A of that enactment: - Insertion of new section 57A in the principal enactment

30 “Water supply and sewerage undertakings of an industrial estate etc. **57A.**The provisions of Part III of this Act shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to and in relation to the transfer to the Board of any water supply and sewerage undertakings of an industrial estate, industrial park or a community based organization:

Provided that-

5 (a) in the event of a water supply
and sewerage undertakings of an
industrial estate or industrial park,
the words “the Minister in charge of
the subject of Local Government”,
wherever those words appear in
that Part shall be read and construed
as a reference to “the Minister
10 assigned the subject of the Board of
Investment of Sri Lanka established
under the Board of Investment
Law, No. 4 of 1978 under Article
44 or 45 of the Constitution or the
15 Minister assigned the subject of
industries under Article 44 or 45 of
the Constitution” as the case may
be; and

20 (b) in the event of a water supply
or sewerage undertakings of a
community based organization,
the words “Minister in charge of
the subject of local government”,
wherever those words appear in that
25 Part shall be read and constructed
as a reference to “the Minister
assigned the subject of community
based water supply under Article
44 or 45 of the Constitution.”.

30 **11.** The following new section is hereby inserted
immediately after section 83 of the principal enactment and
shall have effect as section 83A of that enactment: -

Insertion of
new section
83A in the
principal
enactment

“Contracts of
insurance

- 5 **83A.** (1) The Board may from time to time
enter into contracts of insurance insuring
employees of the Board for the purpose of
granting an insurance cover to any employee
who is permanently disabled, or partially
disabled or temporarily incapacitated, or in the
event of the death of any employee to the legal
heirs, in any case where such disablement,
incapacitation or death, as the case may be is
10 due to an injury –
- (a) sustained by such employee while
on duty; or
- (b) sustained by such employee while
travelling-
- 15 (i) from his place of residence
to his place of work to report
for duty; or
- (ii) from his place of work to his
place of residence after duty;
20 or
- (c) sustained by such employee, while
not on duty in the performance of
some act which is within the scope
of his ordinary duties; or
- 25 (d) sustained by such employee
in consequence of any act or
performance in the execution of his
duties; or
- 30 (e) sustained by such employee as
a result of any act of reprisal

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occasioned by, or arising out of,
any action taken by him in the
execution of his duties.

5 (2) The amount to be paid by the Board
as insurance premium and the manner of the
insurance, qualifications required to be entitled
to an insurance and all other matters connected
therewith shall be determined by the Board by
rules made in that behalf.

10 (3) Any insurance cover granted in
accordance with the rules made under the
preceding provisions of this section in respect
of the disablement, incapacitation or death
15 of an employee shall be in addition to any
gratuity, compensation, allowance or other
benefit granted in respect of such disablement,
incapacitation or death under any other written
law applicable thereto.”.

20 **12.** Part VI of the principal enactment is hereby amended
by the substitution for the words “local authority”, wherever
those words appear in that Part of the words “local authority,
industrial estate or industrial park or a community based
organization”.

General
Amendment
to Part VI of
the principal
enactment

25 **13.** Section 84G of the principal enactment is hereby
amended by the substitution for the words “damages or in
any other way”, of the words “damages, reverse the flow or
in any other way”.

Amendment of
section 84G of
the principal
enactment

30 **14.** The following new section is hereby inserted
immediately after section 85 of the principal enactment and
shall have effect as section 85A of that enactment: -

Insertion of new
section 85A in
the principal
enactment

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“Fixing
charges for
sewerage
services

5

85A. (1) The sewerage service charges payable to the Board by any person whose property is connected to the sewerage system shall be based on the total discharges into the sewerage system irrespective of the source of the water.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Law, the Board may introduce a load based or a scheme specific sewerage charge.”.

10 **15.** Section 87 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

Amendment of
section 87 of
the principal
enactment

(1) by the repeal of paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of that section and the substitution therefor of the following: -

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“(b) A demand relating to the water supply or sewerage charge sent by the Board to a person may be dispatched by registered or ordinary post, delivered by hand or by any electronic means.”; and

20

(2) in subsection (8) of that section, by the substitution for all the words from “so specified is payable, to the end of that subsection, of the words “so specified is payable.”.

25 **16.** Section 88 of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1) of that section, by the substitution for the words “the Board in re-connecting such service, is paid.”, of the words “the Board in re-connecting such service, is paid. The notice required under the provisions of this subsection may be dispatched by registered or ordinary
30 post, delivered by hand or by any electronic means.”.

Amendment
of section
88 of the
principal
enactment

Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) and septage treatment plants;

- 5 (q) standards and specifications for the construction of sewerage systems including the size, nature, strength, materials, the apparatus and receptacles to be used for such purpose;
- 10 (r) licensing of persons engaged in the provision of technical services in the form of advisory, consultancy and construction services pertaining to water supply and sewerage services; and
- 15 (s) maintenance of the quality of the water supplied for the public, domestic or industrial purposes by the Board.”

20 **18.** The following new section is hereby inserted
immediately after section 97A of the principal enactment and
shall have effect as section 97B of that enactment: -

Insertion of new
section 97B in
the principal
enactment

25 “Right of the Board to recover the value of any water wasted, misused or unduly consumed

30

97B. (1) Any fine imposed by a Magistrate Court under section 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 84F and 84G shall be without prejudice to the right of the Board to recover the value of any water wasted, misused or unduly consumed.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), a certificate signed by the General Manager or an officer authorized by the General Manager stating the value of any water wasted, misused

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or unduly consumed shall be *prima facie* evidence of the amounts that are due.

5 (3) Upon filing of such certificate by the General Manager or an officer authorized by the General Manager, as the case may be in the Magistrate's Court in any prosecution under subsection (1), the Magistrate shall afford such person an opportunity to show cause as to why further proceedings for the recovery of the amount shown as due shall not be taken against such person and where such person has not shown sufficient cause, the amount shown as due or any lesser amount shall be recovered as a fine imposed by Court and the amount so recovered shall be paid to the general reserve fund of the Board.”.

10

15

19. Section 100 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows: -

Amendment of section 100 of the principal enactment

20 (1) by the insertion immediately after the definition of the expression “area of authority” of the following new definitions:-

“ “body” includes any body corporate or unincorporate;

25 “community based organization” means an organization or a body representing the user community that engages in providing water supply or sewerage services to the user community;

30 “industrial estate” means an industrial estate established under the provisions of the

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Industrial Development Act, No. 36 of 1969 or an industrial estate established under the provisions of the Industrial Promotion Act, No. 46 of 1990;

- 5 “industrial park” means an industrial park established under the provisions of the Industrial Promotion Act, No. 46 of 1990;”;
- 10 (2) by the insertion immediately after the definition of the expression “Local Government Service Commission” of the following new definition:-
- “ “person” includes a natural or a legal person;” ; and
- 15 (3) by the insertion immediately after the definition of the expression “sewerage works” of the following new definition: -
- “ “Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission” means the Commission established under the provisions of the Tertiary and Vocational Education Act, No. 20 of 1990;”.
- 20

20. 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

