

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017

NO. OF 2017

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
THE POLICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2017
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AN ACT to amend the Police Act, Cap. 330 and for incidental and connected purposes.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda as follows-

1. Short title and commencement

This Act may be cited as the Police (Amendment) Act, 2017.

2. Interpretation

In this Act, the principal Act means the Police Act, CAP 330.

3. Amendment of section 2 of principal Act

Section 2 of the principal Act is amended by inserting in the correct alphabetical order the following definition—

“Commissioner” means the person appointed to the office of Commissioner of Police in accordance with section 105 of the Constitution.

4. Amendment of the principal Act-

The principal Act is amended by repealing the words “Governor General” wherever these words appear in the Act and substituting therefor the word “Minister.”

5. Amendment of section 5 of principal Act

Section 5 of the principal Act is amended by repealing section 5 and substituting therefor the following –

“5. Accoutrements and uniform of the Force

The members of the Force shall wear such uniform as the Minister may, after consultation with the Commissioner, direct and such uniform together with arms and accoutrements shall be supplied to each member of the Force at public expense.”

6. Repeal of sections 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of principal Act

Sections 7, 8 9, 10, 11 of the principal Act are repealed.

7. Insertion of new section 23A in principal Act

The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 23 the following new section —

“23A. Power to transfer Gazetted Officers

The Minister may, after consultation with the Commission, direct the Commissioner to transfer any Gazetted Officer to any department of Government for which the Minister is responsible for the purpose of advising the Minister on security, policing policies, guidelines, research, planning and other security relate matter or for any matter for the advancement of the duties and responsibilities of the Force.”

8. Amendment of section 71-Power to Make Regulations

Section 71 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the introductory words in subsection (1) appearing before subparagraph (a) and substituting therefor the following –

“(1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Commissioner, make regulations relating to all or any of the following matters, that is to say –”

Passed by the House of Representatives
on the day of 2017.

Passed by the Senate on the
day of 2017.

Speaker

President

Clerk to the House of Representative

Clerk to the Senate

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The amendment to the Police Act Cap. 330 has become necessary as a result of new challenging issues facing the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda in the areas of crime solving and prevention strategies, and other aspects of appointments. The amendment will aid in policing Antigua and Barbuda and restoring the confidence, motivation and vigour in police officers without any fear when performing their duties.

There is a need for research, planning and a security department where stakeholders from the various law enforcement agencies can put strategies for the benefit or interest of the Antigua and Barbuda. This is necessary, particularly for agencies such as the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Customs Department, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, Immigration, Port Authority and so forth. A national security strategy to tackle issues such as terrorism, gangs, violent crimes, drugs and other issues are not just for the Royal Police Force and the Office of National Drug and Money Laundering Control Policy, but from a national security or public safety standpoint. The government must have national policies going forward with the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda being in the lead.

Hon. Steadroy C. O. Benjamin
Attorney General and
Minister of Legal Affairs