

OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill would amend the *National Assistance Act, Cap. 48* to increase the number of members on the National Assistance Board, and also make provision for related matters.

Arrangement of Sections

Section

1. Short title.
2. Amendment of section 4 of Cap. 48.
3. Insertion of *Schedule* into Cap. 48.

SCHEDULE

BARBADOS

A Bill entitled

An Act to amend the *National Assistance Act*.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Barbados as follows:

- 1. This Act may be cited as the *National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 2009*. Short title.**

Amend-
ment of
section 4
of Cap. 48.

2. The *National Assistance Act*, in this Act referred to as the principal Act, is amended by deleting section 4 and substituting the following:

"Establish-
ment of
Board.

4. (1) For the purposes of this Act, there shall be established a National Assistance Board hereinafter referred to as the Board.

Cap. 1.

(2) The Board is a body corporate to which section 21 of the *Interpretation Act* applies.

Schedule.

(3) The *Schedule* has effect with respect to the constitution of the Board and otherwise in relation thereto.

(4) The Minister may by Order amend the *Schedule*."

Insertion of
Schedule
into Cap.
48.
Schedule.

3. The principal Act is amended by inserting in that Act the Schedule set out in the *Schedule* to this Act.

SCHEDULE

(section 3)

"SCHEDULE

(section 4(3))

The Constitution and Management of the National Assistance Board

1. The Board shall consist of 9 members.
2. The Minister shall, by an instrument in writing, appoint the members of the Board.
3. The members of the Board shall include
 - (a) a person designated as the Chairman by the Minister;
 - (b) a person designated as the Deputy Chairman by the Minister; and
 - (c) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for National Assistance, *ex officio*, or the nominee of the Permanent Secretary.
4. Subject to paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 the members of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.
5. A vacancy shall be deemed to arise in the membership of the Board on the
 - (a) death of a member;
 - (b) resignation of a member;
 - (c) the absence of a member from Barbados without the leave of the Minister;
 - (d) the failure of a member to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Board unless such a failure to attend was approved by the Minister; or
 - (e) revocation of the appointment of the member by the Minister where the Minister determines that the member is no longer a fit and proper person to be a member of the Board due to illness, incapacity or misconduct.

6. The Chairman or Deputy Chairman may at any time resign his office by an instrument in writing addressed to the Minister and upon the receipt by the Minister of the instrument he ceases to be Chairman or Deputy Chairman, and if the instrument so specifies he also ceases to be a member.

7. A member, other than the Chairman or Deputy Chairman, may at any time resign his office by an instrument in writing addressed to the Minister, and transmitted through the Chairman, and from the date of the receipt by the Minister the member ceases to be a member of the Board unless another date is stated in the instrument.

8. The Chairman shall cause to be published in the *Official Gazette* the appointment, removal, registration or death of any member of the Board.

9. A meeting of the Board shall be summoned on the initiative of the Chairman or at the written request of two or more members of the Board.

10. The Chairman of the Board shall summon a meeting of the Board at least once every 3 months.

11. Five members, one of whom shall be the Chairman or in his absence the Deputy Chairman, shall constitute a quorum.

12. At any meeting of the Board the Chairman, or in his absence the Deputy Chairman, shall in case of an equality of votes have a second or casting vote.

13. The members of the Board shall be eligible for such remuneration as the Minister may determine.

14. The Board may regulate its own procedure and may make rules for dealing with the business before it.