

2026-08-07

OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill would make provision for the penalization of persons who commit acts of domestic terrorism.

Arrangement of Sections

1. Short title
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BARBADOS

A Bill entitled

An Act to make provision for the penalization of persons who commit acts of domestic terrorism.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Barbados as follows:

Short title

- 1.** This Act may be cited as the *Domestic Terrorism Act, 2026*.

Interpretation

2. In this Act,

“ammunition” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the *Firearms Act*, Cap. 179;

“domestic terrorism” means an act which

- (a) constitutes a serious criminal offence; and
- (b) satisfies any of the following conditions:
 - (i) it is committed in a public place
 - (A) with the intention of causing the public, or a segment of the public, to fear for their safety or the safety of others; or
 - (B) recklessly or without regard to the safety of the public;
 - (ii) it is committed in a public place and is motivated by bias against race, nationality, ethnic origin, sex or sexual orientation, gender or religion; or
 - (iii) it involves the unlawful importation, possession, carrying or use of firearms or ammunition or both, of such a type, in such quantities or in such a manner as to constitute a significant threat to the safety of the public;

“firearm” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the *Firearms Act*, Cap. 179;

“public place” includes a highway or road and any other premises or place to which at the material time members of the public have or are permitted to have access, whether by payment or otherwise;;

“serious criminal offence” means an offence in respect of which

- (a) a sentence of death may be imposed;

- (b) a person may, under or by virtue of any enactment, be sentenced to 5 or more years of imprisonment; or
- (c) the value of any property or benefits derived or obtained from its commission is, or is likely to be, not less than \$5 000.

Offence of Domestic Terrorism

3.(1) A person who commits an act of domestic terrorism commits an offence and is liable, on conviction on indictment, where the serious criminal offence committed is

- (a) murder, to
 - (i) suffer death; or
 - (ii) imprisonment for life; or
- (b) an offence other than murder, to imprisonment for life.

(2) Where a sentence is imposed on a person pursuant to subsection (1)(a)(ii) or (b), it shall be served consecutively in relation to the sentence imposed on the person for the commission of the serious criminal offence.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, subsection (2) shall not apply where

- (a) the serious criminal offence committed is murder; and
- (b) the sentence imposed in relation to subsection (1)(a) is to suffer death.

(4) The commission of an act of domestic terrorism shall be considered to be an aggravating factor which should be taken into account when imposing a sentence on a person who commits a serious criminal offence.