

2025/11/14

### **OBJECTS AND REASONS**

This Bill would amend the *Constitution* to

- (a) provide for the election of a person who is not a member of either House to the office of Speaker of the House of Assembly; and
- (b) enable a Minister to address the House of which he is not a member on any matter within his portfolio and the Attorney-General to address either House on any matter.

*Arrangement of Sections*

1. Short title
2. Insertion of sections 45A, 45B and 45C into the *Constitution*
3. Insertion of section 53A into the *Constitution*
4. Amendment of the *Third Schedule*

## **BARBADOS**

A Bill entitled

An Act to amend the *Constitution*.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Barbados in accordance with the provisions of section 49 of the *Constitution* as follows:

### **Short title**

- 1.** This Act may be cited as the *Constitution (Amendment) Act, 2025*.

**Insertion of sections 45A, 45B and 45C into the *Constitution***

**2.        *The Constitution is amended by inserting after section 45 the following:***

**“Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

**45A.(1)** There shall be a Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly who shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(2) When the House of Assembly first meets after any dissolution of Parliament and before it proceeds to the despatch of any other business, it shall elect a person who is not a member of the House of Assembly or the Senate to be the Speaker; and whenever the office of Speaker becomes vacant for any reason other than a dissolution of Parliament, the House shall, as soon as practicable, elect another such person to that office.

(3) The Speaker shall, by virtue of holding the office of Speaker, be deemed to be a member of the House of Assembly in addition to the thirty members or such greater number of members as may be prescribed by Parliament pursuant to section 41(1).

(4) The Speaker shall, whenever on a division the votes are equal, have a casting vote.

(5) When the House of Assembly first meets after any dissolution of Parliament and before it proceeds to the despatch of any other business, except the election of the Speaker, the House shall elect a member of the House who is not a Minister or Parliamentary Secretary to be Deputy Speaker, and if the office of Deputy Speaker becomes vacant for any reason other than a dissolution of Parliament, the House shall, as soon as practicable, elect another such person to that office.

- (6) A person shall not be elected Speaker or Deputy Speaker if
  - (a) he is not a citizen of Barbados; or
  - (b) he is a person disqualified for election as a member of the House of Assembly by virtue of section 44(1) or any other law enacted pursuant to section 44(2).
- (7) The Speaker shall be entitled to such conditions of service as may be prescribed by Parliament.

**Vacation of office by Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

- 45B.(1)** A person shall vacate the office of
- (a) Speaker
    - (i) when the House first meets after any dissolution of Parliament;
    - (ii) where he ceases to be a citizen of Barbados;
    - (iii) where any circumstances arise that would cause him to be disqualified for election as a member of the House by virtue of section 44(1) or any law enacted pursuant to section 44(2); or
    - (iv) where he announces the resignation of his office to the House of Assembly or, if by writing under his hand addressed to the Clerk of the House, he resigns that office; and
  - (b) Deputy Speaker where he announces the resignation of his office to the House of Assembly or if by writing under his hand addressed, to the Speaker or, if the office of Speaker is vacant or the Speaker is absent from Barbados, to the Clerk of the House, he resigns that office.

(2) A Speaker shall no longer be deemed to be a member of the House of Assembly pursuant to section 45A(3) if he has vacated the office of Speaker.

### **Removal of Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

**45C.(1)** Standing Orders made pursuant to section 50 may provide for the removal of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker from office.

(2) A Speaker shall no longer be deemed to be a member of the House pursuant to section 45A(3) if he is removed from the office of Speaker.”.

### **Insertion of section 53A into the *Constitution***

**3.** *The Constitution is amended by inserting after section 53 the following:*

#### **“Attendance of Ministers in either House**

**53A.(1)** A Minister who is a Member of the House of Assembly and a Minister who is a Senator

- (a) may attend any sitting of the Senate or the House of Assembly, respectively; and
- (b) may be required at the instance of the President of the Senate or the Speaker to attend any sitting of the Senate or the House of Assembly, respectively.

(2) A Minister may not be required to attend any sitting of either House under subsection (1)(b) except on the adoption by that House of a motion for the purpose.

(3) A Minister attending any sitting of the Senate or the House of Assembly under subsection (1) may take part in any debate or other

proceedings concerning matters falling within his portfolio in such House and may speak only on any motion before the House concerning his portfolio and move amendments to any such motions, save that such a Minister shall have no vote thereon.

(4) Nothing in this section shall preclude the Attorney-General from attending any sitting of the Senate or the House of Assembly, as the case may be, and taking part in debates and other proceedings and speaking on any motion before any such House, as the case may be, and moving amendments to any such motions even though the matter falls within the portfolio of some other Minister.”.

**Amendment of the *Third Schedule***

**4.        *The Third Schedule to the Constitution is amended by deleting paragraph 2 and substituting the following:***

“2. The number of persons entitled to vote in any one constituency shall, so far as practicable, be not more than 120 per cent, nor less than 80 per cent, of the total number of persons entitled to vote in Barbados, divided by the total number of the constituencies.”.

Read three times and passed the House of Assembly this  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

**Speaker**

Read three times and passed the Senate this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

**President**