

PRESS RELEASE

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE (STANDING) ON GOVERNANCE AND POLICY MATTERS ON THE IMMIGRATION BILL, 2025 AND BARBADOS CITIZENSHIP BILL, 2025

On 12th August, 2025 the Honourable the Senate committed the following Bills:

Immigration Bill, 2025 and the Barbados Citizenship Bill, 2025

to a Joint Select Committee (Standing) of the two Houses of Parliament comprising five (5) members of the Honourable the House of Assembly and four (4) members of the Honourable the Senate and has approved the following terms of reference for the Committee:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Joint Select Committee to Review the Draft Immigration Bill, 2025 and Citizenship Bill, 2025

1. Background

The Government of Barbados has prepared the Immigration and Citizenship Bills, 2025 which were approved by the Cabinet, laid in Parliament and had a Second Reading before being referred to the above named Committee.

These Bills seek to modernize the national legal framework governing Immigration permanent residence and citizenship. These Bills have been designed to address the challenges of low population growth in Barbados and the region, promote a system of sustainable, managed migration towards national development and strengthen Barbados' global competitiveness.

The Committee by this reference is to enquire into and review the said Bills to ensure that the proposed legislation fulfills its stated purpose and adequately supports the broader objectives of improved well-being for all through sustainable population growth, national security and socio-economic development.

2. Purpose

To enquire into and determine whether the Bills as drafted fulfil the expressed purposes to:

Immigration Bill, 2025

Revise the law regulating the entry of persons into Barbados and

Barbados Citizenship Bill, 2025

Update the law relating to the acquisition, deprivation and renunciation of Citizenship of Barbados.

3. Objectives

The Committee shall

1. **Assess Legislative Intent;**

Determine whether the Bills as drafted effectively achieve the objectives of revising and strengthening the laws on immigration and citizenship.

2. **Encourage Population Growth;**

Examine whether the provisions of the Bills will encourage sustainable population growth.

3. **Simplify the Acquisition of Permanent Residency Status and Citizenship;**

Review and examine whether the Bills simplify the procedures for the acquisition of permanent residency status and citizenship while promoting a managed migration policy to increase population while encouraging the development of skill sets necessary for national development.

4. **Recognize and Engage the Barbadian Diaspora;**

Ensure that there is recognition of the importance of the Barbadian diaspora by facilitating the participation and contribution to national growth by those of Barbadian descent.

5. **Protecting the Integrity of our Immigration System;**

Examine and analyze whether the bills as drafted provide easier access to permanent Immigration Status through a structure that recognizes portability of skills and investment while protecting the integrity of our immigration model and the strength of the Barbados Passport.

4. To Examine and Analyze Whether the Provisions of the Bills as Drafted:

(a) Immigration Bill, 2025

- Adequately provide a considered framework for increasing the population of Barbados.
- Increase locally accessible skill sets necessary for the development of Barbados.
- Secure the safety of Barbados for Barbadians and all who live here.
- Provide a faster transparent pathway to permanent Immigration Status without compromising national security or access to essential State services.
- Enhance the achievement of a sustainable population base through managed migration.

(b) Citizenship Bill 2025

- Remove the outdated classes of citizenship
- Widen the bases for the acquisition of Citizenship
- Recognize the primacy of the Barbadian diaspora in the development of Barbados to encourage national development
- Encourage inclusive participation in the development of Barbados.

Parliament has appointed the following members to the Joint Select Committee (Standing) on Governance and Policy Matters:

Ms. Marsha K.A. Caddle, M.P. (Chairman)

Mr. Peter R. Phillips, J.P., M.P.

Dr. Romel O. Springer, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Ralph A. Thorne, K.C., M.P.

Hon. Chad J. Blackman, M.P.

Senator Gregory P. B. Nicholls

Senator Andwele O. Boyce

Senator Ryan O. Walters

Senator the Hon. Lindell E. Nurse

The Committee commenced its work on **Monday, September 5th, 2025 at 3:00 pm at the Parliament of Barbados, Parliament Buildings, Trafalgar Street, Bridgetown.**

The Bills are available online at www.barbadosparliament.com.

The Bills are available for comment on the Barbados Parliament's website.

In keeping with parliamentary practice, the Committee through this press release invites and encourages the public whether as individuals, professional organisations, community based groups, official and unofficial bodies with special interest and generally anyone who may assist with its work to submit memoranda or other documents setting out their views and comments on the issues.

The Committee also encourages individuals who may tender written submissions to indicate whether they would also want to appear in person before the Committee to give oral presentations of no more than ten (10) minutes.

The Committee also invites individuals who want only to make an oral presentation to indicate such desire and interest to the Committee.

The Committee may also invite individuals or summon witnesses under the law to attend its meetings to give evidence to help towards formulating a well informed and balanced report on the captioned subject matter.

The Committee's paramount mission will be to conduct a thorough analysis within its mandate to determine whether the provisions of the Bill as they currently stand would achieve their stated objectives.

The Committee shall prepare and submit a comprehensive report containing the:

- Findings on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Immigration and Citizenship Bills, 2025;
- Recommendations for amendments or policy adjustments, where necessary;
- Proposals to strengthen managed migration, diaspora engagement, national development strategies, how best to encourage sustainable population growth and strengthen Barbados' global competitiveness.

Individuals should submit their views, memoranda to the Clerk of Parliament, Parliament of Barbados, Parliament Buildings, Trafalgar Street, Bridgetown.

Those who want to appear before the Committee to make oral presentations should indicate their interest in so doing to the Clerk of Parliament at the above address.

Written communication also includes email. Mailed responses should be addressed to the Clerk of Parliament, Parliament of Barbados, Parliament Buildings, Trafalgar Street, Bridgetown.

E-mails should be sent to parliamentbarbados@caribsurf.com

It should be noted that written submissions should reach the Clerk of Parliament no later than Monday 27th, October, 2025.

The proceedings of the Joint Select Committee (Standing) will take place at the Parliament of Barbados and will be conducted in public.

The proceedings will be streamed live on the Barbados Parliament's website, on social media and broadcast on CBC TV whenever possible.

Notice of the dates when the Select Committee will sit will be posted via the Barbados Parliament website.

Reports by the Committee will be laid in both Houses of Parliament.