

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The *Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill, 2019* amends the *Supreme Court of Judicature Act* to increase the number of Judges in the High Court, and to make provision for the establishment of a Judicial Appointments Committee. This will add to the previous procedure for selecting judges, in that vacancies will now be advertised, so that all interested parties can apply and have the opportunity to be selected for an interview and the possibility of being recommended for the vacancy. This amendment will also provide for the creation of a Commercial Division.

- Clause 1:** provides the short title for the citation of the amending Act.
- Clause 2:** amends section 4 to increase number of Judges of the High Court from eight to thirteen, to better enable the High Court to perform its functions in the administration of justice.
- Clause 3:** amends section 15 to provide for a Commercial Division.
- Clause 4:** amends section 16 to provide for the causes and matters which will be the purview of the Commercial Division.
- Clause 5:** inserts section 93A into the Act. This section establishes the Judicial Appointments Committee. This Committee will be called into action by the Prime Minister where it is determined that there is vacancy in the Supreme Court of Judicature which must be filled. The Committee will be given a period of tenure during which it will advertise the vacancy, interview applicants and make recommendations of applicants who may be considered for the vacancy.
- Clause 6:** amends the *First Schedule* in the Act to provide details of the matters assigned to the Commercial Division.

Clause 7: inserts a *Fourth Schedule* into the Act that provides details for the appointments and composition to the Judicial Appointments Committee, and makes provision for the operation of the Committee.