
First Session First Parliament Republic of Trinidad
and Tobago



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Act No. 27 of 1977

[L.S.]

AN ACT to amend the National Insurance Act, 1971.

[Assented to 24th May, 1977]

ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as Enactment
follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the National Insurance short title
(Amendment) Act, 1977.
2. In this Act, "the Act" means the National Insurance interpretation
Act, 1971.

Section 22(1)
of the Act
amended.

3. Section 22(1) of the Act is amended by substituting for paragraph (c) the following—

“(c) the remuneration, fees and allowances of the Directors or of any committee of the Board;”.

Section 44 of
the Act
amended.

4. Section 44 of the Act is amended—

(a) by repealing and replacing subsection (4) as follows—

“(4) In addition to the benefits described in subsection (3), medical expenses shall be paid at rates fixed in accordance with subsection (6), to insured persons who suffer personal injury by accident arising out of or in the course of their employment.”;

(b) by inserting immediately after subsection (4) the following new subsections—

“(5) The Board may make regulations relating generally to the payment of medical expenses and in particular may by such regulations—

(a) prescribe the conditions subject to which and the period in respect of which such expenses shall be paid;

(b) provide for the appointment and prescribe the functions of medical referees.

(6) The Minister shall by Order fix the rates of payment and prescribe a maximum payment of medical expenses.”;

(c) by renumbering subsections (5) and (6) as subsections (7) and (8).

Section 45
of the Act
amended.

5. Section 45 of the Act is amended by adding immediately after subsection (2) the following new subsection—

“(3) The Minister may by Order add any disease or injury to or remove any disease or injury from the diseases and injuries prescribed by the regulations made under subsection (2) and may by such Order add other types of employment to or remove any type of employment from the

types of employment specified in those regulations in respect of any such disease or injury.”.

6. Sections 58 and 59 of the Act are repealed and replaced as follows—

“Appeals tribunals

Sections 58 and 59 of the Act repealed and replaced

58. (1) The President shall appoint persons to serve on appeals tribunals as follows—

- (a) a person who in the opinion of the President is independent of the Government, Business and Labour, as Chairman;
- (b) three persons nominated by the Government;
- (c) three persons nominated by the associations most representative of Business;
- (d) three persons nominated by the associations most representative of Labour;
- (e) the Chief Medical Officer.

(2) Persons appointed to serve on appeals tribunals, shall so serve for the period specified in their instrument of appointment but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(3) Where a person appointed to serve on appeals tribunals—

- (a) absents himself from three consecutive meetings of any such tribunal, except on leave granted by the President;
- (b) behaves in such a manner as is likely to bring appeals tribunals into disrepute;
- (c) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his creditors or makes an assignment of his remuneration for their benefit;
- (d) is on the representation of the associations most representative of Business and Labour, as the case may be, no longer a representative of Business or Labour, as the case may be, the President shall revoke his appointment.

(4) The provisions of subsections (2) and (3) shall not apply to the Chief Medical Officer.

(5) Persons nominated for appointment to serve on appeals tribunals shall be selected equally from—

- (a) North Trinidad, that is to say, the counties of St. George, St. David, St. Andrew and Caroni;
- (b) South Trinidad, that is to say, the counties of Nariva, St. Patrick, Victoria and Mayaro; and
- (c) the Island of Tobago.

(6) Each appeals tribunal shall consist of the Chairman and three persons selected by him, one each from among persons nominated by the Government, Business and Labour respectively.

(7) Where an appeal involves questions of a medical nature the appeals tribunal shall consist of the persons referred to in subsection (6) and the Chief Medical Officer.

(8) The Chief Medical Officer shall advise the appeals tribunal on medical matters generally and in particular shall recommend to the tribunal which matters should be referred for the opinion of a panel of medical referees.

(9) Appeals tribunals shall, for the purposes of this Act, be assisted by a registrar and such other staff as may be allocated by the Minister from among the officers of his Ministry.

President
to
determine
remuneration
of
appeals
tribunals

59. Members of appeals tribunals shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as the President may determine from moneys provided by Parliament.”.

7. Section 60 of the Act is amended by repealing and replacing subsection (2) as follows—

Section 60
of the Act
amended

“(2) The President shall make regulations relating to appeals generally and may by such regulations prescribe the procedures in accordance with which appeals shall be heard and determined.”.

Passed in the House of Representatives this 6th day of May, 1977.

J. E. CARTER
Clerk of the House

Passed in the Senate this 17th day of May, 1977.

R. L. GRIFFITH
Clerk of the Senate