

**Fourth Session Fifth Parliament Republic of Trinidad
and Tobago**



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Act No. 29 of 1999

[L.S.]

**AN ACT to amend the Constitution of Trinidad and
Tobago**

[Assented to 25th November, 1999]

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

1 This Act may be cited as the Short title
(Amendment) Act, 1999.

Act alters the
Constitution

2. This Act shall be construed as altering the Constitution.

Section 66A inserted

3. The Constitution is amended by inserting after section 66, the following section:

*Appointment
of certain
Select or
Joint Select
Committees

66A. (1) Subject to subsection (2), it is hereby declared that—

(a) in addition to any other Joint Select Committee which Parliament is empowered to appoint under its Standing Orders, Parliament shall, within one calendar month—

(i) after the commencement of the Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1999;

(ii) of the first meeting of the House of Representatives after any General Election,

or such time as the Parliament may resolve not being later than three months thereafter, appoint Joint Select Committees, to inquire into and report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of—

(A) Government Ministries;

(B) Municipal Corporations;

(C) Statutory Authorities;

(D) Enterprises owned or controlled by or on behalf of the State or which received funding from the State of more than two thirds of its total income in any one year; and

(E) Service Commissions,

in relation to their administration, the manner of the exercise of their powers, their methods of functioning and any criteria adopted by them in the exercise of their powers and functions;

(b) for the purpose of this section, an enterprise shall be taken to be controlled by the State if the Government or any body controlled by the Government—

(i) exercises or is entitled to exercise control directly or indirectly over the affairs of the enterprise;

(ii) is entitled to appoint a majority of the directors of the Board of Directors of the enterprise; or

(iii) holds at least fifty per cent of the ordinary share capital of the enterprise,

as the case may be;

(c) a Committee appointed for the purposes set out in paragraph (a) may—

(i) appoint sub-committees from among its members and delegate any of its powers to such sub-committee;

(ii) adjourn from place to place;

(iii) appoint specialist advisers to assist them in their deliberations;

- (d) subject to any order of the House or resolution of a Committee, the sitting of a Committee shall be held in public;
- (e) a Committee appointed for the purposes set out in paragraph (a) shall make a report of its opinion and observations which shall be laid in both Houses of Parliament.

(2) A Joint Select Committee in exercising its powers under subsection (1) shall not enquire into the validity of the exercise of the functions of a body referred to in subsection (1)(a) nor modify, alter, rescind or in any way interfere with the decisions of any such body.

(3) Subject to this section, the Standing Orders, of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall apply to a Committee appointed under this section.

(4) Subject to the Standing Orders, of Parliament, a Committee may regulate its own procedure.”.

“Reports of
Service
Commissions

66B. Each Service Commission shall submit to the President, before 1st October in each year, a report on its administration, the manner of the exercise of its powers, its methods of functioning and any criteria adopted by it in the exercise of its powers and functions in the previous year and the President shall cause the report to be laid within sixty days thereafter in each House.”.

“Applicability
of the
Judicial and
Legal Service
Commission

66C. (1) Sections 66A and 66B shall not apply to the Judicial and Legal Service Commission.

(2) The Judicial and Legal Service Commission shall submit to the President

before 1st October, in each year, commencing in the year 2000, a report on the exercise of its functions and powers in the previous year, describing the procedures followed and any criteria adopted by it in connection therewith, and the President shall cause the report to be laid within sixty days thereafter in each House.”.

“Report of
Government
Ministries,
etc.

66D. A Body listed at (A) to (D) in 66A(1)(a) shall submit to the President before 1st July, in each year a report on the exercise of its functions and powers in the previous year, describing the procedures followed and any criteria adopted by it in connection therewith and the President shall cause the report to be laid within sixty days thereafter in each House.”.

4. This Act shall come into force when Standing Orders are made to give effect to section 66A. Commencement

Passed in the House of Representatives this 28th day of April, 1999.

J. SAMPSON-JACENT

Clerk of the House

Passed in the Senate this 4th day of September, 1999.

N. COX

Clerk of the Senate

Senate amendments agreed to by the House of Representatives this 6th day of September, 1999.

J. SAMPSON-JACENT

Clerk of the House