
4th Session Second Parliament Trinidad and Tobago
18 Elizabeth II



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Act No. 36 of 1969

[L.S.]

AN ACT respecting the Revised Statutes of Trinidad and
Tobago.

[Assented to 6th December, 1969]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, Enactment
by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and
House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, and
by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Revised Statutes Act, Short title
1969.

Interpretation

2. In this Act—

“Commission” means a Commission appointed under section 3;

“Minister” means the member of the Cabinet to whom responsibility for Legal Affairs is assigned;

“prescribed date” means the date referred to in section 4;

“Revised Statutes” means the statutes revised, classified and consolidated under the authority of this Act and more particularly designated in section 9.

Statutes Revision
Commission

3. (1) For the purposes of this Act the Governor-General may appoint a Statutes Revision Commission comprising one or more persons.

(2) The person or persons appointed to the Commission may be either the Law Commission established under the Law Commission Act, 1969, a single member of that Commission or any other person or persons selected from among those appearing to be suitably qualified by the holding of, or by having held judicial office or by experience as Barristers, Solicitors or Teachers of Law in a University.

(3) A person who holds judicial office may be appointed to the Commission without relinquishing that office but shall not be required to perform his duties as the holder of that office while he remains so appointed.

(4) In this section, “judicial office” means the office of Judge of the High Court of Justice or of the Court of Appeal.

Function of
Commission

Ch. 1. No. 1

4. The Commission shall examine the Trinidad and Tobago Revised Ordinances, 1950, and any supplement thereto prepared under the authority of the Law Revision Ordinance, and the public general statutes of Trinidad and Tobago enacted since the coming into force of the Trinidad and Tobago Revised Ordinances, 1950, and any such supplement thereto, and shall revise, classify and consolidate, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, all such statutes as they stand on such date as the Minister may by Order prescribe.

5. Upon the completion of the said revision, classification and consolidation, the Commission shall report to the Minister who shall cause a printed Roll thereof attested under his signature and that of the Clerk of the House of Representatives to be deposited in the office of such clerk; and such Roll shall be held to be the original of the said statutes so revised, classified and consolidated.

Statute Roll

6. The Commission may append to the statute roll—

Appendices,
Schedules, &c.

- (a) an appendix of such Imperial statutes and statutory instruments as relate to the constitution of Trinidad and Tobago;
- (b) a schedule of statutes and parts of statutes (including statutes of the United Kingdom which by virtue of any Act of Parliament have the force of law in Trinidad and Tobago) that, though not expressly repealed, are superseded by the statute roll, or are inconsistent therewith, and all statutes and parts of statutes which were for a temporary purpose, the force of which is spent;
- (c) a schedule of statutes and parts of statutes omitted from but not repealed or superseded by the statute roll, which statutes and parts are to remain in force, subject to the statute roll;
- (d) a comprehensive index of the subject matters contained in the statute roll;
- (e) such other appendices, schedules and indices as may be considered expedient.

7. In revising and consolidating the public general statutes, the Commission may, subject to this Act—

Powers of
Commission

- (a) omit a statute or part of a statute that is not of general application or that before the prescribed date had expired, had been repealed or superseded, or had had its effect;
- (b) omit an enactment repealing or amending a statute but give effect to the repeal or amendment so effected, in so far as the repealing or amending enactment remained effective at the prescribed date;
- (c) consolidate two or more statutes *in pari materia* into one statute, divide a statute into two or more statutes, and transfer provisions from one statute to another;

- (d) alter the numbering, sequence and form of statutes and of the different sections and other provisions thereof;
- (e) alter the language of statutes where necessary or desirable to obtain a uniform mode of expression or to express better the spirit and meaning of the law, or to shorten and simplify the phraseology of any enactment, but not so as to change the sense of any enactment;
- (f) correct grammatical, clerical and typographical and similar errors and omissions in the statutes;
- (g) omit any preambles to statutes where such omission can in the opinion of the Commission be conveniently made and all introductory words of enactment in any statute or part of a statute;
- (h) add short titles to any statute requiring it and alter the short or long title of any statute if it is desirable to do so;
- (i) make such adaptations of or modification in statutes as may be deemed desirable by reason of constitutional changes in Trinidad and Tobago or in any country of the Commonwealth, or by reason of changes in the circumstances of Trinidad and Tobago, or in the Government or public service thereof.

Mode of
dealing with
alterations of
substance

8. (1) The power conferred upon the Commission in section 7 shall not be taken to imply any power in it to make any alteration or amendment in the matter or substance of any Statute or part of a Statute, so however that the Commission may draft Bills for securing such alterations and amendments, as in its opinion are desirable.

(2) In any case where a Statute, whether consolidated or not, requires such considerable alterations and amendments as to involve its entire recasting, the Commission shall draft a Bill for consolidating and revising such statute.

(3) Every Bill drafted pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) shall be submitted to the Minister who shall, upon the authority of the Cabinet, cause such Bill to be submitted to the Parliament to be dealt with in the ordinary way.

9. The Governor-General may, after the deposit of the statute roll with the Clerk of the House of Representatives pursuant to section 5 by Proclamation declare the day on, from and after which the statute roll or such parts thereof as may be considered fit shall come into force and have effect as law, by the designation of "The Revised Statutes of Trinidad and Tobago, 19...".

Proclamation
bringing
statute roll
into force

10. (1) On, from and after the day so proclaimed the statute roll or the parts thereof designated by the proclamation, shall come into force as and by the designation of "The Revised Statutes of Trinidad and Tobago, 19...", to all intents as if the Revised Statutes were expressly embodied in and enacted by this Act and as if it were enacted by this Act that the said Revised Statutes have effect on and from the day so proclaimed.

Effect of
proclamation

(2) On, from and after the day so proclaimed the Trinidad and Tobago Revised Ordinances, 1950, and the various public general statutes and any supplement thereto prepared under the authority of the Law Revision Ordinance, Ch. 1. No. 1, and the public general statutes enacted since the coming into force of that Ordinance, and any supplement thereto are repealed to the extent that they are incorporated in the said Revised Statutes or are repugnant thereto.

(3) On, from and after the day so proclaimed, the statutes and parts of statutes mentioned in the schedule to the statute roll of statutes and parts of statutes omitted from and repealed by the said Revised Statutes are repealed to the extent shown in that schedule.

11. The repeal of the said statutes and parts of statutes does not revive any statute or provision of law repealed by them; nor does that repeal prevent the effect of any saving clause in the said statutes or parts of statutes, nor the application of any of the said statutes or parts of statutes or of any statute or provision of law formerly in force, to any transaction, matter or thing anterior to the said repeal, to which they would otherwise apply.

Effect of
repeal

12. (1) The repeal of the said statutes and parts of statutes does not defeat, disturb, invalidate nor affect—

Validity of
previous matters

(a) any penalty, forfeiture or liability civil or criminal, incurred before the time of such

- repeal, or any proceedings for enforcing the same, had, done, completed or pending at the time of such repeal;
- (b) any indictment, information, conviction, sentence or prosecution had, done, completed or pending at the time of such repeal;
 - (c) any action, suit, judgment, decree, certificate, execution, process, order, rule, or any proceeding, matter or thing whatsoever respecting the same, had, done, made, entered, granted, completed, pending, existing or in force at the time of such repeal;
 - (d) any act, deed, right, title, interest, grant, assurance, descent, will, registry, bye-law, rule, order in council, proclamation, regulation, contract, lien, charge, status, capacity, immunity, matter or thing, had, done, made, required, established or existing, at the time of such repeal;
 - (e) any office, appointment, commission, salary, allowance, security or duty, or any matter or thing appertaining thereto, at the time of such repeal; or
 - (f) any other matter or thing whatsoever, had, done, completed, existing or pending at the time of such repeal.

(2) Every matter or thing referred to in paragraphs (a) to (f) of subsection (1) remains and continues as if no repeal had taken place and, so far as necessary, may or shall, as circumstances require, be continued, prosecuted, enforced and proceeded with under the said Revised Statutes, and the other statutes and laws having force in Trinidad and Tobago and subject to the provisions of the said several statutes and laws, as if no such repeal had taken place.

Revised Statutes
as laws

13. (1) The Revised Statutes shall not be held to operate as new laws, but shall be construed and have effect as a consolidation and as declaratory of the law as contained in the said statutes and parts of statutes so repealed, and for which the said Revised Statutes are substituted.

(2) If upon any point the provisions of the Revised Statutes are not in effect the same as those of the repealed statutes and parts of statutes for which they are substituted

then, as respects all transactions, matters and things subsequent to the time when the Revised Statutes take effect, the provisions contained in them prevail; but, as respects all transactions, matters or things anterior to the time when the Revised Statutes take effect, the provisions of the said repealed statutes and parts of statutes prevail.

14. Any reference in any former statute remaining in force or in any instrument or document to any statute or enactment so repealed, shall after the Revised Statutes take effect, be held, as regards any subsequent transaction, matter or thing, to be a reference to the enactments in the Revised Statutes, having the same effect as such repealed statute or enactment.

References to repealed statutes

15. The marginal notes in the Revised Statutes, any references in the Revised Statutes to former enactments at the foot of the sections, and any explanatory notes inserted by the Commission, shall be held to be inserted for convenience only and to form no part of the Revised Statutes.

Marginal notes, references, &c.

16. The incorporation or listing of a statute or part thereof in the Revised Statutes or in any of the appendices, schedules or indices referred to in section 5 is not a declaration that the statute or any part of it was or was not in force immediately before the coming into force of the Revised Statutes.

Effect of inclusion of a statute

17. Subject to this Act, the Interpretation Act incorporated with the Revised Statutes shall apply for the interpretation and construction of the Revised Statutes and of this Act, and this Act shall be printed as an appendix to the Revised Statutes.

Construction of Revised Statutes

18. Copies of the Revised Statutes printed by or on behalf of the Government Printer from the statute roll deposited with the Clerk of the House of Representatives are conclusive proof of the Revised Statutes.

Copies of Revised Statutes

19. Any statute included in the Revised Statutes may be cited and referred to in any Act or proceedings whatsoever, either by its title as an Act, or by its short title, or by using the expression "The Revised Statute respecting . . ." adding the remainder of the title given at the beginning of the particular statute, or by using the expression "The Revised Statutes, . . ." or "The Revised Statutes of Trinidad

Citation of Revised Statutes

and Tobago, 19 ” and adding, in either case, the Chapter or Number or the Chapter and Number of the particular statute as given in the copies printed by the Government Printer.

Expenses of
Revision

20. The expenses of and incidental to the preparation and publication of the Revised Statutes shall be a charge on the Consolidated Fund.

Passed in the Senate this 4th day of November, 1969.

J. E. CARTER
Clerk of the Senate

Passed in the House of Representatives this 14th day of November, 1969.

G. R. LATOUR
Clerk of the House