

CHAPTER 364

THE RATIFICATION OF TREATIES ACT

Arrangement of Sections

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RATIFICATION OF TREATIES

An Act to provide for the ratification of certain treaties.

(6th February, 1989.)

1/1987.

1. This Act may be cited as the Ratification of Treaties Act. **Short title.**

2. In this Act, "treaty" means an international agreement concluded between States in written form and governed by international law, whether embodied in a single instrument or in two or more related instruments and whatever its particular designation; and any reference to the ratification of a treaty includes a reference to accession to such treaty and to any other act or manner in which such treaty may be brought into force. **Interpretation.**

Ratification of
certain treaties
by House of
Representatives.

3. (1) Where a treaty to which Antigua and Barbuda becomes party after the coming into force of this Act is one which affects or concerns—

⁴ (a) the status of Antigua and Barbuda under international law or the maintenance or support of such status, or

(b) the security of Antigua and Barbuda, its sovereignty, independence, unity or territorial integrity, or

(c) the relationship of Antigua and Barbuda with any international organisation, agency, association or similar body,

such treaty shall not enter into force with respect to Antigua and Barbuda unless it has been ratified or its ratification has been authorised or approved in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) A treaty to which subsection (1) applies shall be ratified or shall have its ratification authorised or approved as follows—

(a) where such treaty concerns a matter referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1) or contains any provisions which is to become, or to be enforceable as part of the law of Antigua and Barbuda, by Act of Parliament;

(b) where such treaty concerns a matter referred in paragraph (c), by Resolution of the House of Representatives.

(3) No provision of a treaty shall become, or be enforceable as, part of the law of Antigua and Barbuda except by or under an Act of Parliament.

(4) The instrument of ratification shall be issued under the signature of the Minister responsible for external affairs.

(5) Any act of a foreign State relating to any of the matters mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1) shall be laid on the table of the House as soon as practicable by the Minister responsible for external affairs together with

a motion giving an opportunity to the House to express itself on such act.

4. Where Antigua and Barbuda ceases or does any act whereby it will cease to be a party to a treaty affecting or concerning any of the matters mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection (1) of section 3 the Minister responsible for external affairs shall inform the House of the fact, giving the reasons therefor, at the earliest opportunity and in no case later than the second sitting of the House after the expiration of one month from the date of the denunciation or other act whereby Antigua and Barbuda ceases or will cease to be a party to such a treaty.

House to be informed of denunciation of certain treaties.

5. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as in any way affecting the powers of the Government with respect to treaties to which subsection (1) of section 3 does not apply.

Other treaties.
