

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**



**CONSTITUTION OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025**

**NO. OF 2025**



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**CLAUSE**

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**AN ACT** to amend the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, as contained in Schedule 1 to the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution Order 1981, Cap 23 provides that

**WHEREAS** Section 47(1) of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda (“the Constitution”) provides that Parliament may alter any of the provisions of this Constitution or of the Supreme Court order in the manner specified in this section.

**AND WHEREAS** Section 47(2) of the Constitution provides that a bill to alter this Constitution or the Supreme Court Order shall not be regarded as being passed by the House unless on its final reading in the House the Bill is supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all members of the House;

**AND WHEREAS this is a Bill to amend the Constitution**

**ENACTED** by the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda as follows:

**1. Short title and commencement**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda (Amendment) Act 2025.
- (2) This Act shall come into effect on a day to be appointed by the Minister by Order published in the Gazette.

**2. Amendment of section 127 of the Constitution**

Section 127 of the Constitution is amended by –

(a) repealing the definitions of “oath of allegiance” and replacing it as follows -  
“oath of allegiance” means the oath of allegiance as prescribed by law;

(b) repealing the definition of “oath of office” and replacing it as follows –

“oath of office” means, in relation to any office, the oath for the due execution of that office as prescribed by law;



## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This is a Bill to amend the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda.

The Bill aims to change the nature of the Oath to be taken by various officers throughout the Government service and the Members of Government itself – the Governor General, the Members of Parliament and persons within the Civil Service. No longer will the Oath of Allegiance be made to His Majesty, His Heirs and successors.

It is necessary that this amendment be done to give effect to a new Oaths Act that will capture the wording of the Oaths to be taken by virtue of certain offices or posts.

The Bill contains three clauses as follows –

### ***Clause 1 – Short title and commencement***

The Act is shortly entitled the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda (Amendment) Act 2025.

The Act will come into effect by Order.

### ***Clause 2 Amendment of section 127***

Section 127 is the primary interpretation section of the Constitution. It prescribes the definition of ‘oath of allegiance’, ‘oath of office’ and ‘oath of secrecy’.

In order to give effect to a new oath, the definition prescribed in the Constitution has to be amended.

### ***Clause 3 – Repeal of Schedule 3***

Schedule 3 to the Constitution prescribes the wording of the various oaths. By repealing the section, it allows for the wording to be captured in the new Oaths Act.

.....  
**Hon. Sir Steadroy C. O. Benjamin, KGCN**  
Attorney General, and  
Minister of Legal Affairs,  
Public Safety, Immigration and Labour