

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



NATIONAL HONOURS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018

NO. OF 2018

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National Honours (Amendment) Bill, 2018

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Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Insertion of new section 15A – Benefits and Entitlement

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
NATIONAL HEROES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018
NO. OF 2018

AN ACT to amend the National Honours Act, 1998 No. 23 of 1998 and to make adequate financial provision for the proper maintenance of the status of the recipient of the order of National Hero

ENACTED by the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda as follows:

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as National Honours (Amendment) Act, 2018.

2. Interpretation

In this Act, a reference to the “principal Act” means the National Honours Act 1998 No. 23 of 1998

3. Insertion of a new section 15A – Benefits and Entitlements

The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 15 a new section 15A to be worded as follows:

“15A. Benefits and Entitlements

(1) A person who is appointed to the Most Exalted Order a National Hero is entitled to receive during his or her lifetime the benefits and entitlements provided in this section

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- (a) an annual sinecure of ninety-six thousand Eastern Caribbean dollars (EC\$96,000.00).payable in equal monthly instalments in arrears;
- (b) an exemption from the payment of taxes, levies and contributions payable under any law in force in Antigua and Barbuda;
- (c) exemption from the payment of customs duties payable on goods imported only for his or her personal use at his or her personal residence up to a

maximum of twelve thousand dollars Eastern Caribbean Currency (EC\$12,000.00) per year;

(d) exemption from the payment of property tax on his or her residential property where he or she normally resides;

(2) The sinecure and other benefits provided for a National Hero under this Act are not subject to the payments of taxes, contributions and levies prescribed by any law enforce in Antigua and Barbuda.

(3) In addition to the benefits provided in subsection (1), a National Hero is also entitled to be provided with the following-

(a) a suitable vehicle befitting the status of a National Hero once every seven years;

(b) one household assistant of his or her choice; and

(c) a driver as and when needed

(4) The sinecure and benefits provided for a National Hero under this section shall be paid for from funds appropriated by Parliament.

(5) On all national and official occasions to which a person appointed to the Order of National Hero is invited, his or her rank shall be next in line after the Ministers of State.”

Passed by the House of Representatives
on the day of 2018.

Passed by the Senate on the
day of 2018.

Speaker

President

Clerk to the House of Representative

Clerk to the Senate

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the National Honours Act, 1998, No.23 of 1998 to make provision for a person on whom the Order of National Hero is conferred to maintain a life style befitting the status of a National Hero. In this regard, the Bill provides that a person on whom the Order of National Hero is conferred shall, during his or her life, receive a sinecure and other benefits paid for from funds appropriated for that purpose by Parliament.

The Bill amends the National Honours Act, 1998 to provide for the payment of a sinecure of a sum amounting to ninety-six thousand Eastern Caribbean dollars (EC\$96,000.00).per year during the life of the recipient of the Order. Additionally, the Government is proposing a waiver of certain taxes, levies and contributions prescribed by law in relation to the sinecure paid to a recipient of the Order. The taxes and levies referred to in the Bill, include education levy, social security, medical benefit, customs duties and property tax. The property tax is limited only to the house where the recipient of the Order normally resides as his or her home.

The Bill also proposes that on all national and official occasions to which a National Hero is invited, he or she shall be placed, in rank of the protocol, next in line to Ministers of State.

**Hon. Gaston Browne
Prime Minister**