

2025-10-06

OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill would provide for nationals of certain Member States of the Caribbean Community to enter Barbados, stay indefinitely and work without a work permit and for related matters.

Arrangement of Sections

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Indefinite stay
4. Special provisions on discharge of seamen not to apply to freely-moving Community nationals
5. Right to work without permit
6. Use of domestic driving permit
7. Amendment of Schedule
8. Regulations
9. Amendment of Cap. 12
10. Amendment of Act 2021-3
11. Commencement

SCHEDULE

LIST OF MEMBER STATES

BARBADOS

A Bill entitled

An Act to provide for nationals of certain Member States of the Caribbean Community to enter Barbados, stay indefinitely and work without a work permit and for related matters.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Barbados as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Caribbean Community (Free Movement of Nationals) Act, 2025*.

Interpretation

2.(1) In this Act,

“Community” means the Caribbean Community established by Article 2 of the Treaty and includes the CARICOM Single Market and Economy established by the provisions of the Treaty;

“dependant” means

- (a) the spouse of a Community national unless, where the spouse is married, the parties to the marriage are living apart under a deed of separation or a decree or order of a court;
- (b) a child or step-child of the Community national under the age of 18 years;
- (c) a child adopted by the Community national in a manner recognised by law and who is under the age of 18 years; or
- (d) any other relative who is, by reason of age or any infirmity of body or mind, wholly dependent on the Community national for subsistence;

“domestic driving permit”, in relation to a Member State listed in the *Schedule*, means a document issued under the law of that Member State authorising the holder to drive motor vehicles, or a specified class or description of motor vehicles, in that Member State;

“freely-moving Community national” means

- (a) a national of a Member State of the Community listed in the *Schedule*; and
- (b) a dependant of a national of such a Member State;

“immigration officer” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the *Immigration Act*, Cap. 190;

“motor vehicle” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2(1) of the *Road Traffic Act*, Cap. 295.

“national” means a person referred to in Article 32(5) of the Treaty;

“spouse” includes

- (a) a single woman who has lived and cohabited with a single man as if she were in law his wife for a period of not less than 5 years immediately preceding the relevant date;
- (b) a single man who has lived and cohabited with a single woman as if he were in law her husband for a period of not less than 5 years immediately preceding the relevant date,

but a reference to a single woman or a single man includes a reference to a widow or widower or to a woman or man who is divorced;

“Treaty” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the *Caribbean Community Act*, Cap. 15;

“work permit” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the *Immigration Act*, Cap. 190.

(2) In subsection (1), “relevant date” means, in relation to an unmarried spouse who

- (a) entered Barbados upon or after the commencement of this Act, the date on which the spouse first entered Barbados; or
- (b) was in Barbados before the commencement of this Act, the date on which the spouse applies to an immigration officer in such form as may be required to be treated as a freely-moving Community national.

Indefinite stay

3.(1) Notwithstanding section 13 of the *Immigration Act*, Cap. 190 but subject to section 8 of that Act,

- (a) an immigration officer shall permit a freely-moving Community national to enter and remain in Barbados indefinitely; and
- (b) a freely-moving Community national who entered Barbados prior to the commencement of this Act may remain in Barbados indefinitely.

(2) A freely-moving Community national shall, for the purposes of this Act and any other enactment be treated as remaining in Barbados indefinitely where the national

- (a) indicates his intention to remain in Barbados indefinitely; or
- (b) remains in Barbados of his own volition for more than 6 months.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, sections 3 and 4 of the *Caribbean Community (Movement of Skilled Nationals) Act*, Cap. 186A do not apply to a freely-moving Community national.

Special provisions on discharge of seamen not to apply to freely-moving Community nationals

4. Section 14(2) of the *Immigration Act*, Cap. 190 does not apply to a freely-moving Community national.

Right to work without permit

5. Notwithstanding section 17 of the *Immigration Act*, Cap. 190,

- (a) a freely-moving Community national may engage in any occupation or accept employment in Barbados without a work permit; and
- (b) a person may engage or employ a freely-moving Community national in Barbados without the existence of a work permit in force in respect of the national.

Use of domestic driving permit

6. Notwithstanding anything contained in the *Road Traffic Act*, Cap. 295 or any statutory instrument made under that Act, a freely-moving Community national who holds a valid domestic driving permit is permitted to drive in Barbados during the period of 12 months from the date of his last entry in Barbados, or until the expiration of the permit, whichever is shorter, a motor vehicle of any class or description which he is authorised by the permit to drive.

Amendment of Schedule

7. The Minister may by Order amend the *Schedule*.

Regulations

8. The Minister may make Regulations for giving effect to this Act.

Amendment of Cap. 12

9. The *Representation of the People Act*, Cap. 12 is amended in
- (a) section 2(1), by inserting the following definition in alphabetical order:

“ “freely-moving Community national” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the *Caribbean Community (Free Movement of Nationals) Act, 2025* (Act 2025-);”; and
 - (b) in section 7(1), by deleting paragraph (b) and substituting the following:

“(b) is a Commonwealth citizen (other than a citizen of Barbados) or a freely-moving Community national who has resided in Barbados for a period of at least three years immediately before the qualifying date; and”.

Amendment of Act 2021-3

10. The *Barbados Identity Management Act, 2021* (Act 2021-3) is amended in

(a) section 2, by inserting the following definition in alphabetical order:

“ “freely-moving Community national” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the *Caribbean Community (Free Movement of Nationals) Act, 2025* (Act 2025-);”; and

(b) in section 5(1), by inserting after paragraph (j), the following:

“(ja)is a freely-moving Community national who is remaining in Barbados indefinitely;”.

Commencement

11. This Act shall be deemed to have come into operation on the 1st day of October, 2025.

SCHEDULE

(Section 2)

LIST OF MEMBER STATES

- 1.** Belize
- 2.** Dominica
- 3.** St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Read three times and passed the House of Assembly this
day of , 2025.

Speaker

Read three times and passed the Senate this day of
, 2025.

President