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No. 4 of 2024

Fourth Session Twelfth Parliament Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL

AN ACT to provide for the designation of the Steelpan as
the National Musical Instrument of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago and for related matters

THE NATIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT BILL, 2024

Explanatory Note

(These notes form no part of the Bill but are intended only to indicate its general purport)

This Bill seeks to designate the Steelpan as the national musical instrument of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and for related matters.

Clause 1 would provide the short title of the Bill.

Clause 2 of the Bill would provide for the interpretation of the term “Steelpan” as used in the Bill.

Clause 3 of the Bill seeks to declare the Steelpan as the national musical instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

Clause 4 of the Bill seeks to provide for the Minister to whom responsibility for culture is assigned, to prepare and lay in Parliament, a biennial report on the recognition, status, promotion, development and impact of the Steelpan at national, regional and international levels.

THE NATIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENT BILL, 2024

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Steelpan declared as the National Musical Instrument of
Trinidad and Tobago
4. Report of the Minister

BILL

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Trinidad and Tobago and for related matters

[, 2024]

WHEREAS the Government of the Republic of Trinidad Preamble
and Tobago is committed to developing, safeguarding
and promoting culture and the arts and sustainably
strengthening the cultural sector:

And whereas the Steelpan was originally created and pioneered in Trinidad and Tobago by its very own innovative and enterprising citizens, making the Steelpan a significant source of national pride and the underpinning of the Nation’s musical soul and rich cultural identity:

And whereas it has long been the policy of the Government that the Steelpan be considered the national musical instrument of Trinidad and Tobago:

And whereas the Government, in striving towards achieving the status as a modern state, sees it prudent to include this policy into law:

And whereas the Steelpan’s origination in Trinidad and Tobago is internationally recognized and is further globally acclaimed through a host of events, schools and festivities:

And whereas the Steelpan has continuously been highlighted on the world stage through various accolades, achievements and awards:

And whereas it is expedient that the Steelpan be officially and legally declared as the national musical instrument in recognition of its fundamental value to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and its citizenry.

Enactment ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as follows:

Short title **1.** This Act may be cited as the National Musical Instrument Act, 2024.

Interpretation **2.** In this Act, “Steelpan” means a definite pitch percussion musical instrument in the idiophone class with notes on a concave playing surface, with or without a skirt, divided into convex sections by channels which may contain grooves or bores, or both, with each convex section being a note which is tuned to a definite pitch.

3. The Steelpan is hereby declared the national musical instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

Declaration of the Steelpan as the national musical instrument

4. The Minister to whom responsibility for culture is assigned shall cause to be prepared and laid in Parliament, every two years from the date of commencement of this Act, a report on the recognition, status, promotion, development and impact of the Steelpan at national, regional and international levels.

Report of the Minister

Passed in the House of Representatives this
day of , 2024.

Clerk of the House

I confirm the above.

Speaker

Passed in the Senate this day of ,
2024.

Clerk of the Senate

I confirm the above.

President of the Senate

No. 4 of 2024

FOURTH SESSION
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BILL

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Instrument of the Republic of
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matters

Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time
