ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE (DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID) (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

An Act to amend the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, Chap. 5:34

Information Brief No. 6 of 2025-2026 1st Session, 13th Parliament

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The **Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) (Amendment) Bill 2026**, in the name of the Attorney General, proposes to amend the **Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Act) Act, Chap. 5:34**[1] (hereinafter "the Act"), by expanding the framework for the use and testing of Deoxyribonucleic Acid ("DNA") information within the criminal justice system.

KEY FEATURES OF THE BILL

Amendments to the Act

Clause 3 amends section 4 of the Act introducing two new definitions:

- "***foreign terrorist fighter***" refers to a person who knowingly travels and plans, commits, supports or facilitates the commission of a terrorist act, as defined in Section 15A of the Anti-Terrorism Act.[2]
- "***returnee***" means a person entering Trinidad and Tobago from a declared geographical area where terrorist acts have occurred or are occurring and who was detained in a facility, camp or place of detention in that declared geographical area.

Clause 4 of the Bill amends section 16 of the Act to expand the scope of persons from whom a non-intimate sample[3] may be taken without their consent and upon their arrival in Trinidad and Tobago. Non-intimate samples, pursuant to **Clause 4**, will also be taken from persons deemed to be returnees or foreign terrorist fighters, and not just deported citizens as currently obtains.

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[1] Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, Chap 5:34

[2] Anti-Terrorism Act, Chap 12:07

[3] As per section 4 of the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, Chap 5:34, a non-intimate sample may refer to blood obtained by a pin prick, epithelial cells obtained by a buccal swab, plucked hair or saliva.

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