

THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

An Act to amend the Freedom of Information Act, Chap. 22:02.

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2nd Session, 13th Parliament



PURPOSE OF THE BILL



The **Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, (the “Bill”) in the name of the Attorney General proposes to update and streamline the publication requirements established by Part II of the Freedom of Information Act Chap. 22:02 (the “Act”). The object of the Act is to make available to the public information about the operations of public authorities and to create a general right of access to information in documentary form in the possession of public authorities.

KEY FEATURES OF THE BILL



Clause 2(1)(a) of the Bill amends Section 7 of the Act, which outlines the framework regarding the publication of information concerning public authorities both in the Gazette and in a daily newspaper circulating in Trinidad and Tobago. The proposed amendment retains the requirement for publication in the Gazette, while expanding the second method of publication by allowing the information to be published either on a publicly accessible website or in a daily newspaper circulating in Trinidad and Tobago.



Clause 2 (1)(b) wields an identical effect on Section 8(2) of the Act. Section 8(2) speaks to the publication of various documents for the use or guidance of public authorities. The proposed amendment would require the documents to be published in the Gazette and either in a daily newspaper circulating in Trinidad and Tobago or on a publicly accessible website.



Clause 2(1)(c) of the Bill employs the same expanded publication requirement by requiring public authorities to publish statements and reports in the Gazette and either in a daily newspaper circulating in Trinidad and Tobago or on a publicly accessible website.



Clause 2(2) of the Bill seeks to amend Regulation 3(1)(b) in the Freedom of Information (Publication of Arrangements) Regulations made under Section 41 mandating public authorities to publish a Notice detailing the arrangements identifying the scope of authority exercised by the decision-maker in respect of a decision to be made concerning an application under the Act. The

proposed amendment expands the publication requirement by requiring the Notice to be published in the Gazette and either in a daily newspaper circulating in Trinidad and Tobago or on a publicly accessible website.

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