

OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill would amend the *Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Act, Cap. 43*.

Arrangement of Sections

Section

1. Short title.
2. Amendment of section 2 of Cap. 43.
3. Amendment of section 4 of Cap. 43.
4. Replacement of sections 6 and 7 of Cap. 43.
5. Insertion of new section 7A in Cap. 43.
6. Amendment of First Schedule to Cap. 43.

BARBADOS

A Bill entitled

An Act to amend the *Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Act*.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Barbados as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the *Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council (Amendment) Act, 2010*. Short title.

Amendment
of section 2
of Cap. 43.

2. The *Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council Act*, in this Act referred to as the principal Act, is amended in section 2 by inserting the following definitions in the appropriate alphabetical order:

"awarding body" means the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council;

"Caribbean Community" means the community established by the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy that was signed in The Bahamas on 5th July 2001;

"Caribbean Vocational Qualification Award" means the award granted by the Council with the authorisation of the CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development on the attainment of the Caribbean Vocational Qualification;

"National Vocational Qualification Award" means the award issued by the Council upon the successful demonstration of competence in accordance with national occupational standards."

Amendment
of section 4
of Cap. 43.

3. The principal Act is amended

- (a) by re-numbering section 4 as subsection (1) of section 4;
- (b) by inserting in paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 4, immediately after the word "level", the following words:

"and to approve courses and programmes to be conducted by training institutions and other entities that provide technical and vocational education and training"; and

- (c) by inserting immediately following subsection (1) of section 4 the following new subsection:

- "(2) The Council shall have the authority to
- (a) approve institutions and entities engaged in the conduct of vocational education and training;
 - (b) approve any institution or body as one that is competent to offer awards approved by the Council;
 - (c) maintain a system of assessment of the institutions and entities to ensure compliance with prescribed standards;
 - (d) co-ordinate and supervise the conduct of examinations or other forms of assessment of students and trainees engaged in vocational education and training;
 - (e) issue reports or other forms of verification in respect of the completion of any prescribed stage of vocational education and training;
 - (f) grant an award, to be called the National Vocational Qualification Award on the successful demonstration of competence in accordance with approved occupational standards;
 - (g) grant an award, called the Caribbean Vocational Qualification Award on the attainment of the Caribbean Vocational Qualification that is based on regional standards approved by the Caribbean Community;

- (h) grant a certificate of proficiency to any person who passes a test with respect to any specified task or occupation, notwithstanding that that person is not a trainee;
- (i) charge such fees, as are prescribed, in respect of services provided by the Council."

Replacement
of sections 6
and 7 of
Cap. 43.

4. The principal Act is amended by deleting sections 6 and 7 and substituting the following:

"Establishment of the Standards Approval Committee. Second Schedule.

6. (1) The Council shall establish a committee to be called the Standards Approval Committee.

(2) The *Second Schedule* applies to the constitution of the Standards Approval Committee and otherwise in relation thereto.

(3) The Standards Approval Committee shall have the responsibility for establishing the programme for the development of occupational standards in accordance with agreed priorities and strategies, as determined by the Council.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the Standards Approval Committee shall discharge the following functions:

- (a) the approval of proposals for developing, implementing, reviewing and revising occupational standards;
- (b) the provision of advice on the identification of national priorities respecting the development of new or revised occupational standards;

- (c) the provision of advice or assistance, to bodies setting standards, relating to the development of the structural framework of such bodies;
- (d) the approval of project proposals, from bodies that set standards, where the proposals are consistent with the programme for the development of standards and the strategies and priorities of the Council;
- (e) the approval of draft standards, that are submitted by bodies that set standards, as national occupational standards;
- (f) the approval of national vocational qualifications;
- (g) the monitoring and evaluation of the suitability, clarity and validity of national occupational standards;
- (h) the conduct of consultations, with the awarding body, on the appropriateness of assessment methodologies and measures to ensure control of the quality and standards of assessments;
- (i) the promotion of the use of occupational standards; and
- (j) the making of recommendations to the Council with respect to matters of policy relating to standards.

Establishment and functions of the Quality Assurance Committee. Second Schedule.

7. (1) The Council shall establish a committee to be called the Quality Assurance Committee.

(2) The *Second Schedule* applies to the constitution of the Quality Assurance Committee and otherwise in relation thereto.

(3) The Quality Assurance Committee shall discharge the following functions:

- (a) the elaboration of criteria respecting the making of awards;
- (b) the approval of entities or institutions desirous of offering qualifications awarded by the Council;
- (c) the design and application, where appropriate, of national examinations and tests;
- (d) the oversight and operation of a system of external verification of approved centres to ensure overall consistency and quality;
- (e) the provision of procedures which allow for candidates with special needs to be assessed;
- (f) the specification of the design of certificates and the establishment and administration of the certification process;
- (g) the establishment and monitoring of an effective appeals procedure; and
- (h) the establishment of a system to allow for the methodical examination and assessment of all quality-assurance procedures."

5. The principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 7 the following new section:

Insertion of
new section
7A in
Cap. 43.

"Establish-
ment of
other
committees.

7A. (1) The Council may appoint such committees, in addition to those referred to in sections 6 and 7, as it considers necessary,

- (a) to undertake research or to assist persons in undertaking research into matters relating to technical and vocational education and training;
- (b) to advise the Council on all aspects of technical and vocational education and training;
- (c) to advise the Council on the training facilities to be provided at institutions for persons employed or seeking training in technical and vocational education and training;
- (d) to advise the Council on the selection criteria to be used in respect of persons wishing to obtain technical and vocational education and training;
- (e) to recommend the tests and other methods of ascertaining the standards of efficiency to be attained by the persons engaged in technical and vocational education and training;
- (f) to recommend the terms that ought to apply to persons who are to engage in technical and vocational education and training; and
- (g) to perform such other functions as are delegated, in writing, by the Council.

Second
Schedule. (2) The *Second Schedule* applies to the constitution of the committees appointed pursuant to subsection (1) and otherwise in relation thereto."

Amendment
of First
Schedule to
Cap. 43.

6. The First Schedule to the principal Act is amended

(a) by inserting in sub-paragraph (1)(c) of paragraph 1, immediately after the word "Council" the words ", *ex officio*"; and

(b) by deleting sub-paragraph (1)(e) of paragraph 1 and inserting the following:

"(e) the following members appointed by the Minister:

(i) 3 persons appointed on recommendations of the associations which represent employers;

(ii) 3 persons appointed on recommendation of each of the Boards of the Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic and the Barbados Community College respectively;

(iii) 2 persons appointed on recommendations of the trade unions; and

(iv) 2 persons appointed by the Minister upon the exclusive exercise of the Minister's discretion.";

(c) by deleting sub-paragraph (2) and inserting the following sub-paragraph:

"(2) The Minister shall appoint two of the members referred to in paragraph (1)(e) as the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, respectively."