



**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

**BILL FOR**

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**ACT NO. OF 2016**

**I ASSENT**

[ ]

Governor-General

**AN ACT** to make provisions to regulate the attendance of members of the House of Assembly at sittings of the House, to provide for adjustments to emoluments payable by law to members of the House, and for related purposes.

[ ]

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Assembly of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and by the authority of the same, as follows:

**PART I**

**PRELIMINARY**

**Short title**

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Parliament Act 2016.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on a date to be appointed by the Governor-General by Proclamation published in the *Gazette*.

## **Interpretation**

2. In this Act-

“attendance” means attendance and participation in the debate, or in voting, or for a substantial part of the proceedings of a sitting of the House;

“member” means a senator or an elected member of the House of Assembly;

“House” means the House of Assembly provided for under the Constitution;

“sitting” means a period during which the House is sitting continuously without adjournment and includes any period during which the House is in committee;

“Speaker” means the Speaker of the House and includes the Deputy Speaker and any member elected by the House to preside at a sitting of the House;

## **Payment of emoluments**

3. The emoluments payable by law to a member shall be subject to the provisions of this Act.

## **Attendance**

4. (1) Subject to subsection (2), it is the duty of every member to attend a sitting of the House unless-

- (a) otherwise engaged in Parliamentary activities or functions; or
- (b) otherwise occupied on public or official business.

(2) Every member, who is prevented from attending a sitting of the House shall notify the Clerk of the House of Assembly as early as possible of his or her inability to attend.

(3) Unless the leave of the Speaker is first obtained, a member shall not be absent for more than one consecutive sittings of the House.

## **Register**

### **Cap. 252**

5. (1) Pursuant to the Finance Administration Act the Clerk of the House shall keep a central file on each member, in which shall be recorded clearly and accurately up to date particulars relating to the emoluments, allowances and reimbursements payable by law to each member.

(2) The Clerk of the House shall maintain a Register of attendance of members of the House in which shall be recorded the attendance of members at each sitting of the House.

### **Adjustments to emoluments**

6. A member of the House who is absent for more than one consecutive sittings from the House without leave shall have his or her emoluments adjusted in the manner prescribed in the Schedule.

### **Amendment to Schedule**

7. (1) The Minister may by Order amend the Schedule.

(2) An Order made pursuant to subsection (1) shall be subject to negative resolution of the House of Assembly.

## **SCHEDULE**

**(section 6)**

### **Reason**

For absence from more than one consecutive sittings of the House without the leave of the Speaker

### **Adjustment**

A deduction of fifty per centum of the monthly emoluments payable to the member

Passed in the House of Assembly this        day of        2016.

Clerk of the House of Assembly

**OBJECTS AND REASONS**

This Bill seeks to make provisions to regulate the attendance of members of the House of Assembly at sittings of the House, to provide for adjustments to emoluments payable by law to members of the House, and for related purposes.

Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves  
Prime Minister, Minister of Finance,  
National Security, Legal Affairs,  
Grenadines Affairs and the Public Service