

2023-05-18

OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill would amend the *Supreme Court of Judicature Act*, Cap. 117A to make provision for

- (a) the Chief Justice to issue practice directions relating to criminal matters and sentencing guidelines to judges in the trial of criminal cases; and
- (b) a public officer to be assigned to the Judicial Appointments Committee as Secretary.

Arrangement of Sections

1. Short title
2. Insertion of section 89A into Cap. 117A
3. Amendment of the *Fourth Schedule* to Cap. 117A

BARBADOS

A Bill entitled

An Act to amend the *Supreme Court of Judicature Act*, Cap. 117A.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Barbados as follows:

Short title

- 1.** This Act may be cited as the *Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act, 2023*.

Insertion of section 89A into Cap. 117A

2. *The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Cap. 117A, in this Act referred to as the principal Act, is amended by inserting immediately after section 89 the following new section:*

“Practice Directions

89A.(1) The Chief Justice may

- (a) make practice directions in respect of criminal matters; and
- (b) by practice direction issue sentencing guidelines for the guidance of judges in the trial of criminal cases and judges shall comply with those guidelines.

(2) A practice direction referred to in subsection (1) shall be published in the *Official Gazette*. ”.

Amendment of the *Fourth Schedule* to Cap. 117A

3. *Paragraph 6 of the Fourth Schedule to the principal Act is deleted and the following is substituted:*

“Secretary

6. A public officer shall, with the approval of the Prime Minister, be assigned to the Judicial Appointments Committee as Secretary. ”.

Read three times and passed the House of Assembly this
day of _____, 2023.

Speaker

Read three times and passed the Senate this _____ day of
, 2023.

President