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**CHAPTER 27****BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT****ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

## SECTION

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**CHAPTER 27**

BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**An Act to make provision for the establishment of a Bahamas Information Services Department as a department within Article 127(c) of the Constitution; to define its functions; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.**

*16 of 1974  
S.I. 98/1974  
5 of 1980*

*[Assent 15th October, 1974]  
[Commencement 31st December, 1974]*

1. This Act may be cited as the Bahamas Information Services Department Act. Short title.
  
2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires — Interpretation.
  - “Department” means the Bahamas Information Services Department established by section 3;
  - “functions” includes powers and duties;
  - “Government” means the Government of the Bahamas;
  - “Minister” means the Minister responsible for Government Information and Public Relations.
  
3. (1) There shall be established a Department of Government to be called the Bahamas Information Services Department. Establishment of Department.
  - (2) The Department shall be subject to the general direction and the control of the Minister.
  
4. The functions of the Department shall be those set out in the Schedule. Functions of Department.  
Schedule.
  
5. The offices in the Department shall not be public offices for the purposes of the Constitution. Offices in Department not public offices.

Appointment of  
Director and  
other staff of  
Department.

- 6.** (1) The Minister shall appoint —
- (a) an officer to be known as the Director of Information Services who, subject to subsection (2) of section 3 of this Act, shall supervise the Department and shall perform such functions as are assigned to him by the Minister;
  - (b) such other officers and servants as the Minister may consider necessary to assist the Director in the performance of his functions.

*5 of 1980, s. 2.*

(2) Save as provided in section 7, the remuneration and conditions of service of the officers and servants of the Department shall be fixed by the Minister, subject to the concurrence of the Minister of Finance.

Pensions, etc.  
*5 of 1980, s. 3.*

**7.** (1) Except as provided in any contract of employment with the Department, the Minister may grant to any employee of the Department in respect of his service in the Department a pension, gratuity or other like benefit at the rate prescribed by, and in accordance with, the provisions of the Pensions Act as if reference in that Act to the Governor-General, the public service and a public officer were references to the Minister, service in the Department and such employee, respectively.

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(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), reference to the service of an employee of the Department includes any continuous period of service of that employee in the Department of Tourism immediately prior to his service in the Department.

(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 8, the pensions, gratuities or other like benefits which are payable by the Department under subsection (1) shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

Expenses.

**8.** The expenses incurred by the Minister in the administration of this Act shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.

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**SCHEDULE (Section 4)****FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT**

The functions of the Department shall be —

- (a) to explain the policy and activities of the Government to the public;
- (b) to provide a central channel through which may flow information to and enquiries from the public, press and other media of communication;
- (c) generally to advise the Government in relation to the dissemination of information about the work of the Government and to take all such measures as may be required to carry out effectively the functions specified in the preceding paragraphs of this Schedule.