



THE PARLIAMENT OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BILL ESSENTIALS

Date Introduced: January 13, 2025

House: House of Representatives

Minister: Minister of Tourism, Culture
and the Arts

HOR Bill No. 1 of 2025

Links: The links to the Bill, and its
progress can be found on the Bill's
home page through the Parliament's
Website:

<https://www.ttparliament.org/publication/the-national-emblems-of-trinidad-and-tobago-regulation-amendment-bill-2025/>

BILL ESSENTIALS

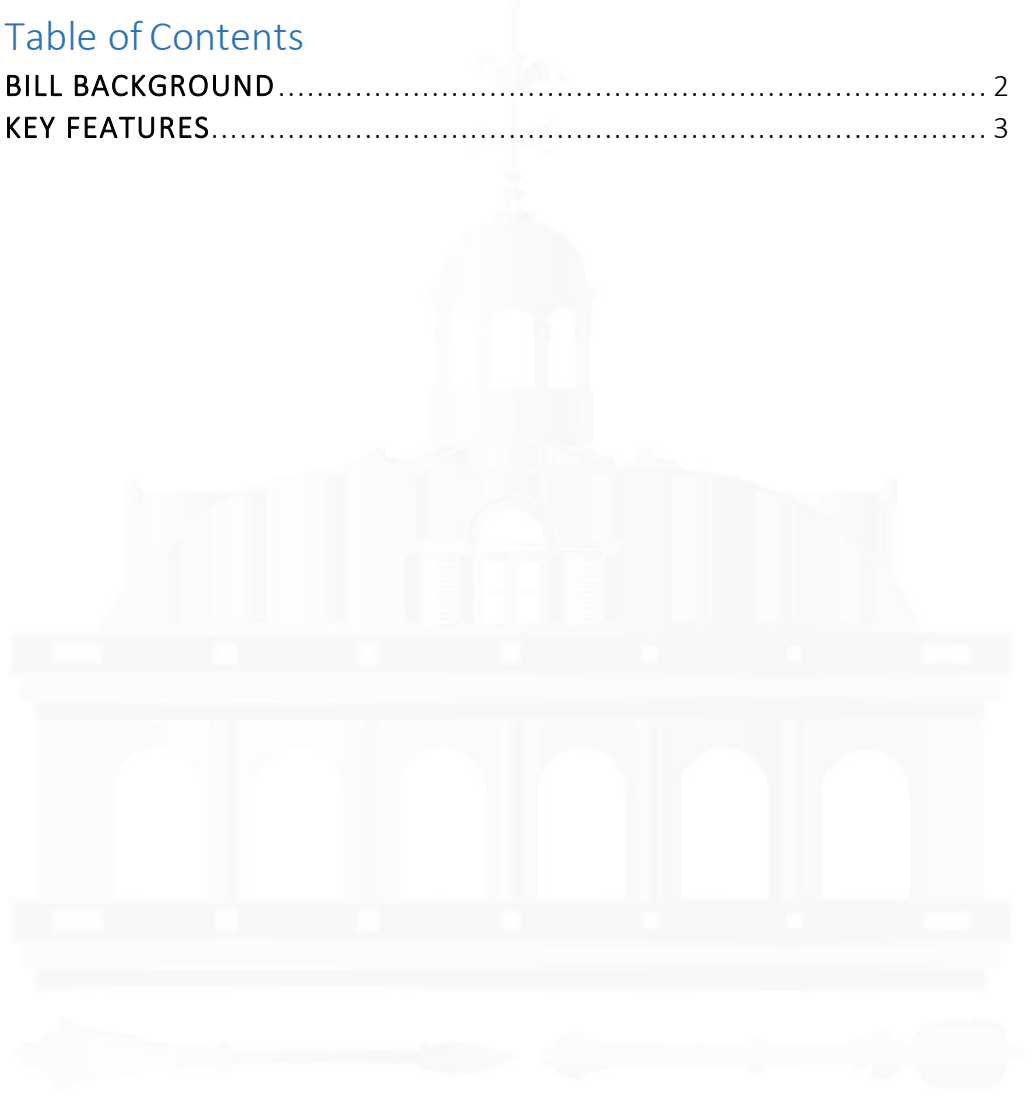
BILL ESSENTIALS NO. 1 of 2025

5th SESSION, 12TH PARLIAMENT

The National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2025

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BILL BACKGROUND

1. The National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2025, (the “Bill”) was introduced in the House of Representatives on Monday January 13, 2025, by the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts. The Bill seeks to amend the National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago Act Chapter 19:04 (the “Act”) to alter the Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. On August 18, 2024, the Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago announced the Government’s intention to replace the three ships on the country’s Coat of Arms, the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria, with an image of the Steelpan.¹
3. The Steelpan is the only new instrument to have been invented in the 20th century and is the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago, to where it is indigenous.² The Steelpan first appeared in the public sphere during the Carnival of 1940 and has since undergone several evolutions resulting in various versions of the instrument with different tonal ranges.³
4. One of the suggested directive principles of State policy arising out of the Report of the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform has been the protection of the Steelpan as an integral part of our national identity (the “Report”). The Report recommended that the State should support its development through educational and cultural initiatives and promote its presence in both national and international arenas.⁴
5. The most recent amendment to the National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago (Regulation)(Amendment) Act No. 10 of 2019, was passed on June 7, 2019.⁵ That amendment sought to replace the description of the national flower from "The

¹ ‘Rowley: Steelpan to replace Columbus’ ships on Coat of Arms’ (Trinidad Express) 18 August 2024.

https://trinidadexpress.com/news/rowley-steelpan-to-replace-columbus-ships-on-coat-of-arms/article_bb1896c0-5db3-11ef-a463-7f2a3e78b077.html

² ‘Historical Development of the Steel Band’ (National Library and Information System Authority).

<https://www.nalis.gov.tt/resources/tt-content-guide/steelband/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Report of the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform (July 2024) p. 118.

⁵ The National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago (Regulation)(Amendment) Act, Act No. 10 of 2019.

<https://www.ttparliament.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/a2019-10g.pdf>

Chaconia" to "The Double Chaconia," including its biological name and crediting David Auyong, who identified its uniqueness.⁶

KEY FEATURES

6. **Clause 4 of the Bill** amends the description of the Coat of Arms by replacing the image of "three ships" with a more culturally significant image of a "gold Steelpan and its iconic two pan sticks." This change is captured by the proposed amendment to the Schedule.
7. **Clause 5 of the Bill** ensures that any licence granted under section 5 of the Act before the new amendments take effect will remain valid after the amendments. Once passed, the former Coat of Arms may be used until January 1, 2026, or a later date set by the Minister by Order.

KEY LEGISLATION



The National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago Act Chapter 19:04 (Act No. 14 of 1967)

<https://agla.gov.tt/downloads/laws/19.04.pdf>



The National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago (Regulation) (Amendment) Act (Act No. 10 of 2019)

<https://www.ttparliament.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/a2019-10g.pdf>



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⁶ Sen. Deb 7 May 2019 p. 15-18.