

BELIZE

HOLIDAYS ACT
CHAPTER 289

REVISED EDITION 2020

SHOWING THE SUBSTANTIVE LAWS AS AT
31ST DECEMBER, 2020

This is a revised edition of the Substantive Laws, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Act, Chapter 3 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020.



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CHAPTER 289

HOLIDAYS

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CHAPTER 289

HOLIDAYS

Ch. 100,
R.L., 1958.
CAP. 227,
R.E. 1980-1990.
4 of 1961.
40 of 1963.
24 of 1976.
10 of 1982.
27 of 1985.
22 of 1987.
20 of 1989.
12 of 1990.
10 of 1997.
S. I. 47 of 2000.

[4th December, 1923]

PART I

Preliminary

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Holidays Act.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires–

Schedule II.

"bank holiday" means the days mentioned in Schedule II;

"day next following a public holiday" means the next following day not being itself a public holiday;

"day following a bank holiday" means the next following day not being itself a public or bank holiday;

Schedule I.

"public holiday" means the days mentioned in Schedule I.

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PART II

Public and Bank Holidays and Public Office Hours

Certain days to be public holidays. Schedule I. 27 of 1985. 20 of 1989. Schedule I. Schedule II.

3.-(1) The several days mentioned in Schedule I shall be kept, except as hereinafter provided, as public holidays in Belize and shall, in addition to Saturdays and Sundays, be *dies non*.

(2) If any of the holidays specified in Schedule I or Schedule II falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be observed as a public and bank holiday in substitution for Sunday unless otherwise ordered by the Minister by Order published in the *Gazette*.

10 of 1997.

(3) If any of the holidays specified in sub-section (4) falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, it shall be observed on the previous Monday in substitution for such day, and if any of the aforesaid holidays falls on a Friday, it shall be observed on the following Monday in substitution for such day, unless otherwise ordered by the Minister by Order published in the *Gazette*.

10 of 1997.

(4) The holidays to which sub-section (3) applies are the following–

(a) the ninth of March - (Baron Bliss Day);

(b) the twenty-fourth day of May - (Sovereign's Day);

(c) the twelfth day of October - (Columbus Day or Day of the Americas)

Acts., etc., lawfully done on following day.

4. Any act requiring to be done by or before any judge or officer of any court or by or before any public officer upon any day which is a public holiday may be lawfully done upon the day not being a public holiday next following such first-mentioned public holiday.

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Bank holidays. 20 of 1989.

5. Subject to section 3, the several days in Schedule II shall be kept as close holidays in all banks in Belize.

Bills due on bank or public holidays to be payable on the following day.

6. All bills of exchange and promissory notes which are due and payable on any bank or public holiday shall be payable and in case of non-payment may be noted and protested on the next following day, and every such noting or protest shall be as valid as if made on the day on which the bill or note was made due and payable.

Provisions as to notice of dishonor and presentation for honour.

7. When the day on which any notice of dishonour of an unpaid bill of exchange or promissory note should be given or when the day on which a bill of exchange or promissory note should be presented or received for acceptance or accepted or forwarded to any referee or referees is a bank or public holiday, such notice of dishonour shall be given and such bill of exchange or promissory note shall be presented or forwarded on the day next following such bank or public holiday.

Payment on bank or public holidays.

8.-(1) No person shall be compelled to make any payment or to do any act upon such bank or public holiday which he would not be compellable to do or make on Sunday, and the obligation to make such payment and do such act shall apply to the day following such bank or public holiday.

(2) The making of such payment and doing such act on such following day shall be equivalent to payment of the money or performance of the act on the holiday.

Minister may appoint special days to be observed as bank and public holidays. Schedule I.

9. It shall be lawful for the Minister by Order published in the *Gazette* at any time to appoint either throughout Belize or in any part thereof or in any town or district therein a special day or any part of a day to be observed as a public and bank holiday in addition to or in substitution for any of the days mentioned in Schedule I and thereupon the provisions of this Act shall be applicable to such day or part of such day in the same manner as if the said day or part of such day had been mentioned in the said Schedule.

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10. An absconding debtor shall not be exempt from arrest by warrant on either a public holiday or a bank holiday.

Arrest of debtor not affected.

11.-(1) The public offices, including the summary jurisdiction courts, shall be open daily throughout the year except on Saturdays, Sundays, public or bank holidays during such hours as the Minister may from time to time direct,

Public office hours Regulations. 27 of 1985.

provided that the Minister may from time to time make regulations excluding in whole or in part from the operation of this Act any public office or any department thereof and thereupon all acts and things relating to such public office or department thereof may be done and performed on any public holiday notwithstanding the provisions of this Act.

(2) Where by any Act or subsidiary legislation made under such Act, and which is not amended in any particular provision by this Act, any public office is required to be kept open on all days other than a Sunday or public holiday, the reference to a Sunday or public holiday shall include a Saturday, and any act or thing may be done on any day from Monday to Friday which is not a public holiday unless that act or thing is required to be done on a Saturday by any special directive of the Minister, by the Public Service Regulations or by an order of a superior officer in charge of the office.

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SCHEDULE I

Public Holidays

[Sections 2, 3, and 9]

24 of 1976.
19 of 1982.
27 of 1985.

1. The first day of January.

2. The ninth day of March (Baron Bliss Day).

3. Good Friday.

4. The day after Good Friday.

5. Easter Monday.

6. The first day of May (Labour Day).

7. The twenty-fourth day of May (Sovereign's Day)

8. The tenth day of September.

9. The twenty-first day of September (Independence Day).

10. The twelfth day of October (Columbus day or Day of the Americas).

11. The nineteenth day of November (Garifuna Settlement Day).

12. Christmas Day.

13. The twenty-sixth day of December.

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SCHEDULE II

Bank Holidays

[Sections 2 and 5]

1. The first day of January.

2. The ninth day of March (Baron Bliss Day).

3. Good Friday.

4. The day after Good Friday.

5. Easter Monday.

6. The first day of May (Labour Day).

7. The twenty-fourth day of May (Sovereign's Day).

8. The tenth day of September.

9. The twenty-first day of September (Independence Day).

10. The twelfth day of October (Columbus Day or Day of the Americas).

11. The nineteenth day of November (Garifuna Settlement Day).

12. Christmas Day.

13. The twenty-sixth day of December.

24 of 1976.
10 of 1982.
27 of 1985.

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