



MONTSERRAT

CHAPTER 17.19

TREASURY BILLS ACT

Revised Edition

showing the law as at 1 January 2013

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Revised Edition of the Laws Act.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws—

TREASURY BILLS ACT

Act 11 of 2008 .. in force 25 November 2008

Amended by Act 9 of 2011 .. in force 27 September 2011 (S.R.O. 40/2011)

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TREASURY BILLS ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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CHAPTER 17.19

TREASURY BILLS ACT

(Acts 11 of 2008 and 9 of 2011)

AN ACT TO UPDATE THE TREASURY BILLS ACT.

Commencement

[25 November 2008]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Treasury Bills Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise provides —

“**bidder**” refers to a person, group, broker, organization, firm or company that purchases Treasury Bills;

“**Central Bank**” means the Eastern Caribbean Central bank;

“**conditions**” means in respect of any Treasury Bill, the terms and conditions of that Treasury Bill, which terms and conditions may be contained in the offering announcement that relates to that Treasury Bill or in any other document;

“**holder**” includes the person for the time being entered in the register as the holder of a Treasury Bill and the personal representatives of such holder;

“**investor**” refers to a person, group, broker dealer, organization, firm or company that purchases Treasury Bills;

“**Member Territory**” has the same meaning assigned to it as in the Agreement establishing the Eastern Caribbean Securities Regulatory Commission made on 24 November, 2000.

“**Minister**” means the Minister responsible for Finance;

“**Participating Government**” means a government which is party to the Agreement establishing the Eastern Caribbean Securities Regulatory Commission made on 24 November 2000;

“**register**” includes a register maintained in an electronic form in a computer-based system;

“**Securities Act**” means the Securities Act;

“**Securities exchange**” means the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange Limited or such other Securities Exchange approved by the Government

to carry on the functions of Securities Exchange under the provisions of this Act;

“Securities Registry” means the Eastern Caribbean Central Securities Registry Limited Licensed under Part 2 of the Securities Act or such other securities registry approved by the Minister to carry on the functions of a securities registry under this Act;

“Treasury Bill” means Treasury Bill issued under section 3.

Authority to borrow money by the issue of Treasury Bills

3. (1) The Minister is hereby authorised to borrow money by the issue of Treasury Bills.

(2) For the purpose of borrowing money under this Act, the Minister may, subject to such directions as he considers appropriate, authorise the Financial Secretary, in writing to issue Treasury Bills.

(3) The Minister shall determine the amount of Treasury Bills authorised to be issued by him under this Act.

(4) The principal sums represented by any Treasury Bills outstanding at any one time under the provisions of this section shall not exceed 30% of the estimated revenue of the Government during the financial year then current.

(5) The raising of money under this Act shall be subject to the provisions of sections 30 and 32 of the Public Finance (Management and Accountability) Act.

Loans to be charged upon the consolidated fund

4. The principal sums and interest on all such issues of Treasury Bills are hereby charged upon and shall be payable out of the Consolidated Fund.

Proceeds

5. All moneys raised by the issues of Treasury Bills shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Expenses

6. The expenses properly incurred in connection with the issue of Treasury Bills shall be charged against the Consolidated Fund.

Amount and currency of Bills

7. Every Treasury Bill issued in accordance with section 3 shall be expressed to be in respect of a sum of \$500 or a multiple thereof and shall be payable at par at a date not more than twelve months from the date thereof.

Maintenance of registers

8. (1) The Accountant General shall maintain a register in which shall be entered the issue of every Treasury Bill.

(2) The issue of every Treasury Bill may also be recorded in a computer based system in such form as may be prescribed by Regulation.

(3) The Securities Registry shall maintain a register containing particulars of every issue of the Treasury Bill.

Evidence of Authority to issue treasury bills

9. The issue of Treasury Bills by the Financial Secretary in the form prescribed by Regulations made under section 12 shall be sufficient evidence to any holder thereof that the authority of the Minister has been given for the issue of such Treasury Bill.

Ownership of Treasury Bills

10. The ownership of Treasury Bills registered in the register maintained by the Accountant General under section 8 may, subject to Regulations made under this Act, be evidenced and transferred without a written instrument.

Confidentiality of Information

11. (1) No person who has acquired knowledge in his capacity as secretary, officer, employee or agent of the Government shall disclose to any person or governmental authority the identity, assets, liabilities, transactions or other information in respect of a holder except—

- (a)* with the written authorisation of the holder or of his heirs or legal personal representatives; or
- (b)* for the purpose of the performance of his duties within the scope of his employment in conformity with the provision of this Act or rules governing the operations of the Securities Exchange, the Securities Registry; or
- (c)* when lawfully required to make disclosure by any court of competent jurisdiction within or outside Montserrat; or
- (d)* under the provisions of any laws of Montserrat or of a member territory; or under an agreement among the participating Governments.

(2) Every person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$15,000 or to imprisonment for a term of two years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Regulations

12. (1) The Governor acting on the advice of Cabinet may make such Regulations as are necessary for the administration of this Act. (*Amended by Act 9 of 2011*)

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Minister may make Regulations prescribing or providing for—

- (a) the preparation, form, mode of issue, mode of payment and cancellation of the issue of Treasury Bills;
 - (b) the procedures for making an offer of the issue of Treasury Bills;
 - (c) the procedures for recording and transferring title to Treasury Bills;
 - (d) such safeguards as appear to the Minister appropriate for the protection of investors;
 - (e) for the transmission of title to Treasury Bills by operation of laws;
 - (f) such supplementary, incidental and transitional provisions as appear to the Minister to be necessary or expedient.
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