

BELIZE:

NATIONAL SYMBOLS BILL, 2025

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BILL

For

AN ACT to prescribe the National Symbols of Belize; to regulate the use of the National Symbols of Belize; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted, 2025)

BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same, as follows:

PART I

Preliminary

1. This Act may be cited as the

Short title.

NATIONAL SYMBOLS ACT, 2025.

2. In this Act—

“licence” means a licence granted by the Minister under section 12;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for culture;

“National Animal” means the National Animal specified in Part IV of Schedule V;

“National Anthem” means the National Anthem referred to in section 4;

“National Coat of Arms” means the Coat of Arms of Belize described in Schedule IV;

“National Bird” means the National Bird specified in Part III of Schedule V;

“National Flag” means the National Flag referred to in section 3;

“National Flower” means the National Flower specified in Part II of Schedule V;

“National Prayer” means the National Prayer referred to in section 5.

“National Symbols” means a national symbol of Belize declared under Part II; and

“National Tree” means the National Tree specified in Part II of Schedule V.

PART II

National Symbols

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| National Flag.
Schedule I | <p>3.—(1) The design and description of the National Flag of Belize are set out in Schedule I.</p> <p>(2) The National Flag of Belize is declared to be a national symbol of Belize.</p> |
| National Anthem.
Schedule II. | <p>4.—(1) The lyrics of the National Anthem of Belize is set out in Schedule II.</p> <p>(2) The National Anthem of Belize is declared to be a national symbol of Belize.</p> |
| National Prayer.
Schedule III. | <p>5.—(1) The words of the National Prayer of Belize is set out in Schedule III.</p> <p>(2) The National Prayer of Belize is declared to be a national symbol of Belize.</p> |
| National Coat of Arms.
Schedule IV. | <p>6.—(1) The design and description of the National Coat of Arms of Belize are set out in Schedule IV.</p> <p>(2) The National Coat of Arms of Belize is declared to be a national symbol of Belize.</p> |
| National Flower.
Schedule V. | <p>7.—(1) The National Flower of Belize is specified in Part I of Schedule V.</p> <p>(2) The National Flower is declared to be a national symbol of Belize.</p> |
| National Tree.
Schedule V. | <p>8.—(1) The National Tree of Belize is specified in Part II of Schedule V.</p> <p>(2) The National Tree is declared to be a national symbol of Belize.</p> |
| National Bird.
Schedule V. | <p>9.—(1) The National Bird of Belize is specified in Part III of Schedule V.</p> <p>(2) The National Bird is declared to be a national symbol of Belize.</p> |

10.—(1) The National Animal of Belize is specified in Part IV of Schedule V.

National Animal.
Schedule V.

(2) The National Animal is declared to be a national symbol of Belize.

PART III

Regulation of Use.

11. Notwithstanding the provisions of any Act to the contrary, the copyright in the words and music of the National Anthem and in the design of the National Flag and the National Coat of Arms are vested in the Crown in perpetuity.

Copyright vested
in the Crown.

12.—(1) A person shall apply to the Minister for a licence if that person desires—

Licence.

(a) to import into Belize, manufacture for sale, offer for sale or sell any articles, goods or things that represent or on which is reproduced or represented the National Coat of Arms of the National Flag; or

(b) to use or display the National Flag or the National Coat of Arms in connection with a business, trade, profession or calling, or with the activities of a body of persons, whether corporate or unincorporate.

(2) An application for a licence shall be in writing and shall contain such information as the Minister may from time to time require.

(3) Where the Minister approves the grant of a licence to an applicant pursuant to this section, the Minister shall grant to the applicant a licence in the form set out in Schedule VI.

Schedule VI.

(4) A licence granted by the Minister may contain such terms and conditions as the Minister think fit.

(5) The Minister may cancel a licence granted under this section if satisfied that the holder of the licence—

(a) has breached a condition of the licence; or

(b) is not in compliance with any of the requirements under this Act.

(6) Notwithstanding sub-section (1), a licence shall not be required for the use or display of the National Flag or the National Coat of Arms by educational institutions, religious institutions or for the purpose of official ceremonies.

Restriction on use of flag and coat of arms.

13. Any person who—

(a) not being the holder of a valid licence granted under this Act—

(i) uses or displays in connection with the carrying on of any business, trade, profession or calling, or with the activity of any body of persons whether corporate or unincorporate; or

(ii) sells or offers for sale any article or thing which represents or on which is reproduced or represented,

the National Flag or the National Coat of Arms or any flag or arms so nearly resembling the National Flag or the National Coat of Arms as to be calculated to deceive; or

(b) being the holder of a valid licence granted under this Act, fails to comply with, or contravenes, any of the terms or conditions subject to which the licence is granted,

commits an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for one year, and in the case of a continuing offence, to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars for each day or part thereof during which the offence continues after the day on which a conviction under this section was obtained.

Mutilating or defacing the flag or coat of arms.

14. Any person who mutilates, cuts or tears or in any way defaces the Coat of Arms or the National Flag, whether by writing, printing or stamping thereon or otherwise without lawful authority or excuse, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for one year.

PART III

Miscellaneous

Regulations.

15. The Minister may make Regulations generally for the proper carrying out of the provisions of this Act, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing may make Regulations—

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- (a) providing for the proper use of the National Flag on all occasions;
 - (b) providing for the imposition of royalties payable for the use of representations of the National Coat of Arms or the National Flag on articles manufactured for sale or advertisement;
 - (c) providing for the growth of the National Flower in national parks and nurseries and for the distribution of information relating to the growth, cultivation and significance of the National Flower;
 - (d) providing for display of the National Flower at official banquets and functions given or held by the Government of Belize or by a local authority.

16. The Minister may, by Order published in the *Gazette*, amend the Schedules.

Amendment of Schedules.

17. Any person who immediately before the date of commencement of this Act—

Transitional.

- (a) used or displayed the National Coat of Arms or the National Flag in connection with the carrying on of any business, trade, profession or calling, or with the activity of any body of persons whether corporate or unincorporate; or
- (ii) sold or offered for sale any article or thing which represents or on which is reproduced or represented the National Flag or the National Coat of Arms,

may continue to use and display the National Coat of Arms or the National Flag, or continue to sell or offer for sale any article of thing which represents the National Coat of Arms or the National Flag without a licence under this Act for a period of six months.

SCHEDULE I
[section 3]

NATIONAL FLAG

The following is the design and description of the National Flag of Belize—



The flag of Belize is made up of blue with a white circle and a red border, these two horizontal red borders are one-fifth of the total width of the flag, with the Coat of Arms centred on the white circle.

Motto: ‘Sub Umbra Floreo’

Royal Blue..... PMS 2738 C

Red..... PMS 485 C

The flag is designed in proportion 3:5.

SCHEDULE II
[section 4]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

National Anthem

O. Land of the Free by the Carib Sea, Our
manhood we pledge to thy liberty! No
tyrants here linger, despots must flee This
tranquil haven of democracy The blood of
our sires which hallows the sod, Brought
freedom from slavery oppression's rod, By
the might of truth and the grace of God,
No longer shall we be hewers of wood.

Arise! ye sons of the Baymen's clan, Put on
your armour, clear the land! Drive back the
tyrants, let despots flee - Land of the Free
by the Carib Sea!

Nature has blessed thee with wealth
untold, O'er mountains and valleys where
prairies roll; Our fathers, the Baymen,
valiant and bold Drove back the invader;
this heritage hold From proud Rio Hondo
to old Sarstoon, Through coral isle, over
blue lagoon; Keep watch with the angels,
the stars and moon; For freedom comes
tomorrow's noon.

SCHEDULE III
[section 5]

NATIONAL PRAYER

National Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your Glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let your light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives. With Your guidance, may all our endeavours tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and in peace which the world itself cannot give. And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You.

AMEN

Written by George Price

SCHEDULE IV
[section 6]

NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS

The following is the design and description of the Coat of Arms of Belize—



The shield of the Coat of Arms is divided into three sections by a vertical line and inverted V. The base section (an inverted V) represents a ship at sea under full sail. The upper two sections show tools of the timber industry, a paddle and a squaring axe in the left section, with a beating axe and a saw on the right. Supporting the shield are two Belizeans – a Mestizo- Belizean on the left holding a beating axe on his shoulder in his right hand, and on the right an Afro-Belizean holding a paddle on his shoulder in his left hand. Above the shield rises a mahogany tree on a grassy mount. Below the shield is a scroll with the motto written in Latin “SUB-UMBRA-FLOREO” (meaning UNDER THE SHADE I FLOURISH). A wreath of fifty leaves encircles the Coat of Arms. This wreath symbolises the year 1950 when Belizeans began the struggle for Independence.

SCHEDULE V
[section 6]

PART I
NATIONAL FLOWER

The National Flowers of Belize is the Black Orchid (*Encyclia Cochleatum*).

PART II
NATIONAL TREE

The National Tree of Belize Mahogany Tree (*Swietenia Macrophylla*)

PART III
NATIONAL BIRD

The National Bird of Belize is the Keel Billed Toucan (*Ramphastossul furatus*).

PART IV
NATIONAL ANIMAL

The National Animal of Belize is the Baird's Tapir.

SCHEDULE VI
[section 12]

NATIONAL SYMBOLS ACT
LICENCE

Name of Applicant

of _____
Address

is hereby granted a **LICENCE** to

(state the purpose for which the licence is granted)

Valid From: _____

Valid To: _____

Date Issued: _____

Minister