



BELIZE

**CENSUS ACT
CHAPTER 155**

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CHAPTER 155**CENSUS****ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

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CHAPTER 155

CENSUS

Ch. 221,
R.L., 1958.
CAP. 120,
R.E. 1980-1990.
40 of 1963.
S.I. 49 of 2010.

[13th March, 1954]

Short title.

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

2.-(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Minister responsible for Statistics may by Order published in the *Gazette*, from time to time direct that a census shall be taken for Belize, or for any part thereof, and any Order under this section may prescribe,

Power to direct a
census to be taken.
40 of 1963.

- (a) the date on which the census is to be taken; and
- (b) the persons by whom and with respect to whom returns for the purpose of the census are to be made; and
- (c) the persons by whom information for the purpose of census is to be furnished; and
- (d) the particulars to be stated in the returns:

Provided that,

- (i) an Order shall not be made under this section so as to require a census to be taken in any year, unless at the commencement of the year at least five years have elapsed since the commencement of the year in which a census was last taken; and

- (ii) no particulars shall be required to be stated other than particulars with respect to such matters as are mentioned in the Schedule.

(2) An Order made under this section may be revoked, amended or varied by a subsequent Order. 40 of 1963.

3.–(1) The Minister responsible for Statistics may by writing under his hand appoint a fit and proper person Census Officer, and such appointment shall be published in the *Gazette*. Appointment and payment of Census Officer and his duties.

(2) The Census Officer shall receive such remuneration for his services and the performance of his duties in connection with the taking of a census as the Minister responsible for Statistics shall direct. 40 of 1963.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Census Officer to make such arrangements and do all such things as are necessary for the taking of a census in accordance with the provisions of this Act and of any Order or regulations made under this Act, and for that purpose to make arrangements for the preparation and issue of the necessary forms and instructions and for the collection of the forms when filled up. 40 of 1963.

(4) The Census Officer in the exercise of his powers and in the performance of his duties under this Act or under any Order or regulations made under this Act shall be subject to the control of and shall comply with any directions given by the Minister responsible for Statistics.

(5) Any expenses incurred with the sanction of the Minister responsible for Statistics by the Census Officer in connection with the taking of a census or otherwise in connection with the exercise of his powers or the performance of his duties under this Act or under any Order or regulations made under this Act shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by the National Assembly.

4.–(1) The Census Officer may, with approval of the Minister responsible for Statistics, appoint a sufficient number of fit persons to act as supervisors and enumerators in connection with the taking of a census and all supervisors and enumerators in the performance of their duties Appointment and payment of supervisors and enumerators.

under this Act or under any Order or regulations made under this Act shall be under the control of, and shall comply with any directions given by, the Census Officer.

(2) A supervisor or enumerator shall be entitled to receive such remuneration for his services in the performance of his duties in connection with the taking of a census as may be approved by the Minister responsible for Statistics.

Power to enter house or other place.

5.—(1) It shall be lawful for any supervisor or enumerator so appointed when necessary for the purpose of taking a census, to enter into any house or other place within the district or sub-district to which he may be assigned on the day appointed for the taking of a census and from time to time within the four weeks immediately preceding and the three months immediately following that day, whenever it may be necessary for the purpose of obtaining, verifying or correcting any information relating to a census.

(2) Every person who obstructs or impedes a supervisor or enumerator in the exercise of his power of entry under subsection (1) of this section commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

Right of census official to inspect public records.

6.—(1) Every person who has the custody or charge of any public records from which any information relating to a census may be obtained shall grant access thereto to the Census Officer and to any supervisor, enumerator or other person authorised in writing by the Census Officer who desires to inspect the same for the purposes of a census and he shall permit him to make copies thereof or extracts therefrom.

(2) In this section, “public records” means any book, document or other writing of whatever kind belonging to the Government, the Belize City Council, Belmopan City Council, any town council established under the Town Councils Act, Cap. 87 or any Village or Community Council established under the Village Councils Act, Cap. 88.

7.-(1) The Census Officer shall, as soon as may be after the taking of a census, prepare or cause to be prepared from the census returns, a tabulated report in the form and with the particulars directed by the Minister responsible for Statistics.

Preparation of tabulated report.
40 of 1963.

(2) No particulars comprised within any return shall be set out in such a manner in any report, summary of statistics or other publication as to enable the person to whom they relate to be identified.

8.-(1) The Minister responsible for Statistics may make regulations with respect to any matter or thing which may be necessary for the purpose of enabling any Order directing a census to be taken to be carried into effect, and in particular he may make regulations,

Power of Minister responsible for Statistics to make regulations.
40 of 1963.

- (a) providing for the division of Belize into districts and sub-districts for the purpose of the census and the appointment of persons to act in those districts and sub-districts in connection with the census;
- (b) requiring all justices of the peace, priests, clergymen, and Minister responsible for Statistics of any religious denomination, registrars and deputy registrars of births and deaths, teachers employed in Government schools and in schools receiving a grant-in-aid within the meaning of the Education Act, Cap. 36, Commissioner of Police and senior officers of police of the rank of or above assistant inspector, revenue officers, public health inspectors, road foremen, agricultural officers, extension officers and inspectors and all other persons in receipt of wages or salary from public funds, if required by the Census Officer, to perform such duties in connection with the taking of the census as may be prescribed by the regulations;
- (c) requiring all such persons as may be employed for the purpose of a census to perform such duties in connection with the taking of the census as may be prescribed;

40 of 1963.

- (d) requiring the superintendent, keeper or other person in charge of every gaol, prison, lock-up or other place of confinement and the officer in charge of any hospital or other public or charitable institution to make returns with respect to the inmates thereof, and to conform to such instructions as may be given to him;
- (e) requiring information to be given to the persons liable to make returns by the persons with respect to whom the returns are to be made or by any other person possessing such information;
- (f) with respect to the forms to be used in the taking of a census;
- (g) for the allowances to be paid to persons employed in connection with the taking of a census; and
- (h) requiring persons by whom returns are to be made for the purpose of the census to make a written declaration with respect to the performance of their duties and prescribing the form of such declaration.

(2) Regulations made under this section shall be laid before the National Assembly as soon as may be after they are made.

9. It shall be the duty of the Registrar of Births and Deaths appointed under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, Cap. 157 from time to time to collect and publish any available statistical information with respect to the number and condition of the population in the interval between one census and another, and otherwise to further the supply and provide for the better co-ordination of such information, and the Registrar of Births and Deaths may make arrangements with any Government Department or local authority for the purpose of acquiring any materials or information necessary for the purpose aforesaid.

Collection and publication of statistics between one census and another.

10.-(1) Every person who,

Offences and penalties.

40 of 1963.

- (a) refuses or neglects to comply with, or acts in contravention of, any of the provisions of this Act or of any Order or regulations made under this Act; or
- (b) being a person required under this Act or any Order or regulations made under this Act to make, sign or deliver any documents, makes, signs or delivers or causes to be made, signed or delivered a false document; or
- (c) being a person required in pursuance of this Act or of any such Order or regulations to answer any question or to supply any information, refuses to answer any question or to supply any information, or knowingly gives a false answer to any question or supplies false information,

commits an offence and on summary conviction thereof shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

(2) Every person who,

- (a) being a person employed in taking a census, without lawful authority publishes or communicates to any person otherwise than in the ordinary course of such employment any information acquired by him in the course of his employment;
- (b) having possession of any information which to his knowledge has been disclosed in contravention of this Act, publishes or communicates that information to any other person; or
- (c) in the pretended performance of duties under this Act or an Order or regulations made under this Act

40 of 1963.

obtains, or seeks to obtain, information which he is not authorised to obtain,

commits an offence and on summary conviction thereof shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

Jurisdiction.

11. The Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act, Cap. 98 and Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act, Cap. 99, shall apply to all information, complaints and other proceedings in respect of offences against the provisions of this Act.

SCHEDULE

CENSUS ACT
Census Required Particulars
[Section 2]

1. Name, sex, age.
2. Occupation, profession, trade or employment.
3. Nationality, birthplace, race, language.
4. Place of abode and character of dwelling.
5. Condition as to marriage or civil condition, relation to head of family, issue born in marriage or out of wedlock.
6. Religious persuasion.
7. Literacy.
8. Infirmities.
9. Crops, acreage held and form of tenure, livestock and other agricultural matters.
10. Equipment and methods employed in fishing.
11. Any other matters with respect to which it is desirable to obtain statistical information with a view to ascertaining the social, civil and economic conditions of the population.