

BELIZE:

FREE ZONES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Short title.
2. Amendment of section 18.
3. Amendment of section 19.
4. Amendment of section 26.



No. 27 of 2019

I assent,

(SIR COLVILLE N. YOUNG)

Governor-General

23rd December, 2019.

AN ACT to amend the Free Zones Act, Chapter 278 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, to remove the requirement for a permit for certain services to operate within the free zone; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted 28th December, 2019).

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:—

1. This Act may be cited as the

Short title.

FREE ZONES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2019,

CAP. 278.

and shall be read and construed as one with the Free Zones Act, which is hereinafter referred to as the principal Act.

Amendment of
section 18.

2. Section 18 of the principal Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (3) by—

(i) inserting the words “Subject to subsection (3A),” before the word “The CEO”; and

(ii) decapitalizing the word “The”; and

(b) inserting after subsection (3) the following new subsections—

“(3A) Approval to operate as a CFZ business shall not be granted to any of the following businesses—

(a) banking services;

(b) financial business;

(c) international financial services as defined in the International Financial Services Commission Act;

(d) internet or computer gaming services, including online gaming;

(e) gaming;

(f) foreign exchange business, including casa de cambio; or

(g) radio or telecommunication services.

(3B) Notwithstanding subsection (3A), the CEO of a CFZ may grant permission to the following businesses to provide their respective services within a CFZ—

- (a) banking services;
- (b) internet or computer gaming services, including online gaming;
- (c) gaming; or
- (d) radio or telecommunication services.

(3C) Permission granted under subsection (3B) shall not confer any benefits under this Act to any of the businesses.”.

3. Section 19(10) of the principal Act is repealed.

Amendment of section 19.

4. Section 26 of the principal Act is amended—

Amendment of section 26.

(a) in subsection (2) by deleting the phrase “, if such a bank or financial institution is so located”; and

(b) by repealing subsection (10) and substituting the following—

“(10) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law, no person shall provide any of the following services in or from within a CFZ without a licence or permission from the respective regulatory body as required under the laws of Belize—

- (a) banking services;
- (b) internet or computer gaming services, including online gaming;
- (c) gaming; or
- (d) radio or telecommunication services.”.