

**BELIZE:**

**ECONOMIC CITIZENSHIP (ABOLITION OF RIGHTS)  
ACT, 2023**

**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Restrictions to registration as a citizen of Belize.
4. No rights to arise.
5. Previous rights not affected.



**No. 54 of 2023**

**I assent,**

**(H.E. DAME FROYLA TZALAM)**  
*Governor-General*

19<sup>th</sup> December, 2023.

**AN ACT to finally abolish the right of persons to obtain Belizean Nationality through any relationship whether of descent or of marriage which can be traced back, directly or indirectly, to a person who obtained Belizean nationality by economic citizenship; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.**

*(Gazetted 23rd December, 2023).*

***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:***

**WHEREAS**, the Belize Economic Citizenship Investment Programme (BECIP) was brought to an end in 2001 pursuant to the Belize Constitution (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2001 and the Belizean Nationality (Amendment) Act, 2014;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Belize Constitution (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2001 prohibited the reintroduction

of similar programmes pursuant to section 4 of the Belize Constitution (Fourth Amendment) Act, 2001;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Government wishes to ensure that no further citizenship is granted to any person as a result of the BECIP;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the

**ECONOMIC CITIZENSHIP (ABOLITION OF RIGHTS) ACT, 2023.**

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, “an economic citizenship relationship” means any relationship whether of descent or of marriage which can be traced back, directly or indirectly, to a person who obtained Belizean nationality by economic citizenship.

Restrictions to registration as a citizen of Belize.

3.–(1) No person shall be registered as a citizen of Belize based on descent if the parent whose nationality is being relied on by an applicant–

(a) was not born in Belize; and

(b) obtained Belizean nationality as a result of an economic citizenship relationship.

(2) No person shall be capable of being registered as a citizen of Belize by marriage if the spouse whose nationality is being relied on by an applicant–

(a) was not born in Belize; and

(b) obtained Belizean nationality as a result of an economic citizenship relationship.

No rights to arise.

**4.** On the commencement of this Act, an economic citizenship relationship shall not give rise to any rights relating to Belizean citizenship.

Previous rights not affected.

**5.**—(1) For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of this Act shall not affect the rights of any Belizean who obtained their nationality prior to this Act coming into force.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of this Act shall not apply to any application for nationality relying on an economic citizenship relationship that was made on or before the 1st October 2023.