

BELIZE:

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

1. Short title.
2. Amendment of section 2.
3. Amendment of section 4.
4. Amendment of section 8.
5. Amendment of section 9.
6. Amendment of section 21.
7. Amendment of section 33.
8. Amendment of section 37.
9. Amendment of section 45.
10. Amendment of section 46.
11. Amendment of section 58.
12. Amendment of section 59.
13. Amendment of section 65.
14. Amendment of section 70.
15. Repeal of Schedule I.

BELIZE:

BILL

for

AN ACT to amend the Alternative Sentencing Act, Act No. 13 of 2024 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to expand the definition of offence; to amend provisions relating to community service orders, curfew orders, suspended sentences, probation orders and restitution orders; to repeal Schedule I; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted, 2026)

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.

ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2026,

Act No. 13 of 2024.

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

Amendment of section 2.

2. The principal Act is amended in section 2 by–

(a) deleting the term and definition of “combination order”; and

(b) repealing the definition of the term “offence” and replacing it with the following–

“CAP. 96. “offence” means an offence against the criminal laws of Belize, other than an offence specified in section 160(2) of the Indictable Procedure Act.”.

Amendment of section 4.

3. The principal Act is amended in section 4(l) by deleting the phrase “the Commission and any other” and substituting the word “any”.

-
4. The principal Act is amended in section 8(1)(a) by deleting the phrase “, along with crime prevention initiatives,”. Amendment of section 8.
5. The principal Act is amended in section 9– Amendment of section 9.
- (a) in sub-section (1) by–
- (i) deleting the number “81” and substituting the number “79”; and
- (ii) inserting the words “, or finds any person to be in breach of an order of the court,” immediately after the words “a court which convicts any person of an offence”; and
- (b) in sub-section (3)–
- (i) in paragraph (b)(ii), by inserting, after the semi-colon, the word “or”; and
- (ii) in paragraph (c), by deleting the phrase “; or” and substituting a period “.”; and
- (iii) by deleting paragraph (d).
6. The principal Act is amended in section 21 by– Amendment of section 21.
- (a) deleting sub-section (5) and substituting the following–
- “(5) Before making a curfew order, the court shall–
- (a) consult with the Community Rehabilitation Department; and
- (b) obtain and consider information about the place proposed to be specified in the order, including information as to the views of any person who is likely to be affected by the enforced presence of the offender.”;
- (b) inserting the following new sub-section immediately after sub-section (7)–
- “(8) A court shall not make a curfew order unless the court has been notified by the Department that arrangements for monitoring the whereabouts of the offender are available in the area in which the place proposed to be specified in the order is situated.”.

- Amendment of section 33. **7.** The principal Act is amended in section 33(1)(c) by inserting the phrase “appointed by the court, who may be designated by the Community Rehabilitation Department” immediately after the phrase “report to a supervisor”.
- Amendment of section 37. **8.** The principal Act is amended in section 37 by deleting sub-section (2) and substituting the following—

“(2) A court shall not suspend a sentence for an offence specified in section 45(10), except where the offence is grievous harm.”.
- Amendment of section 45. **9.** The principal Act is amended in section 45 by repealing sub-section (8).
- Amendment of section 46. **10.** The principal Act is amended in section 46 by deleting the phrase “on application of the Attorney General or a person who is the victim of the offence or on its own motion” and substituting the phrase “on application of the Director of Public Prosecutions or, where the Director of Public Prosecutions does not make such application within a reasonable time, on application of a person who is the victim of the offence, or on its own motion”.
- Amendment of section 58. **11.** The principal Act is amended in section 58(2) by deleting the words “in lieu of imposing a sentence of imprisonment” and substituting the words “, whether in addition to or instead of any other sentence,”.
- Amendment of section 59. **12.** The principal Act is amended in section 59(1) by deleting the words “three years” and substituting the words “five years”.
- Amendment of section 65. **13.** The principal Act is amended in section 65(2) by deleting the words “three years” and substituting the words “five years”.
- Amendment of section 70. **14.** The principal Act is amended in section 70 by inserting, after the word “apply”, the phrase “, *mutatis mutandis*,”.
- Repeal of Schedule I. **15.** The principal Act is amended by repealing Schedule I.