

CONSTITUENCY CAPITAL GRANT BILL, 2017

Arrangement of Sections

Section

1.	Short title and commencement.....	2
2.	Interpretation.....	2
3.	Allocation of Constituency Capital Grant.	2
4.	Purpose of grant.....	3
5.	Determination of capital development projects.	3
6.	Process of obtaining payment of grant funds.	3
7.	Minister to authorize payment.	4
8.	Accounting to the Auditor-General.....	4

SCHEDULE	5
-----------------	----------



CONSTITUENCY CAPITAL GRANT BILL, 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ALLOCATION OF CONSTITUENCY CAPITAL GRANTS FOR EACH CONSTITUENCY THROUGHOUT THE BAHAMAS TO FACILITATE ITS DEVELOPMENT AND FOR CONNECTED PURPOSES

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

1. Short title and commencement.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Constituency Capital Grant Bill, 2017.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on the 1st day July, 2017.

2. Interpretation.

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“constituency” has the meaning ascribed to it under Article 68 of the Constitution;

“grant” means a constituency capital grant allocated pursuant to section 3;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for Finance.

3. Allocation of Constituency Capital Grant.

- (1) There shall be allocated to each constituency —
 - (a) in New Providence and Grand Bahama;
 - (b) in all the Family Islands (other than Grand Bahama),an annual grant in the amount as specified in the *Schedule* (hereinafter to be known as a “constituency capital grant”).
- (2) All grants payable under this Act shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

4. Purpose of grant.

- (1) A grant allocated under section 3, shall be used for any authorized capital development project authorized by the Minister under section 6.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, a capital development project includes any works carried out for—
 - (a) the overall or partial development of a constituency;
 - (b) the maintenance of any roads, parks or other public facility within a constituency;
 - (c) the beautification of the environment within a constituency; or
 - (d) any other work as the Member of Parliament considers appropriate for the development, educational or cultural endeavours of his constituency,as approved by the Minister.
- (3) No Member of Parliament shall utilize any portion or part thereof of a grant for—
 - (a) any political meeting or forum; or
 - (b) any fund-raising activity for any political party;
 - (c) the payment, maintenance, upkeep, salaries and other expenses in respect of the constituency office.
- (4) No Member of Parliament shall award a contract for a capital development project to a member of his family or to any business or company for which the beneficial owners of that company are family members of the Member of Parliament.

5. Determination of capital development projects.

Each Member of Parliament shall be responsible for determining which capital development projects are necessary in his constituency and in so doing, shall take into consideration —

- (a) the population density of the constituency;
- (b) the overall needs of the constituency and its residents; and
- (c) the environmental needs of the residents within the constituency.

6. Process of obtaining payment of grant funds.

The Member of Parliament shall, in order to obtain authorization for payment of any project, submit to the Minister—

- (a) a proposal of the capital developmental project to be carried out and such proposal shall contain a declaration by the Member of

Parliament stating his intention to have such project carried out as specified therein;

- (b) the quotations in respect of the proposed project;
- (c) any required approvals and permits in respect of the project; and
- (d) a Tax Compliance Certificate in respect of the person carrying out the works of the project.

7. Minister to authorize payment.

(1) The Minister may—

- (a) having considered the documentation submitted pursuant to section 5; and
- (b) once satisfied that all the requisite approvals and permits have been obtained,

authorize the payment for the capital development project to be carried out in the constituency.

(2) No payment for any capital development project shall be made under this Act without the written authorization of the Minister.

8. Accounting to the Auditor-General.

Each Member of Parliament shall keep proper accounts and reports and such accounts shall be audited by the Auditor-General at the end of each fiscal year.

SCHEDULE

(section 3)

Constituency located in	Grant
New Providence	\$100,000.00
Grand Bahama	\$100,000.00
Family Islands (Other than Grand Bahama)	\$100,000.00

OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Constituency Capital Grant Bill, 2017, seeks to establish a Constituency Capital Grant for each constituency throughout The Bahamas to facilitate its development and for connected purposes.

Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 of the Bill provides for the interpretation of certain words to be used throughout the Bill.

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for each constituency throughout The Bahamas to be allocated a grant in the amount as specified in the Schedule, such sums shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

Clause 4 of the Bill sets out the purpose of the grant.

Clause 5 of the Bill sets out the factors to be considered when determining which capital development projects are to be carried out.

Clause 6 of the Bill provides for the process for obtaining payment from a grant.

Clause 7 of the Bill provides for the authorization of payment by the Minister of Finance.

Clause 8 of the Bill provides that Members of Parliament shall keep proper accounts and records to be audited by the Auditor-General at the end of each fiscal year.