



**SUMMARY REPORT**  
**PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**

1. The following papers were laid on the Table by the Financial Secretary
  - (i) Montserrat Land Development Authority Government of Montserrat Housing Stock Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2021.
  - (ii) Montserrat Land Development Authority Government of Montserrat Housing Stock Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2022.
  - (iii) S R & O No. 4 of 2024 Cruise Ships Tax (Exemption) Regulations 2024.

2. The Introduction, First, Second and Third Reading of the Bill:

**Supplementary Appropriation (2023) (No. 6) Bill 2024**

First Reading 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Second Reading 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
Third Reading 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The Bill sought to sanction certain payments from the Consolidated Fund in excess of the sums provided by law for the services of the Government of Montserrat for the period ending on the thirty-first day of March 2024.

The Bill was passed with no amendment.

3. The First Reading of the following Bills took place:

- i. **‘National Audit Office Bill 2024’**

First Reading 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The Bill seeks to reform the law relating to the audit of public sector organisations by providing for the establishment of an independent National Audit Office and for related matters. Part two of the Bill provides for the establishment of the National Audit Office, staff of the National Audit Office and budget of the National Audit Office. Part three provides for the duties of the Auditor General, power to submit special report to Legislative Assembly, power to delegate functions, powers and duties, external audit support, power to charge fees for certain audits, response to audit report and audit report to be public. Part four provides for an external auditor to submit audited accounts of the National Audit Office to the Legislative Assembly. Part 5 provides for miscellaneous matters including confidentiality, immunity, provision of information or advice relating to functions, interpretations of law applicable to exercise of powers, Auditor General not to question merits of policy objectives, offences, references to Auditor General and regulations.

**ii. 'Jury (Amendment) Bill 2024'**  
First Reading 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The Bill seeks to amend the Jury Act (Cap. 0.07). Section 2 of the principal Act is amended by inserting a definition for alternate juror. Section 26 is deleted and substituted with Number of Jury. Section 27 is amended by deleting section 27 of the principal Act and substituting a new section 27. Challenge. Section 28 of the principal Act is deleted. Section 29 of the principal Act is deleted and substituted with a new section 29 which provides for impaneling of jury (common or special). The principal Act is amended by inserting section 29A which provides for alternate jurors.

**iii. 'Public Holidays Bill 2024'**  
First Reading 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The Bill seeks to repeal and replace the Public Holidays Act (Cap. 6.09). The Bill provides for the following: Days noted in Schedule to be kept as public holidays, Appointment of public holidays, Act due to be done before public officers on public holidays, Bills of exchange and promissory notes due on a public holiday, provisions where day of notice of dishonor or presentation falls on a holiday, power to appoint special public holidays and to change day for a public holiday, overlapping public holidays etc., closure of shops on specified public holidays exceptions, penalty for opening on public holidays, bank holiday and common law holidays. Amendment of schedule and repeal.

**iv. 'Marriage (Amendment) Bill 2024'**  
First Reading 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The Bills seeks to amend the Marriage Act (Cap. 5.01) (“the Act”). Section 15 of the principal Act is deleted and substituted by a new section which provides for Performance of marriage by Registrar-General. Section 36 of the principal Act is deleted and substituted with a new section 36 that provides for Application for Licenses. Section 46 of the principal Act is deleted and substituted with a new section 46 that provides for Provisions as to Solemnization and Celebration. Section 47 of the principal Act is deleted and substituted by a new section 47 that provides for Addition of Religious Ceremony to Civil Marriage. The First Schedule of the Act is amended by inserting “Marriage Licence Petition” as Form AA.

**v. ‘Elections (Amendment) Bill 2024’**

First Reading 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The purpose of the Elections (Amendment) Bill (“the Bill”) is to amend the Elections Act, (Cap. 1.04) (“the Act”). Section 25 of the principal Act is amended by deleting \$500 in subsection (1) and substituting it with \$1000. Subsection 4 is also deleted. Section 26 of the principal Act is amended by deleting it and substituting a new section 26 which provides for a non-refundable deposit.

Bills that have had a First Reading can be found in the following places:

Legislature Department #1 Farara Plaza Brades Montserrat	Legal Department Valley View Brades Montserrat	Public Library BBC Complex Brades Montserrat	Montserrat Legislative Assembly’s Website <a href="http://www.Parliament.ms">www.Parliament.ms</a>
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*Sgd. Dr Judith C Baker*

**CLERK OF THE MONTSERRAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**