

No. 1 of 2026

First Session Thirteenth Parliament Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago

SENATE

BILL

AN ACT to amend the Copyright Act, Chap. 82:80 to extend the duration of the term of protection for copyright and neighbouring rights for authors, performers and producers of sound recordings; to extend the duration of the term of protection for moral rights for authors and performers; and to provide for related matters

THE COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

Explanatory Note

(These notes form no part of the Bill but are intended only to indicate its general purport)

The Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (“the Bill”) seeks to amend the Copyright Act, Chap. 82:80 (“the Act”) to extend the duration of the term of protection for copyright and neighbouring rights for authors including works of joint authorship, performers and producers of sound recordings; to extend the duration of the term of protection for moral rights for authors including works of joint authorship and performers; and to provide for related matters.

Clause 1 of the Bill contains the short title of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the interpretation of the words “the Act” to mean the Copyright Act, Chap. 82:80.

Clause 3 amends section 19 of the Act to extend the period of protection afforded to authors’ rights from fifty years to seventy years. In particular, clause 3 amends—

- (a) subsection (1) of section 19 to provide that—
 - (i) copyright in a work subsists for the lifetime of the author and for seventy years after the author’s death; and
 - (ii) moral rights of an author subsist for the lifetime of the author and for seventy years after the author’s death; and
- (b) subsection (2) of section 19 to provide that, in the case of a work of joint authorship—
 - (i) copyright subsists for the lifetime of the last surviving author and for seventy years after the death of that author; and
 - (ii) moral rights subsist for the lifetime of the last surviving author and for seventy years after the death of that author.

Clause 4 amends section 19A of the Act to extend the duration of moral rights for performers in order to ensure that these rights endure until the end of a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the performance was fixed, or, if not fixed, from the end of the year in which the performance occurred.

Clause 5 amends section 21(4) of the Act to extend the duration of neighbouring rights' protection for performers in order to afford them protection until the end of a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the performance was fixed, or, if not fixed, from the end of the year in which the performance occurred.

Clause 6 amends section 22(2) of the Act to extend the duration of neighbouring rights' protection for producers of sound recordings in order to ensure that these rights endure until the end of a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the sound recording was published, or, if the sound recording has not been published, until the end of a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the sound recording was fixed.

Clause 7 amends section 23(4) of the Act to extend the duration of neighbouring rights' protection for equitable remuneration for performers and producers of sound recordings. The amendment provides that if a sound recording is published for commercial purposes, used for broadcasting or public communication, or publicly performed, neighbouring rights are protected for seventy years from the year of publication, which would be computed from the end of the year in which the sound recording was published. If the sound recording is not published, the protection subsists from the date of fixation of the sound recording until the end of a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the sound recording was fixed.

Clause 8 amends section 24(2) of the Act to clarify the duration of the rights conferred under section 24 and to ensure consistency with the language of other provisions of the Act as updated by this Bill.

THE COPYRIGHT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

Arrangement of Clauses

Clause

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Section 19 amended
4. Section 19A amended
5. Section 21 amended
6. Section 22 amended
7. Section 23 amended
8. Section 24 amended

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AN ACT to amend the Copyright Act, Chap. 82:80 to extend the duration of the term of protection for copyright and neighbouring rights for authors, performers and producers of sound recordings; to extend the duration of the term of protection for moral rights for authors and performers; and to provide for related matters

[, 2026]

ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as Enactment follows:

- Short title **1.** This Act may be cited as the Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2026.
- Interpretation
Chap. 82:80 **2.** In this Act, “the Act” means the Copyright Act.
- Section 19
amended **3.** Section 19 of the Act is amended in subsections (1) and (2) by deleting the word “fifty” and substituting the word “seventy”.
- Section 19A
amended **4.** Section 19A of the Act is amended by deleting the words “the fiftieth year in which the performance was fixed” and substituting the words “a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the performance was fixed”.
- Section 21 amended **5.** Section 21(4) of the Act is amended by deleting the word “fifty” and substituting the word “seventy”.
- Section 22 amended **6.** Section 22 of the Act is amended by repealing subsection (2) and substituting the following subsection:
 “(2) The rights under subsection (1) shall be protected—
 (a) from the publication of the sound recording until the end of a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the sound recording was published; or
 (b) if the sound recording has not been published, from the fixation of the sound recording until the end of a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the sound recording was fixed.”.
- Section 23 amended **7.** Section 23 of the Act is amended by repealing subsection (4) and substituting the following subsection:
 “(4) The right to an equitable remuneration under this section shall subsist from—
 (a) the date of publication of the sound recording until the end of a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the sound recording was published; or

(b) if the sound recording has not been published, from the date of fixation of the sound recording until the end of a period of seventy years computed from the end of the year in which the sound recording was fixed.”.

8. Section 24 of the Act is amended in subsection (2) Section 24 amended by deleting the words “the fiftieth calendar year following the year in which the broadcast first takes place” and substituting the words “a period of fifty years computed from the end of the year in which the broadcast first takes place”.

Passed in the Senate this day of , 2026.

Clerk of the Senate

I confirm the above.

President of the Senate

Passed in the House of Representatives this day
of , 2026.

Clerk of the House

I confirm the above.

Speaker

No. 1 of 2026

FIRST SESSION
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time