



Tonga

**INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) BILL  
2019**





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# INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019

## A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE INTERPRETATION ACT.

**BE IT ENACTED** by the King and Legislative Assembly of Tonga in the Legislature of the Kingdom as follows:

### 1 Short Title

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Interpretation (Amendment) Act 2019.
- (2) In this Act, the Interpretation Act (Cap 1), as amended, shall be referred to as the Principal Act.

### 2 Section 2 amended

Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended —

- (a) by inserting the following definition in the appropriate place:

“**document**” means any record of information whether in print or electronic form, and includes:

  - (a) anything on which there is writing; and
  - (b) anything on which there are figures, marks, numbers, perforations, symbols or anything else:

- (i) having a meaning for people qualified to interpret them; or
  - (ii) that can be responded to by a computer system or electronic device; and
  - (c) anything from which images, sounds, messages or writings can be produced or reproduced, whether with or without the aid of anything else; and
  - (d) a drawing, map, photograph or plan; and
- (b) by deleting the word “**person**” and its definition and replacing it with the following new definition :
- “**person**” includes a body corporate, or unincorporated body, as well as an individual.

Passed by the Legislative Assembly this                      day of                      2019.

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

(These notes do not form part of the Bill and are only intended to explain its scope and purpose)

**Section 2 amended**

This amendment is to introduce the definitions of “document” and “person”. The definition of “document” covers any record of information whether in print or electronic form whereas the definition of a “person” covers an individual as well as body corporates or unincorporated bodies.

**Hon. Sione Vuna Fa’otusia**  
**Minister of Justice and Prisons**