

BILL NO. 37 OF 2022

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT 1956

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Veterinary Surgeons (Budget Amendment) Act 2022.

(2) This Act comes into force on 1 August 2022.

(3) In this Act, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1956 is referred to as the “Principal Act”.

Section 2 amended

2. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting the definition of “Registrar” and substituting the following—

““Registrar” means the permanent secretary responsible for agriculture;”.

Section 6 amended

3. The Principal Act is amended by deleting section 6 and substituting the following—

“Persons entitled to registration

6.—(1) A person, on payment of the prescribed fee, is entitled to be registered if the person satisfies the Registrar that he or she is a fit and proper person to be registered and has—

- (a) a recognised degree or qualification obtained from a veterinary school or college listed under Schedule 2; or
- (b) been registered in the Register of the Veterinary Surgeons kept by the Registrar of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.”.

Section 7 amended

4. The Principal Act is amended by deleting section 7 and substituting the following—

“Registration of persons

7.—(1) A person must submit an application to the Registrar to be registered as a veterinary surgeon under this Act.

(2) An application under subsection (1) must be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(3) The Registrar must consider an application and, upon assessment of the application, register or refuse to register the applicant.

(4) In considering the application, the Registrar may, in writing, require the applicant to provide such particulars and information relevant to the application, as the Registrar deems necessary.

(5) The Registrar may impose conditions on a person’s registration as the Registrar deems necessary.

Section 13A inserted

5. The Principal Act is amended after section 13 by inserting the following new section—

“Regulations

13A. The Minister may make regulations which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act prescribing—

- (a) the fees to be paid in accordance with this Act;
- (b) the forms to be used in accordance with this Act; and
- (c) offences and penalties not exceeding a fine of \$50,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or both.”.

Section 14 amended

6. The Principal Act is amended by deleting section 14 and substituting the following—

“Amendment of Schedules

14. The Minister may by notice in the Gazette amend the Schedules to the Act.”.

Schedule 2 amended

7. Schedule 2 to the Principal Act is amended after “Royal Veterinary Agricultural College (Denmark)” by inserting the following—

“Fiji National University (Fiji)”.

VETERINARY SURGEONS (BUDGET AMENDMENT) BILL 2022

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Bill and is intended only to indicate its general effect)

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1956 (**'Act'**) provides for the registration of veterinary surgeons in Fiji.
- 1.2 Section 2 of the Act defines the Registrar as the Assistant Director Agriculture (Animal Health and Production) and includes any person lawfully appointed to act for him or her. Currently, the position of Assistant Director Agriculture (Animal Health and Production) does not exist and in practice so far the Registrar's role has been carried out by the permanent secretary responsible for agriculture. The Veterinary Surgeons (Budget Amendment) Bill 2022 (**'Bill'**) therefore seeks to update the Act and to align to current practice.
- 1.3 The Bill also seeks to amend the Act to provide for the registration of veterinary surgeons and the regulation making power of the Minister. The Bill further seeks to amend the Act to include the Fiji National University under Schedule 2 to the Act.

2.0 CLAUSES

- 2.1 Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title and commencement. If passed by Parliament, the amending legislation will come into force on 1 August 2022.
- 2.2 Clause 2 of the Bill amends section 2 of the Act to allow the permanent secretary responsible for agriculture to act as the Registrar.
- 2.3 Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 6 of the Act to provide for persons who are entitled to be registered under the Act.
- 2.4 Clause 4 of the Bill amends section 7 of the Act to provide for the registration of persons as veterinary surgeons.

- 2.5 Clause 5 of the Bill amends the Act by inserting section 13A to empower the Minister to make regulations.
- 2.6 Clause 6 of the Bill amends section 14 of the Act to empower the Minister to amend the schedules to the Act.
- 2.7 Clause 7 of the Bill amends Schedule 2 to the Act to include the Fiji National University.

3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1 The Act comes under the responsibility of the Minister responsible for agriculture.

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Attorney-General