

BILL NO. 2 OF 2025

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE CINEMATOGRAPHIC FILMS ACT 1971

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Cinematographic Films (Amendment) Act 2025.

(2) This Act comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

(3) In this Act, the Cinematographic Films Act 1971 is referred to as the “Principal Act”.

Section 2 amended

2. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended in the definition of “adult” by deleting “16 years” and substituting “18 years”.

Section 13 amended

3. Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) in subsection (1), deleting paragraphs (a) to (d) and inserting the following new paragraphs—

“(a) approved for general exhibition;

- (b) approved for exhibition to a person below the age of 13 years with an adult, parent or guardian present;
 - (c) approved for exhibition to a person over the age of 13 years;
 - (d) approved for exhibition to adult audiences only; or
 - (e) approved for restricted public exhibition.”;
- (b) in subsection (2), deleting “category (d)” and substituting “category (e)”; and
- (c) in subsection (3), deleting paragraphs (a) to (c) and inserting the following new paragraphs—
- “(a) in the case of a film in category (b), to any person below the age of 13 years without an adult, parent or guardian present;
 - (b) in the case of a film in category (c), to any person below the age of 13 years;
 - (c) in the case of a film in category (d), to any person who is not an adult; and
 - (d) in the case of a film in category (e), except in accordance with the conditions subject to which approval was granted.”.

Consequential amendment

4. The Cinematographic Films (Classification) Regulations 1972 is amended in regulation 2 after “general exhibition;” by inserting the following—

“**PG** means a film approved for exhibition to a person below the age of 13 years, to be accompanied by an adult, parent or guardian;”.

March 2025

CINEMATOGRAPHIC FILMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025

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 Cinematographic Films Act 1971 (**‘Act’**) sets out the legislative framework for the exhibition of films in Fiji, with the objective of ensuring the safe and respectful screening of any film intended for exhibition.
- 1.2 The Act establishes the Film Control Board, which handles the licensing of film exhibitors and decides if a film can be shown to the public as well as designates censors who review films to ensure they meet certain guidelines.
- 1.3 The Cinematographic Films (Amendment) Bill 2025 (**‘Bill’**) therefore seeks to amend the Act to address changes to film classification. The absence of a Parental Guidance (**‘PG’**) rating has limited access for children aged 6 to 12 years to films suitable for their viewing and has affected business for the cinema industry.
- 1.4 The amendment proposes to introduce the PG rating to accommodate this age group, restore audience access and support the cinema industry.

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 a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.
- 2.2 Clause 2 of the Bill amends the definition of “adult” in section 2 of the Act by deleting “16 years” and substituting “18 years”, so that the definition of adult now reads as a person above the age of 18 years.
- 2.3 Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 13 of the Act to replace the existing film classification with a new classification, introducing category PG in subsection (1) to allow a person under the age of 13 years to view films when accompanied by an adult, parent or guardian.

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2.4 Clause 3 of the Bill also amends section 13 of the Act by updating the section references in accordance with the amendment and introduces a new category in subsection (3) prohibiting the exhibition of a film to a person under the age of 13 years if he or she is not accompanied by an adult, parent or guardian.

2.5 Clause 4 of the Bill amends regulation 2 of the Cinematographic Films (Classification) Regulations 1972 as a consequential amendment by inserting the definition of “PG” to mean films suitable for a person under the age of 13 years, provided he or she is accompanied by an adult, parent or guardian.

3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

3.1 The Act comes under the responsibility of the Attorney-General.

G. E. LEUNG
Attorney-General