

BILL NO. 31 OF 2025

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE QUARANTINE ACT 1964

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Quarantine (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 Quarantine Act 1964 is referred to as the “Principal Act”.

Section 2 amended

2. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) after the definition of “master”, inserting the following new definitions—

““Minister” means the Minister responsible for health;

“Permanent Secretary” means the permanent secretary responsible for health;”; and

(b) in the definition of “ship” after “vessel”, inserting “, yacht, superyacht”.

Section 3 amended

3. Section 3(2) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “Minister” and substituting “Permanent Secretary”.

Section 7 amended

4. Section 7 of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) in subsection (1), deleting “~~shall be guilty of commits~~ an offence and ~~shall be~~ liable on conviction to a fine of \$100 or to imprisonment for 6 months or both such fine and imprisonment” and substituting “commits an offence and liable on the issue of a fixed penalty notice, to pay a fixed penalty of \$1,000.”;

(b) after subsection (1), inserting the following new subsection—

“(1A) If the fixed penalty notice referred to in subsection (1) is not paid within the period specified in the notice, the person ~~is guilty of commits~~ an offence and ~~is~~ liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or both.”; and

(c) deleting subsection (2), substituting the following—

“(2) Any person convicted of an offence under this Act for which no special penalty is provided is liable in the case of a first offence to a fixed penalty notice, and is liable to pay on the issue of a fixed penalty notice, a penalty of \$500 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 3 months, and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 6 months or both.”.

Section 9 amended

5. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) in subsection (3), ~~deleting “\$500” and substituting “\$1,000”; and—~~

(i) after “to the”, inserting “Quarantine”; and

(ii) ~~deleting “\$500” and substituting “\$1,000”.~~

(b) after subsection (3), inserting the following new subsection—

“(4) Any agent who fails to pay the fine referred to in subsection (3) within the period specified by the Quarantine Authority commits an offence and is liable on conviction to—

(a) in the case of a body corporate, a fine not exceeding \$50,000;
or

(b) in the case of an individual, a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both.”.

Office of the Attorney-General
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Suva

September-October 2025

QUARANTINE (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 Quarantine Act 1964 (**‘Act’**) establishes the legal framework for preventing the introduction and spread of infectious diseases in Fiji through ships, aircraft, people, and goods.
- 1.2 The Quarantine (Amendment) Bill 2025 (**‘Bill’**) seeks to amend the Act to provide for updated policy and regulatory changes.

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 section 2 of the Act by expanding the definition of “ship” to include yacht and superyacht. Clause 2 of the Bill also defines the responsible Permanent Secretary and Minister.
- 2.3 Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 3 of the Act by replacing the function of appointing quarantine officers from the Minister to the Permanent Secretary.
- 2.4 Clause 4 of the Bill amends section 7 of the Act to provide for fixed penalties of \$500 and \$1,000 which replace the previous fines of \$50 and \$100 respectively.
- 2.5 Clause 5 of the Bill amends section 9 of the Act to increase the fixed penalties for non-compliance to \$1,000. It further states that any person who fails to pay that fine will be guilty of a criminal offence.

3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

S. D. TURAGA
Acting Attorney-General