
GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS**NOTICE 984 OF 2015****PUBLICATION OF EXPLANATORY SUMMARY OF THE REFUGEES AMENDMENT
BILL, 2015**

The Minister of Home Affairs intends introducing the Refugees Amendment Bill, 2015 in the National Assembly. The explanatory summary of the Amendment Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 241(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly.

The Amendment Bill seeks to amend the Refugees Act, 1998 (Act No. 130 of 1998) ("the Act") so as to—

- (a) amend the Refugees Act, 1998, so as to amend and insert certain definitions;
- (b) include further provisions relating to disqualification from refugee status;
- (c) provide for integrity testing of certain staff members;
- (d) omit provisions referring to the Status Determination Committee;
- (e) substitute certain provisions relating to the Refugee Appeals Authority;
- (f) provide for the re-establishment of the Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs and to confer additional powers on the Standing Committee;
- (g) confer additional powers on the Director-General;
- (h) clarify the procedure relating to conditions to asylum seeker visas and abandonment of applications;
- (i) revise provisions relating to the review of asylum applications; to provide for the withdrawal of refugee status in respect of categories of refugees;
- (j) provide for additional offences and penalties; and
- (k) provide for matters connected therewith.

Once the Amendment Bill has been tabled in Parliament, a copy can be obtained from:

1. the Government Printers – Cape Town and Pretoria;
2. the Director: Drafting (Legal Services) Department of Home Affairs, 230 Johannes Ramokhoase Street, Pretoria, Tel: (012) 406 4271.