EPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE INDUSTRIAL HEMP AND MEDICAL CANNABIS (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2026

Explanatory Note

This Bill amends the Industrial Hemp and Medical Cannabis (Amendment) Act No. 31 of 2021 ("the Act").

The Bill provides for the establishment of the Office of the Coordinator ("the Office"). The Government intends to establish the Office and appoint a person to perform the functions of the Coordinator. However, the Act does not provide criteria to for the appointment of the Coordinator.

The absence of appointment criteria may create uncertainty as to the qualifications, skills and experience required for the position. It is therefore necessary to provide a clear legislative framework to guide the appointment process and ensure that the person appointed is suitably qualified to perform the functions and responsibilities of the Coordinator.

The proposed amendment inserts criteria for the appointment of the Coordinator. The amendment will promote transparency and consistency in the appointment process and help ensure that the Coordinator has the appropriate competence to effectively administer and coordinate matters under the Act.

Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Biosecurity

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE INDUSTRIAL HEMP AND MEDICAL CANNABIS (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2026

An Act to amend the Industrial Hemp and Medical Cannabis Act No. 31 of 2021.

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Amendment

The Industrial Hemp and Medical Cannabis Act No. 31 of 2021 is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP AND MEDICAL CANNABIS ACT NO. 31 OF 2021

1 After subsection 9B(1A)

Insert

"(1B) The Coordinator appointed must meet any following criteria:

(a) must have the following qualifications:

(i) a postgraduate or master's degree in Agriculture, Law, Public Administration and Education; or

(ii) a postgraduate or master's degree in Management and Business or Public Administration or any other relevant areas; or

(b) must have expertise in:

(i) Agricultural Science, Horticulture, Biotechnology, or a related field; or

(ii) Industrial hemp or cannabis cultivation, regulatory compliance, or agribusiness management; or

(c) must have the following experiences:

(i) more than 5 years' experience in agricultural or industrial project management, public administration and business management; or

(ii) more than 3 years in a leadership role within the hemp and cannabis sector or equivalent; and

(d) must have the following technical competencies:

(i) must have advance knowledge of Industrial Hemp and Medical Cannabis cultivation and processing cultivation; or

(ii) must have knowledge on policy and regulatory frameworks, proficiency in market analysis, product development, and risk management, budgeting and financial management for large -scale agricultural projects.

(1C) In addition to subsection (1B), the Coordinator appointed must meet the following criteria:

(a) must have the following generic competencies:

(i) must involve in stakeholder negotiation and partnership development; or

(ii) must involve in data-driven decision-making and policy advisory; and

(b) must have the following leadership qualities:

(i) be involved in strategic leadership in cross-sector collaboration; or

(ii) involve in mentorship and team performance management; and

(c) must have the following behavioural competencies:

(i) must be ethical; and

(ii) resilient and detail oriented; and

(iii) must be adaptable to dynamic regulatory and market environments."