

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS
AMENDMENT BILL**

(As read a First Time)

(Introduced by the Minister of Health and Social Services)

[B. 7 - 2018]

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

- _____ Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in existing provisions.
- [] Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing provisions.

BILL

To amend the Allied Health Professions Act, 2004, so as to make provision for the appointment of members of the Allied Health Professions Council; and to provide for incidental matters.

BE IT ENACTED as passed by the Parliament, and assented to by the President, of the Republic of Namibia, as follows:

Amendment of section 1 of Act No. 7 of 2004

1. Section 1 of the Allied Health Professions Act, 2004 (hereafter referred to as the “Principal Act”) is amended by the substitution for the definition of “member of the Council” of the following definition:

“ “member of the Council” means a member of the Council appointed **[,designated or elected, as the case may be,]** in terms of section 7;”.

Substitution of section 7 of Act No. 7 of 2004

2. The following section is substituted for section 7 of the Principal Act:

“Composition of Council

7. (1) The Council consists of the following members appointed by the Minister:

- (a) a staff member of the Ministry who is a registered person;
- (b) one person, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, who is a registered person involved in the tuition, education or training of persons to qualify, on the completion of the tuition, education or training, for registration in terms of this Act;
- (c) a legal practitioner nominated by the Council of the Law Society referred to in section 45 of the Legal Practitioners Act, 1995 (Act No. 15 of 1995);
- (d) one person who is not a registered person; and
- (e) 11 persons, of whom -

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- (i) one must be a physiotherapist, nominated by associations, societies or unions of physiotherapists, podiatrists, biokineticists, masseurs, remedial gymnasts and physiotherapy assistants;
 - (ii) one must be an occupational therapist, nominated by associations, societies or unions of occupational therapists, medical orthotists and prosthetists, occupational therapy assistants, occupational therapy technicians, orthomedic orthotists, orthopaedic prosthetists, orthopaedic footwear technicians, medical rehabilitation workers, orthopaedic technical assistants, single medium therapist in occupational therapy, ocularist, orthopaedic technicians, orthopaedic technologists and art therapy (art therapist or music therapists, drama therapists or dance and movement therapists);
 - (iii) one must be a medical laboratory scientist or medical technologist, nominated by associations, societies or unions of medical technologists, medical laboratory scientists and medical laboratory technicians;
 - (iv) one must be an optometrist, nominated by associations, societies or unions of optometrists, dispensing opticians and orthoptists;
 - (v) one must be a paramedic, nominated by associations, societies or unions of paramedics (advanced life support), emergency care technicians, emergency care practitioners (basic) emergency care practitioners (intermediate) operational emergency care orderlies and combat medics;
 - (vi) one must be a dental technologist or a dental technician, nominated by associations, societies or unions of dental technologists, dental technicians and dental therapists;
 - (vii) one must be a dietician, nominated by associations, societies or unions of dieticians and nutritionists;
 - (viii) one must be an audiologist or speech therapist or speech therapist and audiologist, nominated by associations, societies or unions of speech therapists, audiologists, speech therapists and audiologists, hearing aid acousticians,

community speech and hearing workers, speech and hearing correctionists, speech and hearing assistants and audiometricians;

- (ix) one must be an environmental health practitioner, nominated by associations, societies or unions of environmental health practitioners, environmental health practitioner assistants and food inspectors;
- (x) one must be a radiographer (diagnostic or therapeutic or nuclear medicine or ultrasound or sonographer), nominated by associations, societies or unions of radiographers (diagnostic, therapeutic, ultrasound or sonographers or nuclear medicine), radiation technologists, electro-encephalographic technologists, radiography assistants and clinical technologists; or
- (xi) one must be a chiropractor or homoeopath, nominated by associations, societies or unions of chiropractors, homoeopaths, naturopaths, osteopaths, Chinese medicine and acupuncturists, phytotherapists, ayurveda medicine practitioners, therapeutic aromatherapists, therapeutic reflexologists, therapeutic masseurs or unani tibb practitioners and acupuncturists.

(2) For the purposes of nominations in terms of subsection (1)(e), nominations must be made by the associations, societies and unions representing the interests of the professions.

(3) Persons to be appointed as members of the Council in terms of subsection (1) must have the necessary knowledge and expertise relating to the functions of the Council.

(4) In appointing the members of the Council in terms of subsection (1) the Minister must ensure, in so far as is practicably possible, that the membership of the Council, achieves -

- (a) gender representation; and
- (b) regional representation.

(5) For the purpose of appointing the persons referred to in subsection (1)(b), (c) and (e), the Minister must in writing request the institutions referred to in that subsection to nominate within the period specified by the Minister the persons required to be nominated in terms of that subsection.

(6) If, in terms of subsection (5), no nominations are made the Minister may, having regard to the provisions of this section,

appoint any suitable person to be a member of the Council and a person appointed under this subsection holds office as if he or she was nominated in accordance with that subsection.

(7) The Minister must, as soon as possible after the appointment of all members of the Council in terms of subsection (1), notify in the *Gazette* -

- (a) the name of every person appointed as a member of the Council;
- (b) the period for which the appointment is made; and
- (c) the date from which the appointment takes effect.

(8) Despite subsection (7), a failure to notify the names of members of the Council in terms of that subsection does not invalidate any action or decision taken by the Council.

(9) A member of the Council holds office for a period of five years and is eligible for re-appointment or re-nomination, as a member at the expiration of that period.

(10) The Minister may by notice in the *Gazette* extend the term of office of a member of the Council.

(11) Before assuming office, a member of the Council must subscribe to the following oath or solemn affirmation before the Minister:

“I,, do swear or solemnly affirm that, at all times during my term of office as a member of the Allied Health Professions Council of Namibia, I will be faithful to the Republic of Namibia and uphold its Constitution and laws, and exercise and perform my powers and functions and further the aims and objects of the Allied Health Professions Council of Namibia to the best of my ability without fear, favour or prejudice. So, help me God / I solemnly affirm”.”

Amendment of section 9 of Act No. 7 of 2004

3. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by the substitution for paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3) of the following paragraphs -

- “(a) Any vacancy on the Council arising from any circumstance referred to in subsection (1) or (2), or caused by the death of any member, must be filled in the same manner in terms of section 7 as the person who has vacated his or her office or has died, as the case may be, had been appointed **[or elected, as the case may be,]** to such office.
- (b) If any **[designated or elected member]** member nominated in terms of section 7 has vacated his or her office or has died and the **[Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia or the profession concerned]** institution concerned **[, as the case may be,]** fails or

refuses to **[designate or elect]** nominate within a reasonable period of time a member to the Council as contemplated in paragraph (a), the Minister may appoint, at his or her discretion and in writing, any person as such a member.”.

Amendment of section 22 of Act No. 7 of 2004

4. Section 22 of the Principal Act is amended by the substitution for subsection (5) of the following subsection -

“(5) A person conditionally registered in terms of this section may not be appointed, **[or] elected** or nominated as a member of the Council or of a committee of the Council **[, or vote or otherwise participate in the election of the members of the Council]**.”.

Amendment of section 55 of Act No. 7 of 2004

5. Section 55 of the Principal Act is amended by the substitution for paragraph (p) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph -

“(p) the procedures relating to the convening and the conducting of meetings **[, and to the election of the members of the Council, including the nomination of candidates for election]**.”.

Short title and commencement

6. This Act is called the Allied Health Professions Amendment Act, 2018.
