

GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 972 OF 2003

NATIONAL TREASURY

PUBLICATION OF THE FINANCIAL AND FISCAL COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL, 2003

The Minister of Finance intends tabling the Financial and Fiscal Commission Amendment Bill, 2003 in Parliament during the second Parliamentary term. The Bill is published in accordance with Rule 241(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly.

Interested persons and institutions are invited to submit written representation on the Bill to the Secretary to Parliament by no later than 2 May 2003.

All submissions must be addressed to:

**The Secretary to Parliament
c/o Messrs A Hermans/J Michaels
Committee Section
Parliament of the RSA
P.O. Box 15
CAPE TOWN
8000**

You can contact Messrs A Hermans or J Michaels at:

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GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE:

[] Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing enactments.

_____ Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in existing enactments.

BILL

To amend the Financial and Fiscal Commission Act, 1997, so as to extend the functions of the Financial and Fiscal Commission; to bring the number of members of the Commission, and appointment procedure, into line with section 221 of the Constitution; and to alter certain procedures in respect of financial matters in order to bring the said Act into line with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:—

Amendment of section 3 of Act 99 of 1997

1. Section 3 of the Financial and Fiscal Commission Act, 1997 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) is hereby amended by—

(a) the insertion after subsection (2) of the following subsection:

“(2A) (a) An organ of state in one sphere of government which seeks to assign any power or function to an organ of state in another sphere of government must request the Commission’s advice on the financial implications of the assignment in question on the prescribed form.

(b) An assignment contemplated in paragraph (a) has no legal force until the organ of state assigning the power or the function has indicated in writing to the Commission the extent to which it has given consideration to the Commission’s advice.”; and

(b) the substitution for subsection (5) of the following subsection:

“(5) All organs of state [when appropriate] must assist the Commission to perform its functions effectively.”.

Substitution of section 5 of Act 99 of 1997

2. The following section is hereby substituted for section 5 of the principal Act:

“Composition

5. (1) In terms of section 221(1) of the Constitution, the Commission consists of the following women and men appointed by the President:

(a) A chairperson and a deputy chairperson;

(b) [nine persons, each of whom is nominated by the Executive Council of a province, with each province nominating only one

- person after nominations have been invited in the *provincial gazette* and in at least two newspapers circulating in the province] three persons selected, after consulting the Premiers from a list compiled in accordance with the process set out in subsection (2);
- (c) two persons [nominated by] selected, after consulting organised local government, [in accordance with] from a list compiled in accordance with the process set out in section 5 of the Organised Local Government Act, 1997 (Act No. 52 of 1997); and 5
- (d) [nine] two other persons. 10
- (2) (a) Whenever there is a vacancy on the Commission in respect of the members contemplated in subsection (1)(b) the Minister must notify each Premier accordingly and each Premier may nominate one person for appointment to the Commission. 15
- (b) The Minister must compile a list of the nominees and must circulate the list to each Premier. 20
- (c) The Premiers must endeavour to reach consensus on a short-list of nominees, comprising at least one name more than the number of vacancies that must be filled.
- (d) If the Premiers reach consensus on a short-list, that short-list is the list contemplated in subsection (1)(b).
- (e) If the Premiers cannot reach consensus, the list of nominees circulated in terms of paragraph (b) must be regarded as being the list contemplated in subsection (1)(b).".

Amendment of section 11 of Act 99 of 1997

3. Section 11 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection: 25

- "(4) The President must consult—
- (a) the [Premier of a province] Premiers before removing from office a member [nominated by that province in terms of] contemplated in section 5(b); or
- (b) organised local government before removing from office a member [nominated in terms of] contemplated in section 5(c).". 30

Amendment of section 24 of Act 99 of 1997

4. Section 24 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

- "(d) within [three] two months after the end of each financial year, prepare annual financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.". 35

Amendment of section 26 of Act 99 of 1997

5. Section 26 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph: 40

- "(b) audited financial statements reflecting the Commission's financial affairs during the year, [consisting of at least—
- (i) a balance sheet;
- (ii) an income statement;
- (iii) a cash flow statement; and 45
- (iv) a report of the auditors]
- as required by the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999).".

Amendment of law

6. The law mentioned in the Schedule is hereby amended to the extent indicated in the third column of that Schedule. 50

Transitional arrangements

7. (1) Members of the Financial and Fiscal Commission contemplated in section 2 of the principal Act who held office immediately before the commencement of this Act continue to hold office until the expiry of their terms of office.

(2) Any member of the Financial and Fiscal Commission contemplated in section 5 5(1)(b) or (c) of the principal Act and who held office immediately before the commencement of this Act must be regarded as having been appointed in terms of section 5 of the principal Act as amended by this Act.

Short title

8. This Act is called the Financial and Fiscal Commission Amendment Act, 2003. 10

SCHEDULE
AMENDMENT OF LAW

(Section 6)

No and year of law	Short title	Extent of amendment
Act No. 52 of 1997	Organised Local Government Act, 1997	The substitution for section 5 of the following section: “Nomination of persons to Financial and Fiscal Commission 5. (1) Whenever there is a vacancy on the Financial and Fiscal Commission in respect of members contemplated in section 5(1)(c) of the Financial and Fiscal Commission Act, 1997 (Act No. 99 of 1997), each provincial organisation may nominate one person in writing for appointment to the Financial and Fiscal Commission. (2) (a) If there is one vacancy, the executive committee of the national organisation must compile a list consisting of no more than four and no less than two nominees. (b) If there are two vacancies, the executive committee of the national organisation must compile a list consisting of no more than six and no less than four nominees. (3) The executive committee of the national organisation must submit the list to the Minister of Finance.”.

MEMORANDUM ON THE OBJECTS OF THE FINANCIAL AND FISCAL COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL, 2003

1. The main purpose of the Bill is to amend the Financial and Fiscal Commission Act, 1997 (Act No. 99 of 1997) ("the Act"), in order to bring the Act into line with the Constitution as amended by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Second Amendment Act, 2001 (Act No. 61 of 2001). The last mentioned Act reduced the number of members of the Financial and Fiscal Commission from 22 members to nine members and changed the appointment procedure for such members.

2. The Bill also seeks to amend section 3 of the Act by proposing the insertion of a provision which would require any organ of state which intends assigning or delegating any power or function to an organ of State in another sphere of government to request the Financial and Fiscal Commission's advice on any financial implications of the said assignment or delegation. In terms of the proposed amendment, an assignment or delegation has no legal force until the organ of state assigning or delegating has indicated to the Commission the extent to which it has given consideration to the Commission's advice. The reason for the proposal is that any such assignment or delegation inevitably has a financial and fiscal impact, which may, at times, result in unfunded mandates for provincial or local governments.

3. The proposed amendments to sections 4 and 5 of the Act are to bring the Act into line with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999).

4. The Bill also proposes an amendment to section 5 of the Organised Local Government Act, 1997 (Act No. 52 of 1997), in order to provide for a process whereby organised local government participates in the compilation of a list from which the President will make two appointments in terms of section 5 of the Act to the Financial and Fiscal Commission. This amendment also stems from the amendment of the Constitution referred to in paragraph 1.

5. Lastly, the Bill seeks to effect certain consequential amendments and to provide transitional arrangements.

6. DEPARTMENTS AND BODIES CONSULTED

- * Department of Provincial and Local Government.
- * The Financial and Fiscal Commission.
- * The Provincial Treasuries.
- * South African Local Government Association.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR STATE

None.

8. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The State Law Advisers and the National Treasury are of the opinion that this Bill must be dealt with in accordance with the procedure prescribed by section 76(1) of the Constitution since it provides for legislation envisaged in section 220(3) of the Constitution.