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## GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 1489

9 November 2021

**NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE AMENDMENT BILL IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND PUBLICATION OF EXPLANATORY SUMMARY**

1. The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby gives notice in terms of Rule 276(1)(b) of the Rules of the National Assembly, of the introduction of the National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill in the National Assembly.
2. The explanatory summary of the Bill is published in accordance with Rule 276(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly.

Uncontrolled veldfires are responsible for environmental degradation, loss of jobs, displacement of communities, and general destruction of infrastructure, livestock, habitat and biodiversity. The main object of the Bill is to effect amendments to the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998) in order to—

- (a) improve the administration of the Act;
- (b) deal with a number of important technical enhancements;
- (c) align the legislation with the post 1996 Constitutional framework; and
- (d) ensure that the Act remains responsive and relevant in the field of combating and preventing veld and forest fires.

The Bill provides for the facilitation of the formation of fire protection associations by municipalities or a traditional council. The Bill provides that municipalities, state owned enterprises, public entities or other organs of state which own land must join fire protection associations. The Bill extends the powers of entry, search, seizure and arrest to peace officers and traditional leaders under certain conditions. The Bill makes provision for appeals against decisions made under delegated authority in terms of the Act. The Bill further amends the title of the Act to National Veldfire Act.

A copy of the Bill and the memorandum of objects can be found on the website of the Department at <http://www.environment.gov.za> and, after introduction, may also be obtained from the website of the Parliamentary Monitoring Group at <http://www.pmg.org.za> and the Government website at <https://www.gov.za/documents/bills>, as well as the Government Printers: Cape Town (Telephone number: (021) 465-7531).



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