

BILL NO. 26 OF 2026

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS SERVICE ACT
2014

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment) Act 2026.

(2) This Act comes into force on 1 August 2026.

(3) In this Act, the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Act 2014 is referred to as the “Principal Act”.

Section 2 amended

2. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) deleting the definition of “at-risk student” and substituting the following—

““at-risk student” means a student who—

(a) is a recipient of a scheme; and

- (b) has been identified by an eligible institution as requiring additional care, equitable consideration and appropriate support to successfully complete their course of study and obtain an academic qualification;”;
- (b) deleting the definition of “eligible institution” and substituting the following—
 - ““eligible institution” means an institution approved by the Minister and listed in the Service’s Scholarship Policies Handbook;”;
- (c) deleting the definition of “schemes” and substituting the following—
 - ““schemes” means the tertiary scholarship and loans schemes approved through Budget process and outlined in the Service’s Scholarship Policies Handbook;”;
- (d) deleting the definition of “student” and substituting the following—
 - ““student” means any person who has been awarded by the Service with a sponsorship to study at an eligible institution;”.

Section 4 amended

- 3.** Section 4 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (4).

Section 5 amended

- 4.** Section 5 of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) in paragraph (a), deleting “Schedule 2” and substituting “the Service’s Scholarship Policies Handbook”; and
- (b) deleting paragraphs (c) to (e) and substituting the following—
 - “(c) develop processes to determine the applicable criteria for eligible institutions to access funding from the Service;
 - (d) develop processes with the Immigration Department and other government agencies for the facilitation and enforcement of the schemes, loan repayments, bond monitoring and recoveries and any condition; and
 - (e) develop processes to carry out accountable administration of scholarships.”.

Section 6A amended

- 5.** Section 6A(1) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “Chief Executive Officer” and substituting “Service”.

Section 7 amended

- 6.** Section 7 of the Principal Act is amended after “reappointment” by inserting “for a second term only”.

Section 10 amended

7. Section 10 of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) in subsection (4), deleting “4” and substituting “3”; and
- (b) after subsection (5), inserting the following new subsection—

“(5A) All members present in a meeting of the Board must make a decision or vote on matters presented during that meeting.”.

Section 13 amended

8. Section 13(1) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “the Solicitor-General and 2 other members as appointed by the Solicitor-General” and substituting “independent members as determined by the Service”.

Section 14 amended

9. Section 14 of the Principal Act is amended after subsection (2) by inserting the following new subsection—

“(3) Where there is a vacancy in the position of Chief Executive Officer, the Board may, after consultation with the Minister, appoint one or more senior officers of the Service to act in the capacity of the Chief Executive Officer of the Service in accordance with the terms and conditions as may be determined by the Board.”.

Section 15 amended

10. Section 15(2) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “, subject to the approval of the Board”.

Section 18 amended

11. Section 18(1) of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) in paragraph (a), after “thereof;” deleting “or”;
- (b) in paragraph (b), deleting “.” and substituting “; or”; and
- (c) after paragraph (b), inserting the following new paragraph—

“(c) fails to make bond repayment in accordance with the payment arrangement determined by the Service.”.

Section 18B amended

12. Section 18B of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) in subsection (1)—
 - (i) in paragraph (a), after “scheme;” deleting “or”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (b), deleting “.” and substituting “; or”; and
 - (iii) after paragraph (b), inserting the following new paragraph—

“(c) provides the Service with any false or misleading information on any scholarship processes.”; and

(b) in subsection (2)—

- (i) in paragraph (a), deleting “on a scholarship scheme; or” and substituting “or to the Service on any scholarship processes;”;
- (ii) in paragraph (b), deleting “.” and substituting “; or”; and
- (iii) after paragraph (b), inserting the following new paragraph—

“(c) issuance of a written notice and suspension of funding to an eligible institution if the Service determines that the eligible institution has failed to comply with the applicable requirements.”.

Section 26 deleted

13. The Principal Act is amended by deleting section 26.

Schedule 1 deleted

14. The Principal Act is amended by deleting Schedule 1.

Schedule 2 deleted

15. The Principal Act is amended by deleting Schedule 2.

June 2026

**TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS SERVICE (BUDGET
AMENDMENT) BILL 2026**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Bill and is intended only to indicate its general effect)

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (**‘Bill’**) seeks to amend the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Act 2014 (**‘Act’**) to provide for the 2026-2027 budgetary policy changes to *inter alia* update outdated definitions, remove the need for constant amendment of schedules by repositioning the list of approved schemes and eligible institutions to the Service’s Scholarship Policies Handbook, and refine roles, functions and processes for greater operational efficiency of the Service.

2.0 CLAUSES

- 2.1 Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title and commencement. If passed by Parliament, the amending legislation will come into force on 1 August 2026.
- 2.2 Clause 2 of the Bill amends section 2 of the Act to redefine “at-risk student”, “eligible institution”, “schemes” and “student”.
- 2.3 Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 4 of the Act to delete subsection (4) so that the outdated provision in relation to the appointment of Board members is removed.
- 2.4 Clause 4 of the Bill amends section 5 of the Act to *inter alia* facilitate the transition of matters dealt with in Schedule 2 to now be prescribed in the Service’s Scholarship Policies Handbook instead, and to update provisions to reflect the current functions of the Service.
- 2.5 Clause 5 of the Bill amends section 6A(1) of the Act so that the Board of the Service may now delegate its powers to the Service instead of the Chief Executive Officer.
- 2.6 Clause 6 of the Bill amends section 7 of the Act to specify that a Board member may be reappointed for a second term only.

- 2.7 Clause 7 of the Bill amends section 10 of the Act to *inter alia* reduce the quorum required for meetings of the Board from 4 members to 3 members.
- 2.8 Clause 8 of the Bill amends section 13(1) of the Act to change the composition of the Appeals Committee.
- 2.9 Clause 9 of the Bill amends section 14 of the Act to allow for the appointment of one or more senior officers of the Service to act as Chief Executive Officer during periods of vacancy in the position.
- 2.10 Clause 10 of the Bill amends section 15(2) of the Act to remove the additional requirement for the approval of the Board on a determination made by the Chief Executive Officer as to the remuneration, terms and conditions of employment for employees of the Service.
- 2.11 Clauses 11 and 12 of the Bill amend sections 18 and 18B of the Act, respectively, to update the actions that the Service can take against students and guarantors, and against eligible institutions, in cases of default of repayment, provision of false or misleading information, or non-compliance with applicable requirements.
- 2.12 Clauses 13, 14 and 15 of the Bill delete section 26, Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 of the Act, respectively, as the eligible institutions and available schemes will now be listed in the Service's Scholarship Policies Handbook instead.

3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1 The Act comes under the responsibility of the Minister responsible for education.

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