

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FIREARMS CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL

*(As introduced in the National Assembly (proposed section 75); explanatory
summary of Bill published in Government Gazette No. of 2025)*
(The English text is the official text of the Bill)

(MINISTER OF POLICE)

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

[] Words in bold and in brackets [] denote deletions; and
 _____ Underlined words denote additions or insertions

BILL

To amend the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000), in order to provide for the insertion of a definition for "Authority", "ballistic sampling", "blank ammunition"; blank firearm"; "Automated Ballistic Identification System", "family member"; "fit and proper person"; "forum"; 'percussion/cap and ball firearm', "prohibited firearm" and "Service"; the substitution of the definitions for "dedicated hunter", "dedicated sportsperson", "firearm", "Minister", "muzzle loading firearm", "occasional hunter", "occasional sports person", "professional hunter", "private collector"; "public collector"; and "restricted firearm"; to provide for the amendment of the Preamble; to provide for the amendment of the Purpose of the Act and the insertion of Principles and the Objects of the Act; deletion of other references to muzzle loading firearms and consequential amendments relating thereto; to provide for the amendment of the provision relating to prohibited firearms; to provide for the issue of competency certificates to persons between the age of 18 and 21 years based on compelling reasons; to provide for the verification by accredited associations of applications to possess a firearm; to provide for the period of validity of all competency certificate to be five years; to provide for the Registrar to provisionally suspend the processing of an application for a competency certificate where the applicant has been issued with an interim protection order

in terms of the Domestic Violence Act or the Protection from Harassment Act ;
to provide for the time period for the renewal of a competency certificate; to
provide for matters relating to additional licences; to provide that firearm
licences may be issued for self-defence purposes under exceptional
circumstances; to provide for conditions under which a firearm licence for
occasional hunting or sports-shooting may be issued; to provide for the
limitation on the number of firearm licences that an occasional hunter or
sportsshooter may hold; to provide for the types of firearms, other than a
prohibited firearm, for which a firearm licence may be issued to a dedicated
hunter or dedicated sports- person; to provide for the limitation of firearm
licences that may be issued to a dedicated hunter, dedicated sports-person or
professional hunter; to provide for the deletion of the provision that permits a
public collector to possess projectiles, rifle grenades and cartridges
manufactured to be discharged by prohibited firearms; to provide for the
reduction in the rounds of ammunition that a public collector may possess; to
provide for the deletion of the provision that requires that a prohibited or
restricted firearm that is displayed in an accredited museum must have
undergone a prescribed reversible non-damaging procedure before it is
displayed; to provide that a restricted or prohibited firearm or device in a public
collection may only be possessed if permanently deactivated; to provide that a
restricted firearm may be issued by the Registrar upon certain factors, including
a valid need; to provide for certain obligations of the Private Security Industry
Regulatory Authority and accrediting associations towards the Registrar; to
provide for the Registrar's obligations towards the Private Security Industry
Regulatory Authority; to provide for the establishment of a Consultative Forum
and matters related thereto; to provide for the marking of muzzle loading
firearms in dealers stock in a prescribed, non-damaging manner; to provide for

the ballistic sampling of firearms in possession of the private security industry and in official institutions; to provide for the deletion of the provision relating to the sale or donation of a firearm without the intervention of a dealer; to provide that the Registrar may restrict the number and types of firearms and ammunition that may be imported or exported; to provide for the reduction of the number of ammunition that a licensed firearm holder may possess; to provide for the head of an Official Institution to submit quarterly reports to the Registrar on losses or theft of firearms and matters related thereto; to provide for ballistic sampling of firearms in possession of Official Institutions; to provide for the Registrar to suspend firearm licences of licence holders charged with an offence under the Domestic Violence Act and the Protection of Harassment Act; to provide for the Registrar to issue a warrant for the search and seizure of competency certificates, permits, firearms and ammunition in possession of firearm licence holders declared unfit to possess a firearm and ammunition; to provide for the Registrar to submit quarterly reports to the Minister and Parliament on losses and theft of firearms issued to members of the police and other Official Institutions; to provide for the designation of a Designated Firearms Officer at each police station with a clear description of functions, in order to strengthen the control over firearms in possession of the police, other Official Institutions and private security service providers and to improve the processing of applications for competency certificates and firearm licences; to provide for obligations of commanders, including station commanders in respect of the control over firearms; to provide for the strengthening of the independence of the Appeal Board and the functions of the Appeal Board; to provide for the Central Firearms Database to contain a dedicated database of firearm licences issued to security service providers linked to the database of the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority; to provide for the deletion of the

provision that allows for a person who surrenders a firearm during an amnesty to apply for a licence in respect of that firearm; to provide for powers of the Minister to prescribe matters pertaining to the processing of applications for firearm licences and competency certificates, the functioning of the Appeal Board and the carrying of firearms by security officers in the execution of their duties and functions; to provide for the executor or administrator of a deceased estate to notify the Registrar of the death of the licence holder and of the place where the firearm of the deceased will be kept; to provide for the Registrar to issue a temporary authorisation to possess a firearm or ammunition in the deceased estate until the executor or administrator of the deceased estate is appointed; to provide for the inclusion of ammunition in the provision of the Act that deals with inherited firearms; to provide for the executor or administrator of a deceased estate to remain in possession of the estate firearm until the application of a firearm licence is decided; to provide for regulations to be made as a result of the amendments; to provide for the licensing of muzzle loading firearms within twelve months from the date of commencement of the Amendment Act; to provide that a licence or permit issued in respect of a prohibited firearm, device, ammunition, projectile, rifle grenade and cartridges to a private collector shall remain valid until the date of expiry of that licence; to provide for an additional licence issued in respect of a valid licence to possess a firearm or restricted firearm for self-defence to remain valid for the lifetime of the licensed holder; to provide for a valid firearm licence issued for dedicated hunting, dedicated sports-shooting, professional hunting and for private collection to remain valid for the lifetime of the licensed holder; to provide for a valid firearm licence issued for private and public collection to remain valid for the lifetime of the licensed holder; to provide that a valid licence, competency

certificate, permit or authorisation shall remain valid for a lifetime of the licensed holder, ; to provide for the compliance by Official Institutions to Chapter 11 of the Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

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

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Amendment of section 1 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 1 of Act 43 of 2003, section 1 of Act 28 of 2006 and section 7 of Act 6 of 2000

1. Section 1 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), is hereby amended—

(a) by the insertion after the definition of "authorised person" of the following definitions:

" **'Authority'** means the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority established under section 2 of the Private Security Industry Regulation Act, 2001 (Act 56 of 2001);

'Automated Ballistics Identification System' means the computerised system which consists of computerised instruments through which the process of taking three dimensional images of a discharged bullet or cartridge case, collected from a crime scene is compared with a —

- (a) bullet or cartridge case discharged from a firearm found at a crime scene or linked in any manner with a crime scene; or
- (b) discharged bullet or cartridge case from a firearm which has been ballistically sampled in terms of section 23A;";

'ballistic sampling' means the discharging of a firearm in order to obtain a cartridge case, bullet or projectile to scan and store details thereof into the Automated Ballistics Identification System used by the South African Police Service, for comparison in the investigation of crimes committed with firearms;";

" **'blank ammunition'** means a complete object consisting of at least a cartridge case, primer and propellant, but no bullet;

" **'blank firearm'** means any device manufactured or designed to discharge blank ammunition, but does not include any device contemplated in section 5;

- (b) by the substitution for the definition of "dedicated hunter" of the following definition:

" **'dedicated hunter'** means a person who qualifies to engage in hunting and actively participates, in the prescribed manner in such hunting [activities] activity and who is a member of an accredited hunting association;"

- (c) by the substitution for the definition of "dedicated sports person" of the following definition:

" **'dedicated sports person'** means a person who qualifies to engage in sports-shooting under this Act and actively participates, in the prescribed manner, in such sports-shooting and who is a member of an accredited sports-shooting organisation;"

- (d) by the insertion after the definition of "Designated Firearms Officer" of the following definition:

" **'family member'** means a group of two or more persons who are related by birth, marriage or adoption, who live together.";.

- (e) by the substitution in the definition of "firearm" for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) device, including any muzzle loading firearm, manufactured or designed to propel a bullet or projectile through a barrel or cylinder by means of a burning propellant, at a muzzle energy exceeding 8 joules (6ft-lbs);";

(f) by the substitution in the in the definition of "firearm" for the words following paragraph (e) of the following words:

"but does not include **[a muzzle loading firearm or]** any device contemplated in section 5;";

(g) by the insertion after the definition of "firearm" of the following definitions: "**'Forum'** means the Consultative Forum established in terms of section 20A";

(h) by the substitution for the definition of "Minister" of the following definition:

" **'Minister'** means the **[Minister of Safety and Security]** member of the Cabinet responsible for policing";

(i) by the substitution in the definition of "muzzle loading firearm":

" **'muzzle loading firearm'** means **[—**

(a)] a barrelled device that can fire only a single shot, per barrel, and requires, after each shot fired, the individual reloading through the muzzle end of the barrel with separate components consisting of a—

[(i)](a) measured charge of black powder or equivalent propellant;

[(ii)](b) wad; and

~~[(iii)]~~~~(c)~~ **[lead]**bullet, sabot or shot functioning as a projectile,
and ignited with a flint, match, wheel **[or]**, percussion
cap, primer or other ignition system";

- (j) by the substitution for the definition of "occasional hunter" of the following definition:

" **'occasional hunter'** means any person who, from time to time,
participates in hunting activities **[but who is not a member of an
accredited hunting association]**";

- (k) by the substitution for the definition of "occasional sports person" of the following definition:

" **'occasional sports person'** means any person who, from time to time, participates in sports-shooting **[but who is not a member of an
accredited sports-shooting organisation]** ";

- (l) by the insertion after the definition of "occasional sports person" of the following definition:

" **'percussion cap-and-ball firearm'** means a revolver or rifle with a
cylinder or any number of barrels which is capable of discharging more
than two shots in succession after loading of the cylinder or barrels
through the muzzle or directly into the cylinder with separate
components consisting of a —

- (a) measured charge of black powder or equivalent propellant;
and
(b) bullet, sabot or shot, functioning as a projectile, and ignited by
a percussion cap or primer or other ignition system";

- (m) by the substitution after the definition of "previous Act" of the following definition:

“private collector” means a person who under this Act collects firearms or ammunition **[, who is a member of an accredited collectors association]** and who is not a public collector;

- (n) by the substitution for the definition of "professional hunter " of the following definition:

" **'professional hunter'** means any person who supervises, escorts, offers to, or agrees to supervise or escort a client, for reward in connection with the hunting of a wild or exotic animal, who is authorised to do so in terms of any applicable legislation and is a member of an accredited professional hunting association;";

- (o) by the insertion after the definition of "professional hunter" of the following definition:

" **'prohibited firearm'** means a firearm or device the possession of which is prohibited under section 4;";

- (p) by the substitution for the definition of "public collector" of the following definition:

" **'public collector'** means a person who under section 19 collects firearms or ammunition for display to the public and is accredited as such;";

- (q) by the substitution for the definition of "restricted firearm" of the following definition:

" **'restricted firearm'** means any **[firearm contemplated in section 14(1)]**—

- (a) semi-automatic rifle or semi-automatic shotgun, which cannot readily be converted into a fully automatic firearm; or

- (b) firearm declared by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*, to be a restricted firearm;; and
- (r) by the insertion after the definition of "semi-automatic" of the following definition:

" 'Service' means the South African Police Service established in terms of section 5(1) of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No. 68 of 1995);".

Amendment of section 2 of Act 60 of 2000

2. Section 2 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) to ensure restricted access to firearms by civilians to ensure public order, to secure and protect civilians, and to comply with regional and international instruments on firearms control;".

Insertion of sections 2A and 2B in Act 60 of 2000

3. The following sections are hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 2:

"Principles of Act

2A. The underlying principles of this Act are to —

- (a) confirm firearm possession and use as not being a right but a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety; and
- (b) improve public safety by—

- (i) imposing strict controls on the possession and use of firearms;
- (ii) promoting the safe and responsible storage and use of firearms;
and
- (iii) providing a framework for a holistic approach to the control of
firearms.

Objects of Act

- 2B.** The objects of this Act are to—
- (a) prohibit the possession and use of prohibited firearms and self-loading
rifles and shotguns, except in exceptional circumstances;
 - (b) establish an integrated licensing and registration scheme for all
firearms;
 - (c) require each person who possesses or uses a firearm under the
authority of a licence to provide a valid reason for possessing or using
the firearm;
 - (d) provide strict requirements that must be satisfied in relation to licensing
and renewal of licences in respect of firearms and the acquisition and
supply of firearms; and
 - (e) ensure that firearms are stored and conveyed in a safe and secure
manner;”.

Amendment of section 3 of the principal Act, as substituted by section 2 of Act 28 of 2006

4. Section 3 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the deletion of subsection

(2).

Amendment of section 4 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 2 of Act 43 of 2003 and section 3 of Act 28 of 2006

5. Section 4 of the principal Act is hereby amended— (a)

by the substitution for the heading of the following heading

“Prohibited firearms, devices and ammunition”

(b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words—

"The following firearms and devices are prohibited firearms and may not be possessed or licensed in terms of this Act, except as provided for in sections 17, 18(5), 19 and section 20(1)(b):";

(c) by the substitution for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) Any fully automatic firearm, or a device or conversion kit to convert a semi-automatic firearm to a fully automatic firearm.”.

(d) by the insertion in subsection (1) after paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

“(dA) any grenade or rifle-grenade;”;

(e) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:

“(e) any imitation of any device contemplated in paragraph (a), (b), (c), **[excluding the frame, body or barrel of a fully automatic firearm, or]** (d) or (dA);”; and

(f) by the insertion in subsection (3) after paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(aA) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette*, declare any specified type of ammunition to be prohibited ammunition, which may not be possessed in terms of this Act if it is-

(i) in the interest of public safety;

(ii) desirable for the maintenance of law and order; or (iii) to ensure the safety of law enforcement officials.".

Insertion of section 4A in Act 60 of 2000

6. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 4:

"Blank firearms and blank ammunition"

4A. (1) No person may possess a blank firearm.

(2) No person may possess blank ammunition, unless authorised in terms of section 90 of the Act.

Amendment of section 5 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 4 of Act 28 of 2006

7. Section 5 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the deletion in subsection (1) of paragraph (e).

Amendment of section 6 of Act 60 of 2000

8. Section 6 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

"(b) if the applicant has attained the age of 21 years and complies with all the applicable requirements of this Act;" and

(b) by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsections:

"(1A) Despite subsection (1)(b), the Registrar may issue

a competency certificate, licence, permit or authorisation contemplated in this Act to an applicant who is between the age of 18 years and 21 years if there are compelling reasons as contemplated in section 9(5)(b).

(1B) If a person contemplated in subsection (1A) is an applicant for a firearm licence, permit or authorisation, such applicant must have been constantly supervised for a period of 12 months on the use and handling of a firearm by a person who is over the age of 21 years and who has held a licence for a similar type of firearm for a period of at least one year.

(1C) The applicant contemplated in subsection (1A) must furnish an affidavit from the supervisor contemplated in subsection (1B) confirming that the applicant has been provided with the supervision on the use and handling of a firearm.

(1D) Any person who provides false information in respect of the supervision contemplated in subsection (1B) and (1C) is guilty of an offence."

Amendment of section 7 of Act 60 of 2000, as amend by section 6 of Act 28 of 2006

9. Section 7 of the principal Act is amended by—

(a) the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsection:

"(1A) The natural person nominated in terms of subsection (1) must hold an executive or managerial position in the juristic person."

(b) the insertion after subsection 1(A) of the following subsection:

“(1B) If a juristic person has more than one business operation it must appoint a responsible person for each operation, for purpose of control and management of firearms as prescribed.”

Amendment of section 8 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 7 of Act 28 of 2006

10. Section 8 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition of the following subsections:

“(7) The chairperson or an authorised office bearer of an association or organisation accredited in terms of this Act must as prescribed, verify the application made by members of that association for a licence to possess a firearm for—

- (a) dedicated sports shooting;
- (b) dedicated hunting; or
- (c) professional hunting.

(8) The Registrar may take into account the verification by the accredited association or organisation when considering the application referred to in subsection (7), by a member of that association.

(9) The Registrar may refuse the application on good cause shown in which case the Registrar must notify the applicant in writing of the decision, including reasons, within 30 days.

Amendment of section 9 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 3 of Act 43 of 2003 and section 8 of Act 28 of 2006

11. Section 9 of the principal Act is amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection: "(1)

An application for a competency certificate to possess a firearm, to possess a muzzle loading firearm, to trade in firearms and ammunition, to manufacture firearms or ammunition, for private security purposes or to carry on business as a gunsmith, must be delivered to the Designated Firearms Officer responsible for the area in which the applicant ordinarily resides or in which the applicant's business is or **[will]** shall be situated, as the case may be.";

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

"[Where a person has not previously obtained a competency certificate, a] A competency certificate may only be issued to [such] a person if he or she—";

(c) by the substitution for paragraph (o) of the following:

"(o) has not been convicted of, whether in or outside South Africa, of an offence involving **[sabotage, terrorism,]** public violence, arson, intimidation, rape, kidnapping or child stealing **[whether in or outside South Africa;];"**

(d) by the insertion of a new paragraph (oA);

"(oA) has not been convicted of an offence in terms of the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004, the Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorism and Related Activities Act, 2004 and the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 1998"

(e) by the substitution of subsection (4) for the following subsection;

"(4) The disqualification contemplated in subsection

2(p) ends upon the expiry of the period **[of five years calculated from a date on which the person became or was declared unfit, or the expiry of the period of which the declaration is valid, whichever occurs first]** for which a person was declared unfit to possess a firearm or determined to be unfit to possess a firearm, as contemplated in section 102 and 103 of this Act.”.

(f) by the substitution for subsection (5) of the following subsection:

"(5) (a) Despite subsection (2)(a), the Registrar may allow a person **[under]** between the age of 18 years and 21 years to apply for a competency certificate if there are compelling reasons which require the person to obtain a competency certificate or licence to possess a firearm.

(g) by the addition of the following subsections:

"(7) If there is an interim protection order in force in terms of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act No. 116 of 1998), or the Protection from Harassment Act, 2011 (Act No. 17 of 2011), at the time of the making of the application for a competency certificate or renewal thereof, the Registrar must during the consideration of the application, depending on the nature of the particular order sought, suspend the processing of the application pending the final determination of the interim protection order.

(8) (a) The Registrar must determine by way of the integrated electronic repository for domestic violence protection orders in terms of section 6A of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act No 116 of 1998) whether the applicant has any interim protection orders served on him or her during the period referred to in subsection (7).

(b) The applicant must disclose to the Registrar any

interim protection order served on him or her during the period referred to in subsection 7.

(c) The applicant who fails to disclose to the Registrar any interim protection order served on him or her during the period referred to in subsection (7) is guilty of an offence.

(9) A competency certificate may not be issued to any person who had been —

- (a) convicted of any offence that has an element of violence;
- (b) sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine."

Amendment of section 10 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 9 of Act 28 of 2006

- 12.** Section 10 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
- (a) by deletion in subsection (1)(a) of the word "or" at the end of subparagraph (iii);
 - (b) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the full-stop at the end of paragraph (b) of the expression "and";
 - (c) by the addition in subsection (1) of the following paragraph:
 - "(c) (i) the period of its validity; and
 - (ii) other information as may be prescribed."; and
 - (d) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) [A] Subject to Items 1B and 1G of Schedule 1, a competency certificate contemplated in—

(a) subsection 1(a)(i) and (iB) of this section remains valid for [the same period of validity as the period determined in this Act in respect of the licence to which the competency certificate relates] a period of 5 years from the date of issue thereof;

(b) subsection 1(a) (ii), (iii) and (iv) of this section remains valid for a period of 2 years from the date of issue thereof;

unless the competency certificate is terminated or renewed in accordance with the provisions of this Act."; and

(e) by the deletion of subsection (3).

Amendment of section 10A of Act 60 of 2000, as inserted by section 10 of Act 28 of 2006

13. Section 10A of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

"(1) Any holder of a competency certificate

[contemplated in sub-section (2) and section 9(1) and] who wishes to renew the competency certificate must apply in the prescribed form to the Registrar for its renewal **[together with an application for the renewal of the licence to which the competency certificate relates]** at least ninety days before its expiry date."; and

(b) by the deletion of subsections (2).

(c) by the addition of the following subsections after subsection (7)

"(8) If an application for the renewal of a competency certificate is made less than 90 days before the date of expiry of the certificate, an administrative fine, as provided for in section 122 may be imposed, taking into account any motivated explanation which the applicant may have presented in the application form for renewal of the certificate;

(9) If an application for the renewal of a competency certificate is made in less than 90 days before expiry thereof and an administrative fine has been imposed, this does not disqualify the applicant from the renewal of the certificate; and

(10) A person applying for the renewal of a competency certificate must subject all firearms that were licensed using that competency certificate for inspection by the Designated Firearm Officer, as prescribed. "

Insertion of section 10B of Act 60 of 2000

14. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 10A:

10.B Termination of a competency certificate

(1) A competency certificate issued in terms of this Chapter terminates—

- (a) upon the expiry of the relevant period contemplated in section 10, unless renewed in terms of section 10A;
- (b) if surrendered by the holder of the competency certificate to the Registrar;
- (c) if the holder of the competency certificate becomes or is declared unfit to possess a firearm in ^[U]_{SEP} terms of section 102 or 103; or
- (d) if it is cancelled in terms of this Act.

- (2) (a) If a competency certificate is terminated in terms of subsection (1), the former holder of the competency certificate must dispose of any firearm licensed using that competency certificate as contemplated in section 28 (1A).
- (3) The Registrar may, by notice in writing, cancel a competency certificate issued in terms of this Chapter if the holder of the competency certificate-
- (a) no longer qualifies to hold the competency certificate; or
 - (b) has contravened or failed to comply with any provision of this Act or any condition specified in the competency certificate.
- (4) A notice contemplated in subsection (3) may only be issued if the Registrar has-
- (a) given the holder of the competency certificate 30 days' notice in writing to submit written representations as to why the competency certificate should not be cancelled; and
 - (b) duly considered any representations received and all the facts pertaining to the matter.

Insertion of section 11A of Act 60 of 2000

15. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 11:

Reason for requiring a firearm licence

11A. (1) The Registrar may not issue a licence that authorises the possession of a firearm unless the Registrar is satisfied that the applicant has a valid reason for possessing the firearm in line with the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Registrar may only issue a licence in terms of this Act if the applicant —

- (a) states that he or she intends to possess the firearm for any one or more of the reasons set out in this Chapter; and
- (b) provides written proof and evidence to the satisfaction of the Registrar in relation to the requirements set out in this Chapter and as prescribed for acquiring a firearm licence under this Act."

Amendment of section 12 of Act 60 of 2000

16. Section 12 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for section 12 of the following section:

"Additional licences

12. (1) The Registrar may issue an additional licence in respect of a firearm contemplated in section 13, **[14,]** 15 and 16 to **[every person]** a family member who resides **[on]** in the same **[premises]** household as the holder of the licence in respect of the firearm in question, as prescribed.

(2) **[Every holder of]** A family member who applies for an additional licence in terms of this section must comply with all the requirements for the issue of a licence in respect of the firearm in question.

(3) If the holder of a licence and the family member who holds an additional licence contemplated in subsection (1) **[moves from the premises in question]** are no longer residing in the same household, such

additional licence lapses and the **[person]** family member to whom such additional licence was issued must return that licence to the Registrar forthwith."

Amendment of section 13 of Act 60 of 2000

17. Section 13 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for section 13 of the following section:

Licence to possess firearm for self-defence

13(1) A natural person applying for a licence under this section must satisfy the Registrar that there are exceptional circumstances that demonstrate the applicant's need for a licence to possess a firearm for self-defence.

(2) The Registrar may only issue a licence under this section to a person after having regard to—

- (a) the exceptional circumstances set out in a sworn statement or solemn declaration by the natural person that indicate a real threat on the safety of the person applying for the licence and the level of that threat;
- (b) historic incidents where the safety of the person applying for the licence was affected;
- (c) the geographical distance from the nearest police station to the residential or business premises of the person applying for the licence;

- (d) whether the person applying for a licence has access to resources other than a firearm which may be available to that person to decrease any risks or vulnerability to safeguard his or her life;
- (e) whether there is a likelihood that the exceptional circumstances or any other factor contemplated in this subsection will continue to exist throughout the period of validity if a licence is issued under this section;
and
- (f) any other factor which may, from time to time, be determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

- (3) The Registrar may only issue a licence under this section in respect of— (a) a shotgun which is not fully or semi-automatic; or
(b) a handgun which is not fully automatic.

- (4) For purposes of a determination under this section, the Registrar may take into consideration any other fact that he or she believes to be relevant to achieve the objects of the Act.

- (5) Subject to subsection (6), the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette determine a category of persons who may be issued with a licence to possess a firearm under this section.

- (6) When determining a category of persons contemplated in subsection (5), the Minister must have regard to any risk factor or threat— (a) associated with any trade, occupation or profession;
(b) that may render a category of persons more vulnerable to a loss of life on account of age, gender or disability.

(7) No person may hold more than one licence issued in terms of this section.

(8) A firearm in respect of which a licence has been issued in terms of this section may be used where it is safe to use the firearm and for the purpose for which the licence was issued".

Repeal of section 14 of Act 60 of 2000

18. Section 14 of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

Amendment of section 15 of Act 60 of 2000

19. Section 15 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the insertion after subsection (2) of the following subsection: '(2A) The firearm licence for occasional hunting or

occasional sport-shooting purposes may only be issued if the applicant—

(a) is the owner or lawful occupier of property where occasional hunting or occasional sport-shooting shall take place; or

(b) produces documentary proof of permission by the owner or lawful occupier of property referred to in paragraph (a), to engage in occasional hunting or occasional sport-shooting on the said property."

(b) by the substitution in subsection (3) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) Subject to paragraphs **[(b),]** (c) and (d), no person may hold more than **[four]** three licences issued in terms of this section.";

- (c) by the deletion in subsection (3) of paragraph (b):
- (d) by the substitution in subsection (3) for paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

"(d) If a person contemplated in paragraph (a) holds any additional licences contemplated in section 12 in respect of a firearm contemplated in this section **[and section 13]**, the number of licences which that person may hold must be reduced by the number of such additional licences held.";

- (e) by the insertion after subsection (3) of the following subsection:

"(3A) The number of firearm licences that a person holds in terms of this section must be reduced by the number of firearm licences that the person holds in terms of any other section under this Act."; and

- (f) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

"(4) A firearm in respect of which a licence has been issued in terms of this section may be used where it is safe to use the firearm and for **[a lawful purpose.]** the purpose for which the licence was issued".

Amendment of section 16 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 4 of Act 43 of 2003

20. Section 16 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraphs (a) and (b) of the following paragraphs:

"(a) handgun which is not **[fully automatic]** prohibited;

- (b) rifle or shotgun which is not **[fully automatic]** prohibited";

(b) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) The Registrar may issue a licence in terms of this section to any natural person who is a dedicated hunter or dedicated sports person if the application is accompanied by a sworn statement or solemn declaration from the chairperson of an accredited hunting association or sports-shooting organisation, or someone delegated in writing by him or her, stating that the applicant— (a) is a registered member of that association;
(b) has actively participated in hunting or shooting events recognised by that association; and
(c) has, during the preceding period of 24 months, complied with requirements of being awarded with a dedicated hunter or dedicated sports person status as prescribed."; and

(c) by the addition of the following subsections:

"(5) A person may not hold more than six licences in terms of this section.

(6) A person issued with a licence in terms of this section may not hold more than two licences each in respect of a—

(a) handgun;

(b) semi-automatic rifle; or

(c) pump action or semi-automatic shotgun, for dedicated hunting or a dedicated sports-shooting.

(7) A semi-automatic rifle or a semi-automatic shotgun may only be registered in terms of this section to a person who has maintained a dedicated status as a hunter or sports-shooter for a period of at least two years and continues to maintain such a dedicated status.

(8) Any application for a licence under this section must be accompanied by a written motivation containing at least the following information—

- (a) the needs of the dedicated hunter or dedicated sports shooter;
- (b) the type of firearm required;
- (c) the shooting disciplines that the applicant is involved in; and (d)
such other information as may be prescribed.

(9) The motivation contemplated in subsection (8) must be supported by the chairperson or authorised office bearer of the relevant hunting association or sports-shooting organisation, as the case may be.

(10) Where a licence holder under this section ceases to hold the status as dedicated hunter or dedicated sports-shooter, the licence holder must, in writing, notify the Registrar of such cessation within 30 days of ceasing to hold such status, and the Registrar must follow the process in section 28 for the cancellation of the licence.

(11) Any failure by the holder to comply with the provisions of subsection (10) constitutes an offence.

(12) The association or organisation which has granted dedicated status to the member involved must, at the end of the association's year, provide a report in the prescribed manner to the

Registrar on all its members who have—

- (a) not renewed their membership;
- (b) had their membership suspended;
- (c) failed to comply with the requirements for awarding dedicated hunter or sport shooter status; and

(d) been expelled from the association.

(13) If a person issued with a licence in terms of this section holds any other licence contemplated in sections 12, 15 and 16A, the number of licences which that person may hold in terms of this section must be reduced by the number of such other licences held.

(14) Despite subsections (5) and (13) the Registrar may on good cause shown issue additional licences to a dedicated sport-shooter on application.

(15) The Registrar will determine good cause by having regard to the factors as prescribed'.

Amendment of section 16A of Act 60 of 2000, as inserted by section 12 of Act 28 of 2006

21. Section 16A of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

"(3) A firearm in respect of which a licence has been issued in terms of this section may be used by the professional hunter for his or her private use and professional hunting purposes where it is safe to use the firearm [and for a lawful purpose] the purpose for which the licence was issued".

(b) by the addition of the following subsections after subsection (4)—

"(5) A person may not hold more than eight licences in terms of this section.

(6) A person who is a professional hunter may not be issued

with more than two licences each in respect of a —

- (a) handgun;
- (b) semi-automatic rifle;
- (c) semi-automatic shotgun; or
- (d) pump action.

(7) Any application for a licence under this section must be accompanied by a written motivation containing at least the following information:

- (a) The needs of the professional hunter;
- (b) the type of firearm required; and
- (c) such other information as may be prescribed.

(8) The motivation contemplated in subsection (7) must be supported by the chairperson or an authorised office bearer of the relevant professional hunting association.

(9) Where a licence holder under this section ceases to hold the status as a professional hunter, the licence holder must, in writing, notify the Registrar of such cessation within 90 days of ceasing to hold such status and the Registrar must follow the process in section 28 for the cancellation of the licence.

(10) The failure by the holder to comply with the provisions of subsection (9) constitutes an offence.

(11) The association which has granted the professional hunter status to the member involved must, at the end of the association's year, provide a report in the prescribed manner to the Registrar on all its members who have—

- (a) not renewed their membership;
- (b) had their membership suspended;

- (c) failed to comply with the requirements for awarding professional hunter status; and
- (d) been expelled from the association.

(12) If a person issued with a licence in terms of this section holds any other licence contemplated in sections 12, 15 and 16, the number of licences which that person may hold in terms of this section must be reduced by the number of such other licences held

(13) Despite subsections (5) and (12) the Registrar may on good cause shown issue additional licences to a professional hunter on application.

(14) The Registrar will determine good cause by having regard to the factors as prescribed'."

Amendment of section 17 of Act 60 of 2000, as substituted by section 13 of Act 28 of 2006

22. Section 17 of the principal Act is hereby amended –

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) A firearm which may be possessed in a private collection is **[any]** a firearm approved for collection by an accredited collector's association, based upon such historical, heritage, technological, scientific, educational, cultural, commemorative, investment, rarity, thematic or artistic value determined by the association, of which the private collector is a member in good standing and where such firearm has been demonstrated to be part of the said private collector's approved field of interest or theme or both such field or theme.";

(b) by the substitution for subsection (1A) of the following subsection.

“(1A) The number of firearms that a private collector, in respect of a prescribed category, may collect are the following -

(a) Category A – not exceeding 100 but not more than 50 prohibited and restricted firearms;

(b) Category B – not exceeding 50 firearms but not more than 20 restricted firearms;

(c) Category C – not exceeding 20 ordinary firearms; and

(d) Category D – not exceeding six.”.

(c) by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (1A) -

“(1B) An accredited collectors’ association may not classify a private collector in more than one Category at a given time.

(1C) Where a private collector graduates from a lower to a higher category, the number of firearms held by the private collector in the lower category will be limited to the maximum number of firearms applicable to the next higher category.

(1D) Where a private collector downgrades to a lower category, the number of firearms held by the private collector in the higher category will be reduced to the maximum number of firearms applicable to the lower category.

(1E) A restricted or prohibited firearm or device possessed for purposes of private collection, may only be possessed if permanently deactivated in the prescribed manner.

(1F) Any firearm, other than a restricted or prohibited firearm, which was manufactured after 1900 and which is possessed in a private collection must be

stored after having undergone a prescribed non-damaging procedure to ensure that no cartridge can be loaded into or discharged from that firearm."

(d) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) The Registrar may issue a licence in terms of this section to a private collector if the application is accompanied by a sworn statement or solemn declaration from the chairperson of an accredited collectors association, or someone delegated in writing by him or her, stating that the applicant is a registered member in good standing of that association and qualifies to collect the firearm, prohibited firearm or restricted firearm."

(e) by the deletion of subsections (3A) and (4);

(f) by the addition of the following subsections after subsection (4);

"(5) Notwithstanding section 91 of this Act, a private firearm collector's licence does not authorise the possession and use of ammunition for any firearm that is part of the firearms collection to which the licence relates.

(6) Despite subsection (5), a private firearm collector may possess a maximum number of ten cartridges for a particular firearm in the collection for purposes relating to genuine collecting and collector activities in terms of this section.

(7) In terms of this section, members of the same household may not be collectors of both firearms and ammunition of similar calibre or type."

Amendment of section 18 of Act 60 of 2000

23. Section 18 of the principal Act is hereby amended –

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) Ammunition which may be possessed in a private collection is any ammunition approved for collection by an accredited collectors association~~[.]~~, subject to section 17(5) and 17(6).”

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(2) (a) The Registrar may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, issue a permit in terms of this section to a private collector if the application is accompanied by a sworn statement or solemn declaration from the chairperson of an accredited collectors association, or someone delegated in writing by him or her, stating the applicant is a registered member in good standing of that association.”.

by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

“(b) A collector contemplated in paragraph (a) may not possess more than **[200]** 25 rounds of ammunition of any particular calibre **[unless the Registrar approves the possession of a higher number in writing]**.

(c) by the deletion of subsection (5); and

(d) by the addition of the following subsection after subsection (5):

“(6) In terms of this section, members of the same household may not be collectors of both firearms and ammunition of similar calibre or type.”.

Amendment of section 20 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 3 of Act 43 of 2003

24. Section 20 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraphs (a) and (b) of the following paragraphs, respectively:

"(a) A firearm in respect of which a licence may be issued in terms of this section is any firearm other than a prohibited or restricted firearm.

(b) Despite paragraph (a), a licence in respect of a **[prohibited or] restricted** firearm may be issued to a person contemplated in subsection (2)(c) but such person may only provide the **[prohibited or] restricted** firearm for use in theatrical, film or television productions and then only if the prior written approval of the Registrar has been obtained and on such conditions as the Registrar may impose.";

- (b) by the addition in subsection (1) of the following paragraphs:

"(c) Despite paragraph (a), a licence in respect of a restricted firearm may be issued to a person contemplated in subsection (2)(a),(b),(d) and (e) and (f) if the Registrar is satisfied, taking into account the nature of the business of the applicant, the extent of the risks involved in conducting the business and the need for a restricted firearm.

(d) In evaluating the extent of the risk referred to in paragraph (bA), the Registrar may require the applicant to furnish a risk assessment report. ";

- (c) by amending paragraph (f) in subsection (2)

“any person who is accredited to use firearms for such

other business purpose as prescribed. **[the Registrar may determine]**

(d) by the insertion after subsection (2) of the following subsections: "(2A)

The Registrar, in considering the application in

terms of this section must take into account the nature, the extent, the purpose of the business and a need for the use and transportation of firearms in that type of business."; and

(2B) An application by a security service provider must be accompanied by a recommendation from the Authority as prescribed in the Regulations issued in terms of the Private Security Industry Regulation Act.

(e) by the addition of the following subsections:

"(8) (a) The Authority must on a monthly basis inform the Registrar of any new registration, suspension, sale, transfer, liquidation, merger, lapsing or termination of the registration or ownership of a security service provider or any other material change or reason that would necessitate the licensing, relicensing or disposal of firearms in the possession of such security service provider.

(b) The association that accredits persons referred to in subsection (2)(b),(c),(d) and (e) must inform the Registrar of any new accreditation, suspension, sale, transfer, liquidation, merger, lapsing or termination of accreditation or membership of the business of the accredited persons, or any other material change or reason that would necessitate the licensing, relicensing or disposal of firearms in the possession of such persons.

(9) The Registrar must, at the written request of the Authority, submit a list of all firearms registered to a particular security service provider within 30 days of the request being made.

(10) It is an offence for a security service provider and any person contemplated in this subsection to hire out or permit any other person to use a firearm issued under this section for any purpose other than the purpose for which the licence was issued.

(11) The Registrar may not issue a licence to a security service provider until written proof of the award of a contract to render a security service that require the use of firearms is furnished.

(12) Despite subsection (11), the Registrar may issue a letter to a security service provider who meets the requirements of the Act, stating that the firearm licence shall be issued upon the award of the contract.

(13) When the Registrar is informed of any circumstances referred to in subsection (8)(a), the Registrar may cancel a firearm licence in terms of section 28 of the Act."

Insertion of sections 20A, 20B, 20C and 20D in Act 60 of 2000

20: **25.** The following sections are hereby inserted in the principal Act after section

"Establishment of Consultative Forum

20A. The Consultative Forum is hereby established.

Composition of Forum

20B. (a) The Forum shall consist of—

- (i) the Head of the Central Firearm Register or his or her delegate;
- (ii) the Director of the Authority or his or her delegate;
- (iii) senior management staff from the Central Firearms Register, as identified by the Head, who are responsible for the database and applications by security service providers for firearms; and
- (iv) the senior management staff of the Authority, as identified the Director of the Authority, who are responsible for the registration of security service providers and the management of its database of security service providers that require firearms.

(b) The chairperson of the Forum shall be the Director of the Authority and the Head of the Central Firearm Register alternating on a quarterly basis.

Functions of Forum

20C. The Forum must—

- (a) consider reports of the Central Firearms Register and the Authority on the firearms issued to security service providers;
- (b) consider reports on the status of security service providers;
- (c) facilitate interaction and co-operation between the Central Firearms Register and the Authority; and
- (d) submit quarterly reports to the Minister and the National Assembly on the number of firearms and ammunition recovered from security service providers that have ceased to conduct business as security service providers.

Meetings of Forum and administrative support

20D. (1) The Forum must meet at least once every quarter.

(2) The first meeting of the first quarter must be convened and hosted by the Director of the Authority, and he or she shall be the chairperson for that quarter.

(3) The administrative and other support services for the meetings of the Forum shall be provided by the entity hosting the meeting.

(4) The meetings of the Forum must be convened by the chairperson of the Forum in the prescribed manner."

Amendment of section 21 of Act 60 of 2000

26. Section 21 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the deletion of subsection (1);
- (b) by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsections:

(1A) The Registrar may issue a temporary authorisation to a person contemplated in section 147A.

(1B) The validity period of a temporary authorisation issued in terms of this section for a specific firearm as determined by the Registrar may not be extended; and

(1C) Despite subsection (1B), a temporary authorisation issued in terms of subsection (1A) may be extended if the winding-up of the deceased estate is not finalised."; and

- (c) by the deletion of subsection (2);

(d) by the substitution in subsection (5) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) if the Registrar, at the time of the issuing of the authorisation, by endorsement on the authorisation, permits such use; and".

Substitution of section 22 of Act 60 of 2000

27. The following section is hereby substituted for section 22 of the principal Act:

"Holder of licence may allow another person to use firearm"

22. [Despite anything to the contrary in this Act but subject]

Subject to section 120(5), any person who is—

(a) at least 21 years of age and who, for at least one year, is the holder of a valid licence to possess a firearm issued in terms of this Act, may allow any **[other]** person above the age of 16 years to use that firearm while under his or her immediate supervision where it is safe to use the firearm **[and for a lawful purpose].'** ; or.

(b) a professional hunter between the age of 18 and 21 who is a valid holder of a firearm licence issued in terms of this Act may allow any person above the age of 16 years to use that firearm while under his or her immediate supervision where it is safe to use the firearm.

Insertion of section 23A in Act 60 of 2000

28. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 23:

"Ballistic sampling of firearms

23A. (1) The owner of every firearm except for a muzzle loading firearm but including any firearm licensed for—

- (a) business purposes;
- (b) business purposes related to the private security industry in terms of the Private Security Industry Regulation Act, 2001 (Act No. 56 of 2001);
- (c) occasional and dedicated sports shooting;
- (d) occasional and dedicated hunting;
- (e) professional hunting; or
- (f) public collection, subject to the firearm being able to safely fire any ammunition and the availability of ammunition for such firearm,

must comply with a programme published by the Minister by notice in the Gazette to have the firearms in their possession ballistically sampled.

(2) Whenever there is a change in ownership, the original owner must ensure that the firearm is submitted to the designated firearms officer for ballistic sampling of the firearm, before the ownership of the firearm is transferred to any other person.

(3) A firearm submitted in terms of subsection (1) must be subjected to the relevant sampling process and handed back immediately to the owner and may not be kept by the officer designated by the Registrar to perform the sampling test.

(4) The sampling of firearms must be arranged in advance with the officer designated by the Registrar to perform the sampling test.

(5) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette,

determine a date by which firearms in the possession of different categories of owners must have been submitted for ballistic sampling, which date may be extended by the Minister.

(6) This section may be implemented over a period of time subject to financial and technical capability to give effect thereto.

(7) A person who in terms of this section submits his or her firearm for ballistic sampling must provide a cartridge for that purpose.

(8) If the person contemplated in subsection (7) cannot provide a cartridge due to its scarcity, the State will where possible provide a cartridge."

Amendment of section 24 of Act 60 of 2000

29. Section 24 of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

Amendment of section 25 of Act 60 of 2000

30. Section 25 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) The Registrar must, within 30 days after receiving a notice referred to in subsection (1), acknowledge receipt of that notice in writing or by short-messaging system."

Amendment of section 26 of Act 60 of 2000

31. Section 26 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) The Registrar must, within 30 days after receiving a notice referred to in subsection (1), acknowledge receipt of that notice in writing or by short-messaging system."

Amendment of section 27 of Act 60 of 2000, as substituted by section 18 of Act 28 of 2006

32. Section 27 of the principal Act is hereby amended by— (a) substituting the words preceding the Table for the following:
"A licence or permit issued in terms of this Chapter remains valid unless terminated in terms of section 28"

(b) the deletion of the Table.

Amendment of section 28 of Act 60 of 2000

33. Section 28 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
(a) by the insertion after subsection (1) of the following subsection:

"(1A) If the licence is terminated in terms of subsection (1) the holder of a licence must dispose of his or her firearm within 60 days of the termination of the licence in the following manner:

(a) by surrendering the firearm to the nearest police station for destruction;

(b) through a dealer; or

(c) by having the firearm deactivated in the prescribed manner."

(1B) A holder of a firearm licence must surrender a firearm for ballistic profiling to a police station, before disposing of it in the manner referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1A)."

- (b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

"The Registrar may, by notice in writing, cancel a licence as contemplated in subsection (1)(d) that is issued in terms of this Chapter if the holder of the licence—"; and

- (c) by the substitution for subsection (6) of the following subsection: "(6) Any period contemplated in **[this section]** subsections (3), (4) and (5) may be extended by the Registrar on good cause shown."

Amendment of section 31 of Act 60 of 2000, as substituted by section 19 of Act 28 of 2006

34. Section 31 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) **[Subject to subsection (3), a]** A person who is not a dealer may dispose of a firearm **[, muzzle loading firearm]** or ammunition only through a dealer or as otherwise provided for in this Act."; and

Amendment of section 35 of Act 60 of 2000

35. Section 35 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection 3:

“3A. No application for renewal of a dealer’s license may be granted unless the applicant satisfies the Registrar that he or she has actively traded since the issue or last renewal of the license”;

(b) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

"(4) If an application for the renewal of a dealer's licence has been lodged **[within the period provided for in subsection (1),]** before the expiry of that licence, the licence remains valid until the application is decided."; and

(c) by the addition of the following subsections:

"(5) If an application for the renewal of a dealer's licence is not made within the period provided for in subsection (1), and is made when the date of expiry of the licence is less than 90 days from the date of application for renewal, an administrative fine, as provided for in section 122 may be imposed, taking into account any explanation which the applicant may have presented in the application form for renewal of the licence.

(6) If an application for the renewal of a licence is made in less than 90 days before expiry thereof and an administrative fine has been imposed, this does not disqualify the applicant from the renewal of the licence."

Amendment of section 38 of Act 60 of 2000

36. Section 38 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) The Registrar must, within 30 days after receiving a notice referred to in subsection (1), acknowledge receipt of that notice in writing or by short-messaging system."

Amendment of section 39 of Act 60 of 2000

37. Section 39 of the principal Act is hereby amended –

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

"(2A) A dealer must subject all firearms in his or her stock to ballistic sampling."

"(2B) A dealer may not sell a firearm that has not been subjected to ballistic sampling."

(b) by the deletion of subsections (7) and (8).

Amendment of section 42 of Act 60 of 2000

38. Section 42 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) upon the expiry of **[one year]** two years from the date on which it was issued;"

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words: "The Registrar may, by written notice, cancel a dealer's licence as contemplated in subsection (1)(d) if the holder of the licence—".

Amendment of section 45 of Act 60 of 2000

39. Section 45 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (2) -

"(3) It is an offence for any person, except the manufacturer of ammunition to be in possession of equipment designed and manufactured to reload ammunition.

Amendment of section 49 of Act 60 of 2000

40. Section 49 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

"(4) If an application for the renewal of a manufacturer's licence has been lodged **[within the period provided for in subsection (1),]** before the expiry of that licence, the licence remains valid until the application is decided.";

(b) by the addition of the following subsections:

"(5) If an application for the renewal of a manufacturer's licence is not made within the period provided for in subsection (1), and therefore made when the date of expiry of the licence is less than 90 days from the date of application for renewal, an administrative fine, as provided for in section 122 may be imposed, taking into account any explanation which the applicant may have presented in the application form for renewal of the licence.

(6) If an application for the renewal of the licence is made in less than 90 days before expiry thereof and an administrative fine has been imposed, this does not disqualify the applicant from the renewal of the licence.".

Amendment of section 52 of Act 60 of 2000

41. Section 52 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) The Registrar must, within 30 days after receiving a notice referred to in subsection (1), acknowledge receipt of that notice in writing or by short-messaging system.".

Amendment of section 53 of Act 60 of 2000

42. Section 53 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection: "(2) A manufacturer must apply or affix such serial number or any other mark to any firearm or muzzle loading firearm manufactured by the manufacturer as may be prescribed."; and
- (b) by the substitution in subsection (5) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) any firearms, muzzle loading firearm or ammunition that the manufacturer may have in stock;".

Amendment of section 56 of Act 60 of 2000

43. Section 56 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) upon the expiry of **[one year]** two years from the date on which it was issued;”

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words: "The Registrar may, by written notice, cancel a manufacturer's licence as contemplated in subsection (1)(d) if the holder of the licence—".

Amendment of section 63 of Act 60 of 2000

44. Section 63 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (4) of the following subsection:

"(4) If an application for the renewal of a gunsmith's licence has been lodged **[within the period provided for in subsection (1),]** before the expiry of that licence, the licence remains valid until the application is decided.";

(b) by the addition of the following subsections:

"(5) If an application for the renewal of a gunsmith's licence is not made within the period provided for in subsection (1), and therefore made when the date of expiry of the licence is less than 90 days from the date of application for renewal, an administrative fine, as provided for in section 122 may be imposed, taking into account any

explanation which the applicant may have presented in the application form for renewal of the licence.

(6) If an application for the renewal of a licence is made in less than 90 days before expiry thereof and an administrative fine has been imposed this does not disqualify the applicant from the renewal of the licence."

Amendment of section 66 of Act 60 of 2000

45. Section 66 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) The Registrar must, within 30 days after receiving a notice referred to in subsection (1), acknowledge receipt of that notice in writing or by short-messaging system."

Amendment of section 67 of Act 60 of 2000

46. Section 67 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the deletion of subsections (6) and (7).

Amendment of the Heading of Chapter 8 of Act 60 of 2000

47. The Heading of Chapter 8 of the principal Act is substituted for the following heading

"IMPORT, EXPORT, **[AND]** CARRIAGE IN-TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION "

Amendment of section 70 of Act 60 of 2000

48. Section 70 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

“(a) upon the expiry of **[one year]** two years from the date on which it was issued;”

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words: “The Registrar may, by written notice, cancel a gunsmith's licence as contemplated in subsection (1)(d) if the holder of the licence—”.

Amendment of section 73 of Act 60 of 2000

49. Section 73 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition of the following subsection:

(3) “No person other than a dealer, manufacturer or gunsmith may apply for a permanent import permit.”.

Amendment of section 74 of Act 60 of 2000

50. Section 74 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition of the following subsections:

“(3) A person who is arriving in the Republic and who is legally in possession of any firearm or ammunition from his or her country of origin and who has declared the firearm upon disembarking, but whose firearm is not licensed in terms of this Act, must deposit the firearm with

Customs for delivery to the Designated Firearms Officer at the port of entry for safe-keeping or for the issuance of the permit for prescribed purposes.

(4) If the importation of the firearm contemplated in subsection (3) is allowed, and the person wishes to obtain a firearm licence in terms of this Act, the application must be made in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(5) If the person contemplated the subsection (3) is not issued with a licence or a permit to import, the firearm or ammunition in question shall remain in the custody of the Designated Firearms Officer, until otherwise disposed of in accordance with this Act.

(6) A prohibited firearm may not be imported in terms of this section."

Insertion of section 74A in Act 60 of 2000

51. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 74

Limitation on issuing of export permit

74A. (1) An export permit for any firearm or ammunition may only be issued after the submission of an import permit for the firearms and ammunition in question issued by the relevant authority in the country of destination."

(2) Whenever a threshold had been determined in terms of section 4(4) of the National Conventional Arms Control Act, 2002 (Act No. 41 of 2002), for the National Commissioner to submit for approval to the National Conventional Arms Control Committee any application for the export of firearms and ammunition of such type and exceeding such quantity as may be prescribed, an export licence under this

Act may only be issued if the Conventional Arms Control Committee has approved the export.”.

(3) Whenever multiple applications for the export of firearms and ammunition is received from an exporter to the same country within three months, the total number per type of firearm and the total quantity of ammunition applied for in all applications will be taken into account upon receipt of subsequent applications during the same period and may not jointly exceed the threshold in respect of types of firearms and quantity of ammunition in terms of section 4(4) of the National Conventional Arms Control Act, 2002 (Act No. 41 of 2002).”.

(4) The requirements of section 17 of the National Conventional Arms Control Act, 2002, regarding end-user certificates are mutatis mutandis applicable to any application for the export of firearms above the threshold determined in terms of section 4(4) of the Conventional Arms Control Act, 2002.

(5) When considering any application for the export of firearms in terms of this section -

(a) the national security interests of the Republic must be safeguarded;

(b) international law, norms and practices and the international

obligations and commitments of the Republic, including United Nations Security

Council arms embargoes must be adhered to.”.

Amendment of section 81 of Act 60 of 2000

52. Section 81 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

"The Registrar may, by written notice, cancel an import, export or in-transit permit as contemplated in subsection (1)(d) if the permit holder—".

Amendment of section 84 of Act 60 of 2000

53. Section 84 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

"**[No]** Subject to subsection (3), no person may carry a firearm in a public place unless the firearm is carried—"; and

(b) by the addition of the following subsection:

(3) The Minister may prescribe the manner in which a firearm must be carried by a security officer in the performance of his or her duties and functions."

Amendment of section 85 of Act 60 of 2000

54. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 85:

"Firearm storage permit

85A (1) No person other than a dealer may provide storage facilities for firearms or ammunition to another person without a permit.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) a holder of a firearm licence may in the prescribed manner authorise in writing another licence holder to store his or her firearm for a specified period.

(3) The provisions of subsection (2) do not apply to section 20 licence holders".

Amendment of section 86 of Act 60 of 2000

55. Section 86 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the addition after subsection (3) for the following subsection:

" (4) Any person who is not in possession of firearm transporters permit issued in terms of this Act, may not transport more than five firearms at a time."

Amendment of section 91 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 26 of Act 28 of 2006

56. Section 91 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection: "(1)

The holder of a licence to possess a firearm referred to in Chapter 6 may not possess more than **[200]** 100 cartridges for each firearm in respect of which he or she holds a licence.";

(b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for the words preceding paragraphs (a) of the following words:

"[The limitation in] Despite subsection (1) **[does not apply to], the Registrar may, on good cause shown, authorise—";**

(c) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (a) of the following paragraph:

"(a) a dedicated hunter, dedicated sports person **[or]**, a professional hunter, occasional hunter, occasional sports person or an

accredited training service provider who holds a licence issued in terms of this Act or any other holder of a licence issued in terms of this Act **[authorised by the Registrar]** to possess more than **[200]** 100 cartridges for a firearm in respect of which he or she holds a licence **[on good cause shown]**; or"; and

(d) by the addition of the following subsection:

"(3) The Registrar in determining good cause must take into account the following:

- (a) Proof of the frequency of the use of the firearm;
- (b) the level of participation in the activity for which the firearm is registered;
- (c) the number of cartridges used per occasion for the particular activity; and
- (d) any other relevant factors or circumstances which may be prescribed."

Amendment of section 93 in Act 60 of 2009, as amended by section 27 of Act 28 of 2006

57. Section 93 of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

Amendment of section 95 of Act 60 of 2000

58. Section 95 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by substituting paragraph (vi) by the following paragraph:

“(vi) any government institution including a foreign government institution accredited by the Registrar as an Official Institution.”.

(b) by adding paragraph (iii) after paragraph (ii)

(iii) in relation to a foreign government institution, means any member appointed in terms of the applicable legislation

Amendment of section 96 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 29 of Act 28 of 2006

59. Section 96 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

“(1) No provision of this Act other than this Chapter, Chapter 12, section 109 **[and]**, section 145, and item 1D of Schedule 1, in so far as it relates to Official Institutions, applies to an Official Institution.”.

Amendment of section 98 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 10 of Act 43 of 2003

60. Section 98 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition of the following subsection:

“(11) The head of an Official Institution must submit a quarterly report to the Registrar on the following:

(a) The number and type of firearms and the ammunition that have been lost or stolen;

(b) the date of the loss or theft of the firearms and the ammunition;

- (c) the circumstances surrounding the theft or loss of the firearms and ammunition;
- (d) the action taken against the implicated employee; and
- (e) the preventative measures adopted to prevent further losses and theft of firearms and ammunition."

Insertion of sections 98A and 98B in Act 60 of 2000

61. The following sections are hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 98:

"Ballistic sampling of firearms of Official Institutions

98A. (1) The Head of an Official Institution must comply with a notice issued by the Minister in the *Gazette* for the ballistic sampling of all firearms in the custody of such Head.

(2) The results of the ballistic sampling of all firearms referred to in subsection (1) must be placed on the Automated Ballistics Identification System.

(3) The Divisional Commissioner responsible for Forensic Science Laboratory in the Service must submit an annual report to the Registrar and the Minister on the—

- (a) storage of the results of ballistic sampling of firearms in the custody of the Head of Official Institutions; and
- (b) use of all the results of ballistic sampling on the Automated Ballistics Identification System.

Date of ballistic sampling

98B. (1) The Minister may, by notice in the *Gazette* determine the date by which the firearms in possession of a particular Official Institution must be ballistically sampled, which date may be extended by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*.

(2) Different dates for different areas in the Republic may be determined by the Minister for the ballistic sampling of firearms in the possession of the respective Official Institutions."

Substitution of heading of Chapter 12 of Act 60 of 2000

62. The following heading is hereby substituted for the heading of Chapter 12:

"SUSPENSION OF FIREARM LICENCE AND DECLARATION OF PERSONS AS UNFIT TO POSSESS FIREARM".

Amendment of section 102 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 21 of Act 17 of 2011

63. Section 102 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
(a) by the substitution for the heading of the following heading:

"Declaration [by Registrar of person] of persons as unfit to possess firearm and suspension of a competency certificate and firearm licence";

(b) by the insertion of section 1A after subsection (1)

“(1A) The Registrar may institute section 102 proceedings against any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provisions of this Act.”.

(c) the addition of the following subsections:

"(5) If the Registrar in terms of subsection (1) declares a person unfit to possess a firearm he or she must determine the period of such unfitness.

(6) In accordance with this section, the Registrar may suspend a person's licence or a competency certificate pending the final determination of his or her fitness to possess a firearm in terms of this section or section 103, if the Registrar becomes aware that the person has been—

(a) charged with or investigated for any offence that involves an element of violence; or

(b) served with an interim protection order in terms of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act No. 116 of 1998), or the Protection from Harassment Act, 2011 (Act No. 17 of 2011), the nature of which involves an element of violence.

(7) Where a licence or competency certificate has been suspended in terms of subsection (5), the Registrar must serve personally or by post on that person a notice stating that the licence or competency certificate is suspended and the reasons for its suspension.

(8) A licence or a competency certificate that authorises a person to possess a firearm is automatically suspended on the making of an interim protection order issued against such person in terms of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act No. 116 of 1998), or the Protection from Harassment Act, 2011 (Act No. 17 of 2011).

(9) A suspension in terms of subsection (5) remains valid until the—

- (a) process in terms of this section has been finalised;
- (b) interim protection order is confirmed or revoked; or
- (c) person is acquitted of the relevant charge or such charge is withdrawn.

(10) Whenever an interim or final protection order is revoked or a charge that has an element of violence is withdrawn or a licence holder is acquitted of such charge, the firearm must be returned to the licence holder.

(11) A person whose firearm licence is suspended in terms of this section must, within 24 hours of being issued with a notice of suspension, surrender all firearms and ammunition registered in his or her name and in his or her possession to the nearest police station for safekeeping, as prescribed, pending the final determination of his or her fitness to possess a firearm.

(12) Once an interim protection order is confirmed, or a final protection order has been issued against a licensee in terms of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act No. 116 of 1998), or an interim protection order is confirmed, or a final protection order has been issued against the licensee in terms of the Protection from Harassment

Act, 2011 (Act No. 17 of 2011), the licence holder is automatically unfit to possess a firearm.

(13) If a licence has been suspended in terms of this section all—

(a) competencies, licences, authorisations and permits issued to the relevant person in terms of this Act;

(b) firearms in his or her possession; and (c) ammunition in his or her possession, must be seized in terms of this Act."

Amendment of section 103 of Act 60 of 2000

64. Section 103 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (3) of the following subsection:

“(3) A court which has convicted a person of a crime or an offence contemplated in subsection (1), has made a determination contemplated in that subsection or has made a declaration in terms of subsection (2) must notify the Registrar in writing of that conviction, determination or declaration including the period of that declaration."

Amendment of section 104 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 32 of Act 28 of 2006

65. Section 104 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the deletion of subsection (6).

Amendment of section 120 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 6 of Act 15 of 2003 and section 15 of Act 43 of 2003

66. Section 120 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the deletion in subsection (5) of the word "or" at the end of paragraph (a);
- (b) by the substitution in subsection (5) for the fullstop at the end of paragraph (b) of the expression "or"; and
- (c) by the addition in subsection (5) of the following paragraph:

"(c) to be a child under the age of 16 years, if such a child is not supervised by a licensed firearm holder."

- (d) by the insertion in subsection (6) of the following paragraph:

“(a) any firearm, an antique firearm, [or] an airgun or a blank firearm, whether or not it is loaded or capable of being discharged, at any other person, without good reason to do so; or

(b) anything which is likely to lead a person to believe that it is a firearm, an antique firearm, [or] an airgun or a blank firearm at another person, without good reason to do so.”.

- (e) by the insertion in subsection (8) of the following paragraph:

“(c) carries or uses a firearm issued in terms of Chapter 6 anywhere other than travelling to or at the premises related to the purpose for which it was acquired and licensed.”.

- (f) by the insertion in subsection (9) of the following paragraph:

“(f) supply particulars, information or answers in an application for a competency certificate, licence, permit, accreditation [or] authorisation or any other application in terms of this Act, knowing them to be false, incorrect, or misleading or not believing them to be correct;

(g) by the insertion in subsection (10) of the following paragraph:

“(b) be in possession of any firearm, airgun, deactivated firearm, muzzle loading firearm, **[or]** imitation firearm, or blank firearm, with intent to commit an offence or to use the firearm, airgun, deactivated firearm, muzzle loading firearm, **[or]** imitation firearm, or blank firearm to resist arrest or prevent the arrest of another person.”.

(h) by the insertion in subsection (10A) of the following paragraph:

“In determining whether a person intends to use the firearm, airgun, deactivated firearm, muzzle loading firearm, **[or]** imitation firearm, or blank firearm to commit an offence, all relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the following must be taken into account:

(c) the manner in which the firearm, airgun, deactivated firearm, muzzle loading firearm, **[or]** imitation firearm, or blank firearm is carried or displayed;

(d) whether the possession of the firearm, airgun, deactivated firearm, muzzle loading firearm, **[or]** imitation firearm, or blank firearm was within the context of drug dealing, gang association, organised crime or any other criminal activity;
or (e) any other relevant factors, including any explanation the person may wish to provide for his or her possession of the firearm, airgun, deactivated firearm, muzzle loading firearm, **[or]** imitation firearm, or blank firearm:
Provided that this paragraph shall not be interpreted as an obligation on the person to explain his or her possession of the firearm, airgun, deactivated firearm, muzzle loading firearm, **[or]** imitation firearm, or blank firearm.”.

Amendment of section 124 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 16 of Act 43 of 2003

67. Section 124 of the principal Act is hereby amended by—

- (a) by the deletion in subsection (2) of the word "and" at the end of paragraph (g);
- (b) by the substitution in subsection (2) for the full-stop at the end of paragraph (i) of the expression "; and";
- (c) by the addition in subsection (2) of the following paragraph:

"(i) submit to the Minister and Parliament a quarterly report on—

- (i) theft and losses of all firearms and ammunition in the possession of, or issued to members of, the Service and other Official Institutions;
- (ii) theft and losses of all firearms and ammunition exhibits and firearms and ammunition surrendered to the Service for destruction;
- (iii) the outcome of the investigations into theft and losses of all firearms and ammunition under the control of the Service and other Official Institutions; and
- (iv) the disciplinary steps taken and criminal prosecutions instituted against members who have lost firearms and ammunition through negligence."; and

- (d) by the addition of the following subsections:

"(4) A Designated Firearms Officer must, as far as practically possible and taking into account—

- (a) the geographical location of a police station;
- (b) the population it serves;
- (c) the extent of the duties of such Designated Firearms Officer at the particular police station; and
- (d) the need for effective service delivery and accessibility of services to the public, be designated at each police station or a station cluster.

(5) The Designated Firearms Officer must, in addition to such firearm-related duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Registrar or the Head of the Central Firearms Register, perform the following functions:

- (a) receive and process all applications for competency certificates, licences and authorisations;
- (b) ensure compliance with Chapter 11 by members of the Service including ensuring that such members undergo the prescribed competency testing, and that an official firearm is only issued to a member who has passed the prescribed tests and has been issued with the prescribed permit to be in possession of a firearm;
- (c) perform inspections at Official Institutions within the police station district to ensure compliance with Chapter 11 of this Act;
- (d) at any reasonable time, perform regular and random inspections at the business premises of security service providers to ensure compliance with this Act, in particular in respect of the safekeeping and issuing of firearms and ammunition to employees;
- (e) ensure that all firearms and ammunition handed in for destruction, and which are identified as having a heritage status, are inspected by a representative of the South African Heritage Resources Agency established in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999), before destruction in order to consider preserving them for heritage purposes; and
- (f) ensure that all firearms destined for destruction be submitted to the Forensic Science Laboratory of the Service for an

Automated Ballistics Identity test.

(6) A Designated Firearms Officer is responsible for functions relating to the administration and compliance of this Act.

(7) A person designated as a Designated Firearms Officer shall be subjected to undergo a vetting investigation referred to in section 2A of the National Strategic Intelligence Act, 1994 (Act No. 39 of 1994).

(8) A designation as a Designation Firearms Officer of a person who fails to obtain successful vetting results shall be withdrawn.

(9) Each Designated Firearms Officer shall be subject to random integrity testing."

Insertion of sections 124A and 124B in Act 60 of 2000

68. The following sections are hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 124:

"Duties of commanders in respect of firearms

124A. Every commander in the Service, including all station commanders, must ensure that—

(a) firearms and ammunition for issue to members of the Service, or kept in the police station as exhibits, are kept safely in accordance with the relevant prescripts, including national instructions made under the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No. 68 of 1995);

- (b) criminal investigations are initiated and disciplinary steps are taken against members of the Service who have lost firearms and ammunition through negligence;
- (c) theft and losses of official firearms and ammunition are reported as soon as possible;
- (d) theft and losses of firearms and ammunition are investigated immediately;
- (e) firearms are not re-issued to members of the Service against whom any of the actions referred to in paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) are still pending;
- (f) steps are taken to recover the costs incurred as a result of negligent losses of firearms and ammunition by members of the Service;
- (g) firearms and ammunition kept as exhibits or surrendered to the Service for destruction at the police station are kept safely and in accordance with the relevant prescripts, including the applicable national instructions made under the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No. 68 of 1995);
- (h) that regular and random inspections of official registers for the booking in and out of firearms and ammunition to members of the Service are performed and also to personally perform such inspections; and
- (i) a bi-monthly report on matters referred to in this section is submitted to the Registrar.

Supervision and control of Designated Firearms Officer

124B. Every station commander must effectively supervise and control the duties and functions set out in section 124A, of each Designated Firearms Officer designated within his or her jurisdiction."

Amendment of section 125 of Act 60 of 2000

- 69.** Section 125 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
- (a) by the insertion in subsection (2) after paragraph (d) of the following paragraph:

"(dA) a record of all firearms licensed to businesses.";
 - (b) by the deletion in subsection (1) of the word "and" at the end of paragraph (f);
 - (c) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (e) of the following paragraph:

"(e) a record of the acquisition, transfer, loss, theft or destruction in respect of firearms in the possession of Official Institutions and businesses."; and
 - (d) by the insertion in subsection (2) after paragraph (f) of the following paragraph:

"(fA) a dedicated database of firearms licences issued to businesses security service providers linked to the database of the Authority listing the number and type of licensed firearms as well as businesses security service providers who have applied for licences;".

Amendment of section 128 of Act 60 of 2000

- 70.** Section 128 of the principal Act is amended—
- (a) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) The Appeal Board consists of [no more than] at

least five but not more than seven members who must be appointed by the Minister on part time basis for a period not exceeding five years, on such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine in a letter of appointment and who, when viewed collectively must **[, must as far as possible be broadly representative of the population of the Republic]**—

(a) be citizens of the Republic;

(b) have not been convicted of a criminal offence involving dishonesty, violence or an offence in terms of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, 1992 (Act No. 140 of 1992)."

(c) have not been convicted of a criminal offence in terms of this Act; and

(d) have not been convicted of an offence involving an element of violence

(b) the addition of the following subsections:

'(3) The Appeal Board is accountable to the Minister.

(4) The head of the Central Firearms Registry must ensure that the Appeal Board is provided, as prescribed, with the necessary documentation and information to enable it to consider appeals.

(5) The Appeal Board—

(a) must consider appeals against decisions of the Registrar made in terms of the Act;

(b) must ensure that appeals are dealt with in accordance with such guidelines as the Minister may prescribe;

(c) must identify systemic problems that result in appeals;

- (d) must submit reports on systemic problems to the Minister at least once every year; and
- (e) may where necessary, invite any person or persons with the relevant expertise to assist the Appeal Board on any technical aspects of the appeal.

(6) The Minister must appoint the chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Appeal Board.

(7) A person who is appointed as the chairperson or the deputy chairperson of the Appeal Board must have practised law for at least ten years.

(8) Any other member of the Appeal Board must have the experience as prescribed.

(9) The deputy chairperson must exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the chairperson whenever the chairperson is unable to do so.

(10) The members of the Appeal Board must be appointed by the Minister through a fair and competitive process as may be prescribed.

(11) The term of appointment of a member of the Appeal Board contemplated in subsection (2) may, before expiry thereof, be renewed for one additional term only.

(12) In the case of a vacancy, the Minister must fill the vacancy within a reasonable period of time."

71. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 128:

"Disqualification, removal and suspension of member of Appeal Board

128A. (1) A person is disqualified from being appointed as a member of the Appeal Board if he or she—

- (a) is not a citizen of the Republic;
- (b) is an un-rehabilitated insolvent;
- (c) has been declared by a competent court to be mentally ill or unfit; or
- (d) has been convicted of a criminal offence involving dishonesty, violence or an offence in terms of the Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, 1992 (Act No. 140 of 1992).".

(2) The Minister may, after due enquiry as prescribed, remove a member from the Appeal Board on account of—

- (a) serious misconduct;
- (b) serious incapacity;
- (c) conflict of interest;
- (d) unethical conduct; or
- (e) disqualification as contemplated in subsection (1).".

Amendment of section 129 of Act 60 of 2000

72. Section 129 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

"(1) The period and conditions of office, remuneration

and allowances of the members of the Appeal Board are as prescribed by the Minister in consultation with **[with the approval of]** the Minister of Finance."

- (b) by the deletion in subsection (2) of paragraph (a); and
- (c) by the substitution in subsection (2) for paragraph (b) of the following paragraph:

"(b) A member may resign by giving 30 days written notice **[in writing]** of intention to resign to the Minister".

Amendment of section 130 of Act 60 of 2000

73. Section 130 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition of the following subsections:

"(3) A simple majority of the members appointed by the Minister constitutes a quorum for meetings of the Appeal Board.

(4) The Appeal Board must determine its own governance rules and procedures."

Substitution of section 131 of the Act 60 of 2000

74. The following section is hereby substituted for section 131 of the principal Act:

"Administrative work of Appeal Board

131. (1) The administrative work of the Appeal Board must be performed by such members of the **[South African Police] Service, or any other employee of the Service,** as may be designated by the National Commissioner in consultation with the chairperson of the Appeal Board:
Provided that a member employed at the Office of the Central Firearms Register may not be designated to perform the administrative work of the Appeal Board.

(2) The Minister must ensure that the Appeal Board is provided with sufficient administrative support and personnel to enable it to perform its functions.

(3) The Appeal Board must function independently of the Office of the Central Firearms Register."

Insertion of sections 131A and 131B in Act 60 of 2000

75. The following sections are hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 131:

"Budget of Appeal Board

131A. An annual operational budget shall be prepared by the National Commissioner in consultation with the chairperson of the Appeal Board and must be provided for under the budget for the Service for the specific and exclusive use of the official duties of the Appeal Board and may not be used for any other purpose.

Reporting to Minister on budget of Appeal Board

131B. The chairperson of the Appeal Board must annually submit a written report to the Minister on the utilisation of the budget of the Appeal Board."

Amendment of section 139 of the principal Act

76. Section 139 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the deletion of subsection (4).

Amendment of section 140 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 17 of Act 43 of 2003 and section 45 of Act 28 of 2006

77. Section 140 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution in subsection (1) for the words preceding paragraph (a) of the following words:

"The Minister may, after consultation with the National Commissioner and the Secretary for **[Safety and Security]** the Police Service appointed in terms of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act, 2011 (Act No. 2 of 2011), by notice in the *Gazette*, declare any premises or categories of premises to be firearm-free zones, if it is—".

Amendment of section 145 of Act 60 of 2000

78. Section 145 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
(a) by the deletion in subsection (1) of the word "and" at the end of paragraph (m);

(b) by the insertion in subsection (1) after paragraph (m) of the following paragraphs:

(mA) the application form for a renewal of a competency certificate;

(mB) the consideration and processing of applications for competency certificates and licences to possess firearms;

(mC) the requirements for awarding a dedicated status to a dedicated hunter or dedicated sports-person;

(mD) Verification of information supplied by the Chairperson or office bearer of accredited association or organisation.

(mE) the report of an accrediting association to the Registrar on its members who have not renewed their membership, been suspended or expelled from the association;

(mF) the non-damaging procedure that a firearm, other than a restricted or prohibited firearm, which was manufactured after the year 1900 must undergo to ensure that no cartridge can be loaded or discharged from that firearm;

(mG) the safety measures for the public display of any licensed firearm or ammunition for which a permit has been issued;

(mH) the manner in which a restricted or prohibited firearm or device possessed for public collection may be permanently deactivated;

(mI) the declaration of certain types of ammunition to be prohibited ammunition.

(mJ) the conditions that the Registrar may impose on a temporary authorisation;

(mK) The seller of a firearm may only sell a firearm registered in his or her own name.

(mL) the marking and affixing of a serial number on muzzle loading firearms which are imported or kept in a dealer's database;

(mM) the marking and affixing of a serial number or other mark to firearms and muzzle loading firearms manufactured by a manufacturer;

(mN) the marking of ammunition at point of manufacture;

(mO) the manner in which a firearm may be carried by a security officer in the course of his or her duties and functions;

(mP) the performance of the functions by Designated Firearms Officers;

(mQ) the provision of documentation and information to the Appeal Board by the head of the Central Firearms Register;

(mR) the guidelines for the consideration and processing of appeals considered by the Appeal Board, including the time-frames within which appeals must be disposed of for the dealing of appeals;

(mS) the experience that any other member of the Appeal Board must have;

(mT) the process for the appointment of members of the Appeal Board;

(mU) the removal of a member of the Appeal Board;

(mV) the measures relating to the storage and safekeeping of firearms or ammunition in a deceased estate;"; and

(c) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:

"(2) A regulation may provide for a penalty for any contravention thereof or failure to comply therewith, of a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding **[12 months]** three years or

both such a fine and such imprisonment in the case of a natural person
and to a fine not exceeding R500 000 in the case of a juristic person.".

**Substitution of section 147 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 48 of Act
28 of 2006**

79. The following section is hereby substituted for section 147 of the principal Act:

**"Disposal of firearms and ammunition in case of death, insolvency or
incapacitation of the holder**

147. (1) In the case of the death or incapacitation of the holder of a
firearm licence, the firearm in question and any ammunition relating thereto
must be disposed of as prescribed.

(2) The executor or administrator of the estate of a deceased
person or the curator of the incapacitated person who comes into possession
of a firearm licensed to the deceased or incapacitated person, and any
ammunition relating thereto, must store the firearm and ammunition as
prescribed."

Insertion of a new section 147A in Act 60 of 2000

80. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section
147:

"Deceased Estates

147A. (1) The executor or administrator of the estate of a deceased person who was authorised by a licence or permit or authorisation to possess a firearm or ammunition, does not commit an offence in terms of this Act in respect of the possession of the firearm or ammunition if the executor or administrator retains possession of the firearm for the purposes of lawfully disposing of it subject to section 147(2)".

(2) The executor or administrator referred to in subsection (1) must—

- (a) notify the Registrar of the death of the person who possessed the firearm or ammunition within 30 days of his or her appointment;
- (b) notify the Registrar of the place where the firearm or ammunition will be kept; and
- (c) while retaining possession of the firearm or ammunition, comply with the same requirements as to the safe keeping of the firearm or ammunition that would apply to a person who is authorised by a license or permit to keep a firearm or ammunition of that kind.

(3) The Registrar may provide a temporary authorisation on such conditions as he or she may determine to a person who is licensed to possess a firearm to be in possession of a firearm or ammunition in a deceased estate—

- (a) until such time the executor or administrator of the estate has been appointed; or
- (b) if the executor or administrator does not have at his or her disposal the prescribed safekeeping facilities available.

(4) The authorisation contemplated in subsection (3) shall terminate upon the finalisation of the estate.

(5) Despite subsection (4) the Registrar may at any time

withdraw the temporary authorisations if any condition contemplated in subsection (2) is not complied with".

(6) Nothing in this section authorises the use of a firearm or ammunition for any other purpose.

Substitution of section 148 of Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 49 of Act 28 of 2006

81. The following section is hereby substituted for section 148 of the principal Act:

"Inherited firearms or ammunition

148. (1) A person who inherits a firearm or **[muzzle loading firearm]** ammunition must within 60 days —

(a) if he or she wishes to keep the firearm or ammunition, apply for an appropriate licence, permit or authorisation in terms of this Act;

[(b) if he or she wishes to keep the muzzle loading firearm, obtain the necessary competency certificate in order to possess the muzzle loading firearm;] or

(c) if he or she does not wish to acquire the firearm or **[muzzle loading firearm]** ammunition, or fails to obtain the appropriate licence, permit or authorisation or competency certificate, have the firearm **[or muzzle loading firearm]** deactivated or dispose of it in terms of this Act.

(2) The **[Registrar may issue a temporary authorization contemplated in section 21, to allow a person who inherits a firearm a reasonable time to dispose of it]** executor or administrator of a deceased estate or a person authorised in terms of section 147A(6) may remain in possession of a deceased estate firearm until such time that the application of the licence to possess such firearm has been decided.

(3) If no application for a firearm licence is made in terms of this Act, or if an application for a firearm licence is refused, the executor or the administrator of the deceased estate must lawfully dispose of the firearm or ammunition within 90 days, in which case the authorisation issued in terms of section 147A(6) remains valid until such disposal.

(4) A contravention of subsection (3) is an offence."

Amendment of section 149 of Act 60 of 2000

82. Section 149 of the principal Act is hereby amended by the addition of subsection (5) after subsection (4)

“(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (4)(b) the Registrar must consent to the destruction of firearms identified as having heritage value in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) if the South African Heritage Resources Agency has not arranged for the lawful disposal of the firearms within six months of being identified as having heritage value.

Amendment of Schedule 1 to Act 60 of 2000, as amended by section 19 of Act 43 of 2003 and section 52 of Act 28 of 2006

83. Schedule 1 to the principal Act is hereby amended—

- (a) by the substitution in item 1A for subitem (3) of the following subitem: "(3)

The period referred to in **[subsection]** subitem (1)

may be extended by the Minister for such period as the Minister may determine by notice in the *Gazette*.";

- (b) by the insertion after item 1A of the following items:

"Licensing of muzzle loading firearms

1B. (1) Any person who possess a muzzle loading firearm at the time of the commencement of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025, must apply for the licensing thereof within two years from the commencement of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025, using a valid competency certificate.

(2) The competency certificate required in respect of a muzzle loading firearm at the time of the application for the licensing thereof shall remain valid until the date of the licence that had been issued and must be renewed in terms section 10A together with the renewal of the said licence.

Possession and surrendering of percussion cap-and-ball and other firearms

1C. (1) Any person who possesses a percussion cap-and ball firearm or a firearm in respect of which a licence was issued to that person prior to the coming into operation of the Arms and Ammunition

Act, 1969—

- (a) must, before the expiry of 18 months from the date of commencement of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025, apply for a firearms licence to possess such percussion cap and-ball firearm or a firearm in respect of which a licence was issued to that person prior to the coming into operation of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969:
- (b) may lawfully possess such percussion cap-and-ball firearm or firearm—

 - (i) until the expiry of the period referred to in paragraph (a);
or
 - (ii) if an application has been made for a licence to possess such percussion cap-and-ball firearm or firearm during the period referred to in paragraph (a), until such application has been decided; and
- (c) who has not applied for a firearm licence in respect of that percussion cap-and-ball firearm or firearm before the expiry of the period referred to in paragraph (a), must surrender such percussion cap-and-ball firearm or firearm to the nearest police station.
- (2) No prosecution may be instituted during the period referred to in subitem (1)(a) against any person found in possession of a percussion cap-and-ball firearm or firearm, referred to in subitem (1), without being in possession of a licence.
- (3) The Service may dispose of any percussion cap-and-ball firearm or firearm surrendered to it in terms of subitem (1)(c) in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

(4) A receipt must be issued to the person who surrenders a percussion cap-and-ball firearm or firearm in accordance with subitem (1)(c).

(5) Percussion cap-and-ball firearms which were registered before 30 June 2004 as firearms must be licensed free of charge before the expiry of the period referred to in subitem (1).

Compliance by Official Institutions

1D. All Official Institutions must, within one year of the commencement of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025, be fully compliant with the provisions of Chapter 11, and Heads of Official Institutions must report to the Registrar on progress made on a quarterly basis.

Re-licensing of firearms

1E. (1) Any licence which was—
(a) issued in terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969 or previous legislation; and
(b) not renewed as contemplated in this Act, remains valid for a period of two years from the coming into operation of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025.

(2) Item 1(1) and (3) apply with the necessary changes required by the context, to item 1A."; and

(c) by the insertion in item 11 after subitem (3) of the following subitems:

"(3A) The holder of a licence contemplated in item 1F must apply for the corresponding licence in terms of this Act within the period specified in item 1F(1).

(3B) Subitems (1)(a), (2), (3) and (4) are applicable, with the necessary changes required by the context, to any application made in terms of item 1F."

"Validity of competency certificates

1F. (1) All competency certificates issued in terms of this Act before commencement of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025, remain valid in the case —

(a) where no firearms licence had been issued before the commencement of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, for a period of five years from the date of commencement of the said Act;

(b) where a firearms licence had been issued before the commencement of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025, until the expiry of any such firearms licence issued to the person, in which case the person must apply for the renewal of the competency certificate together with the renewal of the said licence."

(2) All firearm licences which had been issued before the commencement of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025 remain valid until the date of expiry of such firearm licences, as indicated on the licence, unless—

(a) the firearm is surrendered by the holder of the licence to the Registrar;

(b) the holder of the licence becomes or is declared unfit to possess a firearm in terms of section 102 or 103.

Substitution of Schedule 4 to Act 60 of 2000

84. The following Schedule is hereby substituted for Schedule 4 to the principal

Act:

Section	Maximum period of imprisonment
3	15 years
4	20 five years
6(1D)	Five years
[9(8)]	[Five years]
9(8)(b)	Two years
12(3)	Two years
13(4) 13(8)	Two years
[14(5)]	[Five years]
15(4)	Two years
16(3)	Two years
16(4)	Two years
16(9)	Five years
16(11)	Five years
16A(4)	Two years
16A(10)	Five years
17(3)(a)	Two years
17(3)(b)	Three years
[17(4)]	[Two years]
18(2)(b)	to insert penalty
18(3)	to insert penalty
18(4)(a)	to insert penalty
18(4)(b)	to insert penalty
19(3)	Five years
19(4)(a)	Two years
19(4)(b)	Three years
19(5)	to insert penalty
19(6)	Five years
[19(7)]	[10 years]
[19(8)]	[Five years]
20(4)	[Five] Ten years
20(5)(a)	Five years
20(5)(b)	25 years
20(6)(a)	[Five] Ten years
20(6)(b)	[Five] Ten years
20(7)	[Two] Five years
20(8)	Two years

Section	Maximum period of imprisonment
20(10)	10 years
[21(1)]	[10 years]
[21(2)]	[10 years]
[21(4)]	[Two years]
21(5)	Five years
22	Five years
[23(8)]	[Five years]
23(5)	10 years
23(6)	Five years
[24(5)]	[Five years]
25(1)	Two years
26(1)	Two years
28(4)	10 years
28(5)	10 years
29(1)	Two years
29(2)	Two years
31(1)	25 years
31(2)	25 years
31(3)	15 years
32(2)	Four years
35(5)	Five years
36(6)	Two years
38	Two years
39(1)	Four years
39(2)	Four years
39(3)	Five years
39(4)	Two years
39(5)	Three years
39(6)	Three years
[39(8)]	[Three years]
39(9)	15 years
41(4)	25 years
42(4)	25 years
42(5)	25 years
44(1)	Two years
44(2)	Two years
45(1)	25 years
45(2)	25 years
45(3)	Five years
[49(5)]	[Five years]
50(6)	Two years
52	Two years
53(1)	Four years
53(2)	Five years
53(3)	Three years
53(4)	Two years
53(5)	Two years
53(6)	Three years
53(7)	15 years
55(4)	25 years
56(4)	25 years

Section	Maximum period of imprisonment
56(5)	25 years
58(1)	Two years
58(2)	Two years
59	15 years
63(5)	Five years
64(6)	Two years
66	Two years
67(1)	Two years
67(2)	Five years
67(3)	Two years
67(4)	Three years
67(5)	Three years
[67(7)]	[Three years]
67(8)	15 years
69(4)	25 years
70(4)	25 years
72(1)	Two years
72(2)	Two years
73(1)	15 years
73(2)	15 years
78(1)	Two years
78(2)	Three years
78(3)	Three years
78(4)	15 years
80(4)	25 years
82(1)	Two years
82(2)	Two years
83	15 years
84	Five years
85(1)	25 years
87(1)	Two years
87(2)	Two years
87(3)	Two years
88(2)	25 years
90	15 years
91(1)	10 years
[93(2)]	[10 years]
[93(3)]	[10 years]
[93(1A)]	[Five years]
94(2)	Five years
94(3)	Two years
98(1)	Two years
98(5)	Two years
98(7)	Two years
[101A(5)]	[10 years]
104(2)	15 years
106(1)	Two years
107(1)	10 years
107(2)	One year
108(1)	One year

Section	Maximum period of imprisonment
120(2)	15 years
120(3)	Five years
120(4)	Three years
120(5)	[Three] Five years
120(6)	10 years
120(7)	Five years
120(8)	Five years
120(9)	Five years
120(10)(a)	10 years
120(10)(b)	25 years
120(11)	10 years
120(12)	Five years
140(2)(a)	Five years
140(2)(b)	10 years
140(2)(c)	25 years
146	15 years
147(1)	Five years
147(2)	Five years
147A(2) and (3)	Five years
[148]	[Twenty five years]
148(1)	10 years
148(4)	10 years
149(1)	10 years
150(2)	Five years
150(3)(a)	Two years
150(3)(b)	Two years
150(3)(c)	Two years

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Substitution of Preamble to Act 60 of Act 2000

85. The following Preamble is hereby substituted for the Preamble of the principal Act:

"WHEREAS in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, the duty to maintain public order, to protect and secure everyone in the Republic lies with the State;

AND WHEREAS the State is a signatory to regional and international instruments on control of firearms, ammunition and other related matters;

AND WHEREAS the State has an obligation to enact firearms legislation that complies with the applicable international and regional instruments;

AND WHEREAS the easy availability of firearms to civilians and their uncontrolled presence constitute major threats to the security of persons and property, sustainable development and the stability of the State;"

Amendment of arrangement of sections of Act 60 of 2000

86. The arrangement of sections of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution after the item relating to section 2 of the following items:

“2A. Principles of Act

2B. Objects of Act”;

(b) by the substitution of the item relating to section 4 of the following item:

“4. Prohibited firearms, devices and ammunition”;

(c) by the insertion after the item relating to section 4 of the following item:

“4A Blank firearms and blank ammunition”

(d) by the insertion after the item relating to section 11 of the following item:

“11A. Reason for requiring a firearm licence”;

(e) by the insertion after the item relating to section 20 of the following items;

“ 20A. Establishment of consultative forum

20B. Composition of forum

20C. Functions of forum

20D. Meetings of forum and administrative support”;

(f) by the insertion after the item relating to section 23 of the following item:

“23A. Ballistic sampling of firearms”;

(g) by the insertion after the item relating to section 74 of the following item:

“74A. Limitation on issuing of export permit”;

(h) by the insertion after the item relating to section 85 of the following

item:

“85A. Firearm storage permit”;

- (i) by the insertion after the item relating to section 98 of the following items:

“98A. Ballistic sampling of firearms of Official Institutions

98B. Date of ballistic sampling”;

- (j) by the substitution of the heading relating to Chapter 12 of the following heading

“SUSPENSION OF FIREARM LICENCE AND DECLARATION OF PERSONS AS UNFIT TO POSSESS FIREARM”.

- (k) “Declaration **[by Registrar of person]** of persons as unfit to possess firearm and suspension of a competency certificate and firearm licence”.

- (l) By the insertion after the item relating to section 124 of the following items:

“124A. Duties of commanders in respect of firearms

124B. Supervision and control of designated firearms officer”;

- (m) by the insertion after the item relating to section 128 of the following item:

“128A. Disqualification, removal and suspension of member of Appeal Board”;

- (n) by the insertion after the item relating to section 131 of the following items:

“131A. Budget of Appeal Board

131B. Reporting to Minister on budget of Appeal Board”;

- (o) by the substitution for the item relating to section 147 of the following item:
“147. Disposal of firearms and ammunition in case of death, insolvency and incapacitation of the holder”;
- (p) by the insertion after the item relating to section 147 of the following item:
“147A. Deceased estates”;
- (q) by the substitution of the item relating to section 148 of the following item:
“148. Inherited firearms or ammunition”;
- (r) by the insertion under the item relating to Schedule 1 of the following items:
“1B. Licensing of muzzle loading firearm
1C. Possession and surrendering of percussion cap-and-ball and other firearms
1D. Compliance by Official Institutions
1E. Validity of competency certificate”.

Short title and commencement

87. This Act is called the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025 and comes into effect on a date to be fixed by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

MEMORANDUM ON THE OBJECTS OF THE FIREARMS CONTROL AMENDMENT BILL, 2025

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

1.1 Following a Summit on Firearms that was held by the Portfolio Committee on Police, and as part of his comprehensive approach to the problem of the proliferation of firearms in South Africa, the then Minister of Police appointed a Firearms Committee to review existing legislation for the control of legal firearms. The Firearms Committee, in its research found that gun violence was one of the main contributors to the cause of death in South Africa and that evidence showed that strengthening national gun laws, coupled with effective enforcement of gun laws, contributed to the reduction of gun deaths as well as violent crimes. The Firearms Committee produced a report which contained a number of recommendations relating to the legislative review. These recommendations contributed to the Firearms Control Amendment Bill, 2020 ("the Bill").

1.2 The Bill seeks to amend the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000) ("the Act"). The amendments respond to the overarching policy principles of nonproliferation of firearms and the strengthening of the processes relating to the applications for firearm and ammunition licences and the management of firearms and ammunition. In the process of putting into operation of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2006 (Act No. 28 of 2006), some deficiencies in the Act, had been noted, namely that some consequential amendments are required in order to align the control over muzzle loading firearms with the control over firearms. Muzzle loading firearms have now been included in the definition of "firearms". The problems experienced by the Central Firearms Register in the timeous and proper consideration of applications for firearms and making decisions on such applications, the confusion

on the proper interpretation of the provisions relating to the validity of competency certificates, the provisions relating to the issue of renewing competency certificates, the limitation on the number of firearms that may be issued to dedicated hunters and dedicated sports-shooters as well as the regulation of muzzle loading firearms are included in the amendments. In order to address the reduction of gun deaths and gun violence, firearm licences for self-defence purposes will only be issued to persons who are able to prove that exceptional exists which justifies possession of a firearm for self-defence. Other amendments also include the designation of a Designated Firearms Officer at each police station, as far is practicably possible, to improve the control over firearms in possession of the police and other Official Institutions and private security service providers.

1.3 The amendment also seeks to place a limit on the number of semi-automatic rifles and semi-automatic handguns that may be licensed to a dedicated-hunter or a dedicated sports-shooter.

1.4 In SA Hunters A.O v Minister of Safety and Security Case No: 33656/09, the South African Hunters Association sought an urgent interim order in the High Court to declare the firearm licences issued in terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969 to be lawful and valid pending the finalisation of the main application as to the constitutionality of item 1(1) of Schedule 1 to the Act.

1.5 The main application was against the commencement and implementation of item 1(1) of the Act, which provides for transitional provisions. Item (1)(1) to the Schedule

provides that any licence which was issued in terms of the repealed Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969 (Act No. 75 of 1969) and which was valid immediately before the date of the Act, remains valid for a period of five years from the date on which the Act comes into operation, unless such licence is terminated, cancelled or surrendered in terms of the Act. In addition, firearm licence holders must within this period apply for new licences in terms of the Act, lawfully dispose of any firearm not lawfully possessed and any firearm not disposed of may be forfeited to the State.

1.6 In the main application the South African Hunters Association were to argue that the item 1(1) of the Act infringed the constitutional right to ownership (of a firearm); the right not to be prosecuted and imprisoned for the possession of firearms that were legally acquired in terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969; the right to lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair administrative action.

1.7 The SA Hunters Association maintained that the five-year period would expire before all the licence holders could apply and obtain licences and competency certificates due to backlogs in the South African Police Service ("the Service"), resulting in the applications not yet being processed and finalised in terms of the Act. Furthermore, the SA Hunters Association alleged that the State did not have resources to implement the administration necessary to finalise the renewal of firearm applications and new firearm applications. Some firearm licence applications had been declined. As a result of this situation many lawful licence holders would be subject to criminal prosecution by virtue of not holding licences to possess their firearms in terms of the Act, and their firearms would be forfeited to the State.

1.8 The High Court in the South African Hunters Association case held that a prima facie case had been made in respect of the pending main application as to the absence of a justification for the limitations of the constitutional rights affected by the impugned transitional provisions. The respondent could not show any justifications for the limitations. Furthermore, the North Gauteng High Court held that the legislature should have taken into account the available administrative facilities and should not have designed a transitional arrangement which cannot be implemented by the officials of the respondent.

1.9 The North Gauteng High Court granted an interim order pending the finalisation of the main application as to the constitutionality of the impugned transitional provisions as contained in Schedule 1 to the Act. The court ordered that that firearm licenses which were issued in terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969 will be deemed to remain valid until the main application had been finalised.

1.10 Based on this judgment, the Bill seeks to propose amendments to give effect to rectify the anomalous transitional provisions contained in Schedule 1 to the Act.

2. CLAUSE BY CLAUSE ANALYSIS

2.1 Clause 1

Clause 1 of the Bill seeks to amend section 1 of the Act by inserting the definitions in the Bill that relate to "Authority" to indicate that it refers to the Private Security Industry

Regulatory Authority; "Automated Ballistic Identification System", "ballistic sampling", "blank ammunition", "blank firearm", "family member", "fit and proper person", "forum", "percussion/cap and ball firearm", "prohibited firearm" and "Service".

The clause further substitutes the definitions of "dedicated hunter", "dedicated sportsperson", "firearm", "Minister", "muzzle loading firearm", "occasional hunter", "occasional sports person", private collector, professional hunter", "public collector" and "restricted firearm".

2.2 Clause 2

The clause seeks to amend section 2 of the Act by substituting paragraph (a) in the "Purpose of Act" to provide that the purpose is to restrict access to firearms by civilians and to comply with regional and international instruments of firearms control.

2.3 Clause 3

Clause 3 inserts section 2A that deals with the principles of the Act and section 2B that deals with the objects of the Act.

2.4 Clause 4

The clause deletes section 3(2) of the Act which provides that no person may possess a muzzle loading firearm unless issued with the relevant competency certificate. This deletion is a consequence of the amendment of the definition of "firearm" that now includes "muzzle loading firearm".

2.5 Clause 5

The clause amends section 4(1) of the Act by providing that any device or conversion kit to convert a semi-automatic firearm to a fully automatic firearm, grenade, rifle grenade are also prohibited devices and firearms and may not be possessed. Furthermore, the clause provides that the Minister may declare any specified type of ammunition to be prohibited ammunition.

2.6 Clause 6

The clause provides for the insertion of the new section 4A below section 4 of the principal Act in order to provide that no person may possess a blank firearm, blank ammunition unless authorised in terms of section 60 of the Act.

2.7 Clause 7

The clause amends section 5 of the Act by deleting "a muzzle loading firearm" as a device that is not regarded as a firearm. This is a consequential amendment as a result of the substitution of the definition of a "firearm".

2.8 Clause 8

The clause amends section 6 of the Act by inserting subsection (1A) that provides that a competency certificate, licence, permit or authorisation may be issued to an applicant for a firearm who is between the age of 18 and 21 years if there are compelling reasons to do so.

The clause also inserts subsection (1B) that provides that if a person between the age of 18 and 21 years applies for a firearm licence, permit or authorisation, he or she

must have been under the supervision of a person who is over the age of 21 years and who has held a firearm licence for at least one year.

2.9 Clause 9

The clause amends section 7 of the Act by inserting subsection (1A) that provides that a representative of a juristic person must hold an executive or managerial position in that juristic person. In terms of the newly inserted section 1B, if a juristic person has more than one business operation it must appoint a responsible person for each operation, for the purpose of control and management of firearms as prescribed

2.10 Clause 10

This clause amends section 8 of the Act by providing for the chairperson or authorised office bearer of an accredited association to verify the application made by a member of the accredited association regarding the use, purpose and category of the firearm applied for, as well as the motivation for the application. The new subsections (8) to (9) provide that the Registrar must consider the verification by the accredited association when considering the application of a member of that association, but the Registrar may also verify such information independently and may also refuse the application on good cause.

2.11 Clause 11

The clause seeks to delete in subsection (4) of section 9 the reference to coming to the end of a disqualification of a person who became or was declared unfit to possess a firearm in terms of the Act or the previous Act upon the expiry of a period of five years from the date on which the person became or was declared unfit. The

disqualification will now end upon expiry of a period for which a person was declared unfit to possess a firearm.

The clause further amends section 9(5) by providing that the Registrar may allow a person between the age of 18 years and 21 years to apply for a competency certificate if there are compelling reasons.

The clause further seeks to add subsection (7) that provides for the Registrar to temporarily suspend the processing of an application for a competency certificate where the applicant for a competency certificate has been issued with an interim protection order in terms of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act No. 116 of 1998), or the Protection from Harassment Act, 2011 (Act No. 17 of 2011), until the final determination of the interim protection order.

The addition of subsection (8) which provides that the Registrar must determine by way of the integrated electronic repository for domestic violence protection orders in terms of section 6A of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 whether the applicant has any interim protection orders served on him or her during the period referred to in subsection (7).

In terms the new subsection (9), a competency certificate may not be issued to a person who has been convicted for any offence which has an element of violence or sentenced to imprisonment without the option of a fine.

2.12 Clause 12

Clause 12 of the Bill amends section 10 of the Act by inserting subsection (1)(c) in order to provide that the competency certificate must specify the period of validity of the competency certificate and any other information as may be prescribed. The clause also amends section 10 by providing that a competency certificate shall remain valid for a period of 5 years from the date of issue, unless terminated or renewed in terms of the Act.

The clause further deletes subsection (3) that provides for the lapsing of a competency certificate relating to muzzle loading after ten years from the date of its issue.

2.13 Clause 13

Clause 13 of the Bill amends section 10A of the Act which provides for the renewal of competency certificates by seeking to provide that applications for renewal of competency certificates must be made at least 90 days before the date of expiry of such competency certificate.

The clause also deletes subsection (2) that provides that a holder of a competency certificate relating to a muzzle loading firearm who wishes to renew the competency certificate must apply for renewal at least 90 days before the date of its expiry.

The new subsection (8) provides that if an application for the renewal of a competency certificate is made less than 90 days before the date of expiry of the certificate, an administrative fine, as provided for in section 122 may be imposed, taking into account

any motivated explanation which the applicant may have presented in the application form for renewal of the certificate.

In terms of the new subsection (9), if an application for the renewal of a competency certificate is made in less than 90 days before expiry thereof and an administrative fine has been imposed, this does not disqualify the applicant from the renewal of the certificate.

Furthermore, a provision is made in subsection (10) for a person applying for the renewal of a competency certificate to subject all firearms that were licensed using that competency certificate for inspection by the Designated Firearm Officer, as prescribed.

2.14 Clause 14

The clause provides for the insertion of the new section 10B which provides for termination of a competency certificate upon the expiry of the relevant period contemplated in section 10, unless renewed in terms of section 10A. Further, that a competency certificate may be terminated if surrendered by the holder or the holder is declared unfit to possess a firearm or it is cancelled in terms of the Act.

2.15 Clause 15

Clause 15 seeks to insert a new section 11A in the Act that provides that the Registrar may not issue a license that authorises the possession of a firearm unless the Registrar is satisfied that the applicant has a valid reason for possessing the firearm in line with the provisions of the Act. Further, that an applicant must state that he or

she intends to possess the firearm for any one or more of the reasons set out in the Act; and must provide written proof and evidence to the satisfaction of the Registrar in relation to the requirements set out in the Act and prescribed for requiring a firearm.

2.16 Clause 16

Clause 16 amends section 12 of the Act that deals with additional licences. The clause seeks to delete in subsection (1) the reference to the provisions of section 14 that relates to a licence to possess restricted firearms for self-defence, and this means that an additional licence for a restricted firearm cannot be issued to a family member who resides in the same household as the license holder. Subsection (1) is further sought to be amended by providing that the Registrar may issue an additional firearm licence for occasional hunting and sports-shooting as well as a licence for dedicated hunting and dedicated sports-shooting to a family member who resides in the same household as the holder of such licence.

The clause further seeks to amend subsection (3) by providing that if the holder of the licence and the holder of the additional licence are no longer residing in the same household, the holder of the additional licence must return the licence to the Registrar

2.17 Clause 17

Clause 17 seeks to amend section 13 by providing that a natural person applying for a licence under this section must satisfy the Registrar that there are exceptional circumstances that demonstrate the applicant's need for a licence to possess a firearm for self-defence. The amendments also empowers the Minister by Notice in the

Gazette to determine a category of persons who may be issued with a license to possess a firearm.

2.18 Clause 18

The clause provides for deletion of section 14 which provided for a licence to possess a restricted firearm for self-defence. The consequence of the deletion of section 14 is that a semi-automatic rifle or shotgun, which cannot readily be converted into a fully automatic firearm or a firearm declared by the Minister in the *Gazette* to be a restricted firearm, may not be issued to any natural person who requires it for self-defence.

2.19 Clause 19

Clause 19 of the Bill amends section 15 of the Act which provides for a licence to possess a firearm for occasional hunting and sports-shooting. The clause provides that a firearm licence for occasional hunting or sport-shooting purposes may only be issued if the applicant is the owner or lawful occupier of property where occasional hunting or occasional sport-shooting will take place or if the applicant produces documentary proof of permission by the said owner or lawful occupier to engage in occasional hunting or occasional sport-shooting on the said property.

The clause also seeks to effect amendments to paragraph (a) of subsection 3 in order to reduce the number of licenses issued in terms of this section from four to three.

The clause further inserts a new subsection (3A) that limits the number of firearm licences that a person may hold in terms of section 15 by providing that the number of firearm licences that a person may hold in terms of this section must be reduced by

the number of firearms licences that the person holds in terms of any other section under the Act.

2.20 Clause 20

Clause 20 of the Bill seeks to amend section 16 of the Act, which deals with licences for dedicated hunting and dedicated sports-shooting purposes, by providing in section 16(1) that a firearm licence may be issued for a handgun, rifle or shotgun which is not prohibited, instead of a handgun, rifle or shotgun which is not fully automatic.

The clause seeks to also amend subsection (2) by providing that the sworn statement or solemn declaration made by the chairperson of an accredited hunting or sports shooting organisation must state that the applicant has actively participated in hunting or shooting events of the association and that the applicant has, during the preceding 24 months complied with the requirements of being awarded with a dedicated hunter or dedicated sports-person status.

The clause further inserts subsections (5) to (13) to the section, these provisions provide for a limitation on the number of licences that a person may hold in terms of this section. In principle, a person may not hold more than six licences in terms of this section. A dedicated hunter or dedicated sports-shooter may not hold more than two licences each in respect of a handgun, semi-automatic rifle or semi-automatic shotguns. A semi-automatic rifle or a semi-automatic shotgun may only be registered if the applicant has maintained a dedicated status as a sports-shooter or hunter for a period of at least two years and continues to hold such status. The application for a licence must be accompanied by a written motivation containing the minimum

specified information and the motivation must be supported by the chairperson of the relevant hunting or sports-shooting association. A provision is also made for notification of the Registrar by a license holder who ceases to hold the status as a dedicated hunter or sport shooter within 30 days of ceasing to hold such status. The association is also required to provide a report to the Registrar on the status of all its members.

Moreover, the clause provides in subsection 13 that the number of licences which that person may hold in terms of this section must be reduced by the number of such other licences held, if a person issued with a licence in terms of this section holds any other licence contemplated in sections 12, 15 and 16A.

2.21 Clause 21

Clause 21 amends section 16A of the Act, which deals with licences for professional hunting, by adding subsections (5) to (12) to the section. The proposed amendments seek to restrict the number of licences issued to a professional hunter to not more than eight licences. The application must be accompanied by a written motivation containing the minimum specified information as provided for in subsection (7) and the motivation must be supported by the chairperson of the professional hunting association. The association must also provide a report to the Registrar on the status of all its members.

2.22 Clause 22

Clause 22 of the Bill seeks to amend section 17 of the Act. Section 17 deals with firearm licence for private collection.

The clause also introduces different categories with respect to the number of firearms a private collector may collect.

With regard to restricted or prohibited firearm for private collection purposes, they may only be possessed if permanently deactivated in the prescribed manner. Furthermore, the clause provides that the number of cartridges a private collector may possess in the collection for purposes relating to genuine collecting and collector activities is ten.

2.23 Clause 23

The clause seeks to amend section 18 of the principal Act by providing that a collector may not collect more than 25 rounds of ammunition of any particular calibre. Further, in order to provide that members of the same household may not be collectors of both firearms and ammunition of similar calibre or type.

2.24 Clause 24

Clause 24 seeks to amend section 20 of the Act that provides for licence to possess firearms for business purposes. The clause amends subsection (1) by including a restricted firearm for which a firearm licence may not ordinarily be issued, subject to exceptions. The clause provides that a restricted firearm may be issued to a security service provider, a game rancher, person who is accredited to provide training in use of firearms, a person who is accredited to conduct business in hunting and any person who is accredited to use firearms for such other business as determined by the Registrar. The Registrar must consider the exceptions by taking into account the factors, including a genuine need for the use of a firearm that is provided for in the clause.

The clause also adds subsections (8) to (13) in section (20). In terms of subsection (8), the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority must inform the Registrar of any change in circumstances that relate to the status of the registration or ownership of a security service provider, or any other material change or reason that impacts on the licencing, re-licencing or disposal of firearms in the possession of such security service provider. The association that accredits a trainer in the use of firearms, a person who provides firearms for use in theatrical, film or television productions, a game rancher, a person who conducts business in hunting or such other business purpose must inform the Registrar of any change in circumstances relating to the status of the registration or ownership of the business of the accredited person.

Subsection (9) provides that the Registrar must, at the request of the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority submit a list of all firearms registered to a particular security service provider within 30 days of the request.

Subsection (10) makes it an offence for a security service provider to hire out or permit any other person to use a firearm issued under this section for any purpose other than the purpose for which the licence was issued. Subsection (11) provides that the Registrar may not issue a firearm licence to a security service provider until written proof of the award of a contract to render a security service that require the use of firearms is furnished. However, subsection (12) authorises the Registrar to issue a letter to a security service provider that a firearm licence will be issued upon the award of the contract. The Registrar may terminate a licence if he or she is informed of the circumstances under subsection 8(a) i.e material changes or reason that would

necessitate the licensing, relicensing or disposal of firearms in the possession of such security service provider.

2.25 Clause 25

Clause 25 inserts sections 20A to 20D in section 20 of the Act.

The proposed section 20A provides for the establishment of a Consultative Forum. Section 20B provides for the composition of the Consultative Forum, section 20C provides for the functions of the Consultative Forum and section 20D provides for the meetings of the Consultative Forum and administrative support.

2.26 Clause 26

Clause 26 amends section 21 of the Act that provides for a temporary authorisation to possess a firearm by deleting a provision allowing for issuing of temporary authorisations to any person including non-citizens.

The clause further inserts subsection (1A) that authorises the Registrar to issue a temporary authorisation to an executor or administrator of a deceased estate. In terms of subsection (1B), the validity period of a temporary authorisation may not be extended and subsection (1C) provides an exception to subsection (1B) by providing that a temporary authorisation issued to an executor or administrator of a deceased estate may be extended if the winding-up of the deceased estate is not finalised.

2.27 Clause 27

Clause 27 amends section 22 of the Act that deals with a holder of a licence allowing another person to use a firearm. The amendment is that a person who is at least 21

years of age and the holder of a valid licence for at least one year may allow any person above the age of 16 years to use that firearm while under his or her immediate supervision. Professional hunters on the other hand needs to be between age of 18 and 21 for them to be able to allow a person above 16 years to use a firearm under their supervision.

2.28 Clause 28

The clause also inserts section 23A on ballistic sampling. The new section 23A in the Act, provides for the ballistic sampling of every firearm licensed in terms of the Act, inclusive of firearms for business purposes, business purposes related to the private security industry, occasional and dedicated sports shooting and hunting and public collection, subject to the ability of the firearm to safely fire and the availability of ammunition. The owner of such firearms must comply with a programme published by the Minister in the *Gazette* to have the firearms ballistically sampled.

The clause also provides that whenever there is a change of ownership of such a firearm, the original owner must ensure the firearm is submitted for ballistic sampling before transfer of ownership takes place. The ballistic sampling of firearms must be arranged in advance and the firearm must be handed back to the owner immediately after the ballistic sampling has been done. The clause also provides that the section must be implemented over a period of time, subject to financial and technical capability to do so.

2.29 Clause 29

The clause provides for the repeal of section 24 which provided for renewal of licenses.

2.30 Clause 30

Clause 30 amends section 25(2) of the Act by adding a short-messaging system as a means of acknowledging receipt of a notice of a change of address.

2.31 Clause 31

Clause 31 amends section 26(2) of the Act by adding a short-messaging system as a means of acknowledging receipt of a notice of a change of circumstances.

2.32 Clause 32

Clause 32 amends the Table in section 27 of the Act that provides for the period of validity of a licence or permit. The clause also provides for substitution of the words preceding the Table with the wording "A license or permit issued in terms of this Chapter remains valid until its terminated in terms of section 28". The clause further provides for deletion of the Table which provided for period of validity of license or permit.

2.33 Clause 33

Clause 33 amends section 28 of the Act that deals with terminations of firearms licences.

The clause further inserts a subsection 1A that provides for the procedure for the disposal of the firearms whose licence has terminated.

The clause also substitutes subsection (2) by providing that the Registrar may by notice cancel a licence that is contemplated in subsection (1)(d). It also provides for the surrender of a firearm for ballistic profiling to a police station.

The clause further substitutes subsection (6) by giving the Registrar discretion to extend the periods referred to in subsections (3), (4) and (5).

2.34 Clause 34

Clause 34 of the Bill seeks to amend section 31 of the Act by substituting subsection (2) deleting the words "a muzzle loading firearm" as a result of such firearm being included in the definition of "firearm". In addition, because of the deletion of subsection (3), the subsection is not made "subject to subsection (3)".

The clause deletes subsection (3) which provides that if a person wishes to sell or donate a firearm or muzzle loading firearm to a willing buyer or donee, such sale or donation may be done without the intervention of a dealer.

2.35 Clause 35

Clause 35 seeks to amend section 35 of the Act that deals with renewal of a dealer's licence. A provision is made for insertion of a new subsection 3A which provides that an application for a dealer's licence will be granted only if applicant satisfies the Registrar that he has actively traded since the issue or last renewal of the license. The clause substitutes subsection (4) providing that if an application for renewal of a dealer's licence is lodged before the expiry of that licence, the licence remains valid until the application is decided.

The clause adds subsections (5) and (6) to this section. The new subsection (5) provides that if an application for renewal of a licence is not made before the expiry of that licence, and where the date of expiry is less than 90 days from the date of application for renewal, an administrative fine may be imposed. The new subsection (6) states that an applicant is not disqualified from obtaining a renewed licence even if the application for renewal was made in less than 90 days before the expiry of the licence and where an administrative fine was imposed.

2.36 Clause 36

Clause 36 seeks to amend section 38(2) of the Act by adding a short-messaging system as a means of acknowledging receipt of a notice of a change of circumstances.

2.37 Clause 37

Clause 37 seeks to amend section 39 through the insertion of subsection 2A and 2 B which provides that a dealer must subject all firearms in his stock for ballistic sampling and may not sell a firearm that has not been sampled.

The Clause also seeks to delete subsections (7) and (8). Subsection (7) provides that the Registrar may on application by a dealer exempt the dealer from the duties to establish and maintain a workstation which links the registers to the central dealers' database. Subsection (8) currently provides that any dealer exempted in terms of subsection (7) must submit weekly returns to the Office of the Central Firearms Register.

2.38 Clause 38

Clause 38 seeks to amend section 42 of the Act that deals with termination of a dealer's licence. The clause amends the validity period of the dealer's licence from one to two years. Furthermore, the clause substitutes subsection (2) by providing that the Registrar may by notice cancel a licence that is contemplated in subsection (1)(d).

2.39 Clause 39

The clause provides for insertion of a new subsection (3) in section 45 of the Act which provides that it is an offence for any person, except manufacturer of ammunition to be in possession of equipment designed and manufactured to reload ammunition.

2.40 Clause 40

Clause 40 seeks to amend section 49 of the Act that deals with renewal of a manufacturer's licence. The clause amends subsection (4) by providing that if an application for the renewal of a licence was lodged before the expiry of that licence, the licence remains valid until the application is decided.

The clause also adds subsections (5) and (6) to this section. The new subsection (5) provides that if an application for renewal of a licence is not made before the expiry of that licence, and where the date of expiry is less than 90 days from the date of application for renewal, an administrative fine may be imposed. The new subsection (6) states that an applicant is not disqualified from obtaining a renewed licence even if the application for renewal was made less than 90 days before the expiry of the licence and where an administrative fine was imposed.

2.41 Clause 41

Clause 41 seeks to amend section 52(2) of the Act by adding a short-messaging system as a means of acknowledging receipt of a notice of a change of circumstances

2.42 Clause 42

Clause 42 seeks to amend section 53 of the Act that deals with the duties of a manufacturer. The clause amends subsection (2) by including muzzle loading firearms which a manufacturer must apply or affix a serial number or any other mark as may be prescribed.

The clause also seeks to amend subsection (5)(a) by including muzzle loading firearms in a manufacturer's stock that must be produced for inspection.

2.43 Clause 43

Clause 43 seeks to amend section 56 of the Act that deals with termination of a manufacturer's licence. The clause amends the validity period of the manufacturer's licence from one to two years. Furthermore, the clause substitutes subsection (2) by providing that the Registrar may by notice cancel a manufacturer's licence that is contemplated in subsection (1)(d).

2.44 Clause 44

Clause 44 seeks to amend section 63 of the Act that provides for the renewal of a gunsmith's licence. The clause amends subsection (4) by providing that if an application for the renewal of a licence was lodged before the expiry of that licence, the licence remains valid until the application is decided.

The clause also adds subsections (5) and (6) to this section. The new subsection (5) provides that if an application for renewal of a licence is not made before the expiry of that licence, and where the date of expiry is less than 90 days from the date of application for renewal, an administrative fine may be imposed. The new subsection (6) states that an applicant is not disqualified from obtaining a renewed licence even if the application for renewal was made less than 90 days before the expiry of the licence and where an administrative fine was imposed.

2.45 Clause 45

Clause 45 seeks to amend section 66(2) of the Act by adding a short-messaging system as a means of acknowledging receipt of a notice of a change of circumstances.

2.46 Clause 46

Clause 46 seeks to amend section 67 of the Act that deals with the duties of a gunsmith. The clause seeks to delete subsections (6) and (7). Subsection (6) currently provides that the Registrar may on application by a dealer exempt a gunsmith from the duties to establish and maintain a workstation which links the registers to the central dealers' database. Subsection (7) currently provides that any gunsmith exempted in terms of subsection (6) must submit weekly returns to the Office of the Central Firearms Register.

2.47 Clause 47

The clause seeks to amend the heading of Chapter 8 which currently provides for “IMPORT, EXPORT, CARRIAGE IN TRANSIT OF FIREARM AND AMMUNITION, in order to include the “transportation” thereof by insertion of the word “TRANSPORTATION”.

2.48 Clause 48

Clause 48 seeks to amend section 70 of the Act that deals with termination of a gunsmith’s licence. The clause amends the validity period of the gunsmith’s licence from one to two years. Furthermore, the clause substitutes subsection (2) by providing that the Registrar may by notice cancel such licence as contemplated in subsection (1)(d).

2.49 Clause 49

Clause 49 provides for amendment of section 73 of the Act by providing that no person other than a dealer, manufacturer or gunsmith may apply for a permanent import permit.

2.50 Clause 50

Clause 50 seeks to amend section 74 of the Act that provides for the requirements for import, export or in-transit permit. The clause adds subsections (3) to (6) to the section.

The new subsection (3) states that if a non-citizen enters the Republic with a firearm that is lawfully licensed in his or country of origin and who has declared the firearm which is not licensed in terms of the Act, that firearm must be deposited with the

Designated Firearms Officer at customs at the port of entry for a permit to be issued.

The new subsection (4) provides that the application for importation of the firearm referred to in subsection (3) must be made in terms of the Act and subsection (5) provides that if the importation permit is not granted, the firearm and ammunition will remain with the Designated Firearms Officer until disposed of in terms of the Act. The new subsection (6) prohibits the importation of a prohibited firearm in terms of section 74 of the Act.

2.51 Clause 51

Clause 51 inserts new section 74A (1) & (2) that places a limit on the issuing of export permit.

The new subsection 1 provides that an export permit may only be issued after the submission of an import permit for the firearms and ammunition in question by the relevant authority in the country of destination.

The new subsection 2 provides that once a threshold has been determined in terms of section 4(4) of the National Conventional Arms Control Act, 2002 (Act No. 41 of 2002), any application for the export of firearms and ammunition exceeding the quantities as may be prescribed, must first be approved the Conventional Arms Control Committee before the export permit may be issued.”.

2.52 Clause 52

Clause 52 seeks to amend section 81 of the Act that provides for the termination of import, export and in-transit permits. The clause substitutes subsection (2) by

providing that the Registrar may by notice cancel an import, export or in transit permit that is contemplated in subsection (1)(d).

2.53 Clause 53

Clause 53 amends section 84 of the Act, which provides for the carrying of a firearm in a public place, by providing that the Minister may prescribe the manner in which a firearm must be carried by a security officer in the performance of duties.

2.54 Clause 54

Clause 54 inserts a new section 85A (1), (2) and (3) which prohibits any person other than a dealer from providing storage facility to another person without a permit, with the exception that a licensed firearm holder may give prescribed written authorisation to another licensed firearm holder to store his or her firearm for a specified period.

2.55 Clause 55

Clause 55 amends section 86 by providing that a person without a transporter's permit may not transport more than five (5) firearms at a time.

2.56 Clause 56

Clause 56 of the Bill seeks to amend section 91 of the Act which provides for the restriction on possession of ammunition. The clause amends subsection (1) by reducing the number of cartridges that a licensed firearm holder may possess for each firearm from 200 to 100. The clause further amends subsection (2) by providing that, the Registrar may on good cause shown authorise a dedicated hunter or a dedicated sportsperson, a professional hunter, occasional hunter, occasional sportsmen or an

accredited training service provider to possess more than 100 cartridges for a firearm in respect of which he or she holds a licence. In determining "Good cause" the Registrar may take into account proof submitted showing the frequency of the use of the firearm, and the level of participation in the activity for which the firearm is registered, the number of cartridges used per occasion of the particular activity or any other relevant factors or circumstances which may be prescribed.

2.57 Clause 57

Clause 57 repeals section 93 of the Act that deals with loading and reloading of ammunition.

2.58 Clause 58

The clause amends section 95 of the Act by adding a foreign government institution in the list of official institutions.

2.59 Clause 59

Clause 59 seeks to amend section 96 of the Act that provides for exemptions of Official Institutions from the application of the Act. The clause inserts a cross reference to the new item 1D of Schedule 1 to ensure that item 1D is one of the only provisions that apply to an Official Institutions. Item 1D is a transitional provision which provides that Official Institutions must within one year of the commencement of the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2025, fully comply with the provisions of Chapter 11 (which regulates the handling of firearms by Official Institutions), and the Heads of Official Institutions must report to the Registrar on progress made on a quarterly basis.

2.60 Clause 60

Clause 60 seeks to amend section 98 of the Act that provides for the possession and use of firearms by an Official Institution. The clause adds a new subsection (11) to the section that provides for the Head of an Official Institution to submit a quarterly report to the Registrar on the number and type of firearms that are lost or stolen, the details relating the loss or theft and remedial measures instituted to prevent a recurrence of the loss or theft.

2.61 Clause 61

This clause seeks to insert new sections 98A and 98B in the Act, to provide for the ballistic sampling of firearms in possession of Official Institutions. The clause also provides that the Head of an Official Institution must comply with a notice issued by the Minister for the ballistic sampling of all firearms in the custody of that Head, and the results of that ballistic sampling must be placed on the Integrated Ballistics Identification System, for purposes of investigating crimes committed with firearms.

The clause further requires the Divisional Commissioner responsible for Forensic Science Laboratory in the Service to submit an annual report to the Registrar and the Minister on storage of the results of ballistic sampling of firearms in the custody of the head of Official Institutions, and on the use of all the results of ballistic sampling on the Automated Ballistics Identification System.

Furthermore, in terms of the new section 98B the Minister is empowered by means of the Notice in the Gazette to determine the date by which firearms in position of official institutions must be ballistically sampled, and this date may be extended by the Minister by means of Notice in the *Gazette*.

2.62 Clause 62

Clause 62 seeks to amend the heading of Chapter 12 by including the suspension of a firearm licence in addition to wording concerning the declaration of persons as unfit to possess firearms.

2.63 Clause 63

Clause 63 seeks to amend section 102 of the Act that deals with a declaration by the Registrar of a person as unfit to possess a firearm. The clause provides for addition of suspension of a competency certificate and firearm licence, in the heading titled declaration of persons as unfit to possess a firearm.

A new subsection 1A is inserted and it provides that the Registrar may institute section 102 proceedings against any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provisions of the Act.

The new subsection (5) provides that if the Registrar declares a person unfit to possess a firearm he or she must determine the period of such unfitness. In terms of subsection (6) a person's license or a competency certificate may be suspended by the Registrar pending the final determination of fitness to possess a firearm, if the Registrar becomes aware that the person has been charged with or investigated for any offence that involves an element of violence, or served with an interim order in terms of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 or the Protection from Harassment Act, 2011.

A provision is made in subsection 6 for automatic suspension of a licence or competency certificate on the making of an interim protection order issued against

such person in terms of the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 or the Protection from Harassment Act, 2011.

The suspension contemplated in subsection 5 shall in terms of the new subsection 9 remain invalid until the subsection 5 process has been finalised, interim protection order is confirmed or revoked or a person is acquitted of the relevant charge or such charge is withdrawn.

The return of a firearm to a license holder is provided for in subsection (10), upon revocation of interim or final protection order, withdrawal of a charge that has an element of violence or acquittal of a license.

The clause also provides in subsection (11) that, upon suspension of a firearm, the license holder must within 24 hours of receipt of the notice of suspension surrender all firearms and ammunition registered in his name to the nearest police station for safekeeping.

Upon confirmation of an interim protection or the issue of a final protection order in terms of the Domestic Violence Act 1998 or the Protection of Harassment Act 2011, the licence holder shall in terms of subsection (12) be automatically unfit to possess a firearm.

In terms of subsection (13), if a license is suspended in terms of this section, all competencies, authorisations and permits, firearms and ammunition must be seized

2.64 Clause 64

The clause amends subsection (3) of section 103 and provides for notification to the Registrar by the court of the period of declaration of unfitness to possess a firearm in addition to notification of conviction of a license holder.

2.65 Clause 65

Clause 65 seeks to amend section 104 of the Act, which deals with the effect of a declaration of unfitness, by deleting subsection (6). This subsection currently provides that after a period of five years after the declaration of unfitness, the person may apply for a new competency certificate, licence or permit.

2.66 Clause 66

Clause 66 seeks to amend section 120 of the Act which deals with offences. New offences arising out of the amendments have been created, for example, the offence of giving control of firearm to a person who he knows or ought reasonably to have known to be a child under the age of 16 years, if a child is not supervised by a licensed firearm holder.

The clause also provides for insertion of references to blank firearm in order to also criminalise the offences committed while using a blank firearm.

2.67 Clause 67

Clause 67 seeks to amend section 124 of the Act which deals with the functions of the Registrar. The clause provides for the Registrar to submit quarterly reports to the Minister and Parliament on all losses of firearms issued to members of the Service and other Official Institutions, the theft and losses of all firearms and ammunition exhibits surrendered to the Service for destruction, the outcome of investigations into the losses of firearms and ammunition under the control of the Service and other Official institutions and disciplinary steps taken and criminal prosecutions instituted against members for such losses.

The clause also adds new subsections (4) to (8) to section 124 of the Act. The new subsections provide for the obligatory designation of a Designated Firearms Officer at each police station, as far as practicably possible, in order to provide focused and undivided attention to control over firearms and ammunition in the possession of the individuals, the police as well as other official institutions and the private security industry. The Designation Firearms Officer is provided with specific functions that will ensure compliance with the Act, including inspections at Official Institutions, and regular and random inspections at business premises of security service providers , Furthermore, DFOs are required to ensure that an inspection by a representative of the South African Heritage Resources Agency is conducted on all firearms with heritage status that are destined for destruction, in order to consider preserving them for heritage purposes.

The Designated Firearms Officers may not be appointed unless a successful security vetting has been done and provision is made for random integrity testing.

2.68 Clause 68

Clause 68 seeks to insert sections 124A and 124B in the Act. The clause imposes duties on commanders and station commanders with regard to firearms kept at police stations, disciplinary steps to be taken against members who have lost firearms, the reporting of losses of official firearms and ammunition and the investigation of such losses, safekeeping of firearms and ammunition, prohibition against reissue of firearms to members who have faced a disciplinary action, taking of steps to recover for negligent loss of firearms and ammunition, safe keeping of firearms and ammunition kept as exhibits or surrendered to the Service, as well as the regular and

random inspections of official registers for booking in and out of firearms and ammunition by the commanders and station commissioners, and the submission of bi-monthly report on the aforementioned matters.

The station commanders are also required to effectively supervise and control the duties and functions of the Designated Firearms Officer.

2.69 Clause 69

Clause 69 seeks to amend section 125 of the Act which deals with the Central Firearms Register. The clause provides that the Central Firearms Register must now also contain a dedicated database of firearm licences issued to security service providers linked to the database of the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority. This database should also list the number and type of licensed firearms as well as business security providers who have applied for licenses.

2.70 Clauses 70 to 75

Clauses 70 to 75 of the Bill provides for amendments to sections 128 to 131 of the Act which establishes the Appeal Board responsible for considering the appeals against the decisions of the Registrar made in terms of the Act, by providing for, inter alia, that the members of the appeal board may not be more than seven members and are appointed on a part-time basis. The clauses also provide for assistance to be provided to the Appeal Board by persons with relevant expertise. The criteria for the appointment of the members of the Board, the functions of the Board are provided for, as well the grounds for the disqualification, removal and suspension of a member.

The clause also provides for the quorum and rules and procedures of the Appeal Board, budget allocation and reporting obligation to the Minister.

2.71 Clause 76

Clause 76 seeks to amend section 139 of the Act that deals with amnesty that the Minister may declare for possession of unlicensed firearms. The clause deletes subsection (4) that currently provides that a person who surrenders a firearm in compliance with the Minister's notice, may apply for a licence in respect of that firearm and if a licence is granted, the firearm and ammunition surrendered must be returned to the holder of the licence.

2.72 Clause 77

Clause 77 seeks to amend section 140 of the Act. This section deals with firearm-free zones and the amendment seeks to substitute the reference to the Secretary for Safety and Security with the reference to the Secretary for Police Service.

2.73 Clause 78

Clause 78 seeks to amend section 145 of the Act that provides for regulations that may be made by the Minister in relation to issues listed in that section.

The clause inserts new paragraphs (*mA*) to (*mV*) in section 145, in order to allow the making of regulations flowing from the amendments.

The clause also increases the penalty for any contravention or failure to comply with the regulations by providing for a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding three

years or both such a fine and such imprisonment in the case of a natural person and to a fine not exceeding R500 000.00 in the case of a juristic person.

2.74 Clause 79

Clause 79 seeks to amend section 147 of the Act that deals with disposal of firearms in the case of death. The clause amends the section heading by including ammunition and the word incapacitation in the section heading. It also includes ammunition in subsections (1) and (2), to make it clear that on the death or incapacitation of a person the firearm as well as ammunition must be disposed of.

2.75 Clause 80

Clause 80 inserts a new section 147A that relates to deceased estates. This new section provides that the executor or administrator of a firearms licence holder who has died does not commit an offence if the executor or administrator retains possession of the firearm in order to lawfully dispose of the firearm. The executor or administrator is required to notify the Registrar of the death of the licence holder and the place where the firearm or ammunition will be kept. The Registrar may provide a temporary authorisation to a person, who is licensed to possess a firearm, to possess the firearm or ammunition in the deceased estate until the executor or administrator is appointed or if the executor does not have the prescribed safekeeping facilities available. This authorisation will terminate once the estate is finalised. The Registrar may withdraw the temporary authorisation if the conditions contemplated in this section are not met.

2.76 Clause 81

Clause 81 seeks to amend section 148 of the Act that deals with inherited firearms. The clause amends the section heading to include ammunition. In addition, the clause deletes references to a muzzle loading firearm in order to remove it from the ambit of firearms that can be inherited. The clause also provides for inclusion of ammunition in subsection (1) in order to allow a person who has inherited it and who wishes to keep it to apply for an appropriate licence. Subsection (2) is amended by deleting the power of the Registrar to issue a temporary authorisation contemplated in section 21 of the Act and by now providing that the executor or administrator of a deceased estate or a person authorised in terms of section 147A(6) to remain in possession of the estate firearm until such time the application for a firearm licence is decided.

The clause also adds subsection (3) that states that if no application for a firearms licence is made or if the application is refused, the executor or administrator must dispose of the firearm within a reasonable time.

2.77 Clause 82

The clause effects amendments to section 149 and provides for consent by the Registrar to the destruction of firearms identified as having Heritage value in terms of the National Heritage Resource Act, 1999, if the South African Heritage Resources Agency has not arranged for the lawful disposal of the firearms within six months of being identified as having heritage value.

2.78 Clause 83

Clause 83 seeks to amend Schedule 1 to the Act in order to provide and improve the transitional provisions in respect of licensing of muzzle loading firearms, possession and surrendering of percussion cap-and-ball and other firearms, compliance by Official Institutions, relicensing of firearms, validity of competency certificates, surrendering or licensing of actions, frames and receivers and re-licensing of firearms.

2.79 Clause 84

Clause 84 amends Schedule 4 to the Act in order to strengthen the maximum offences and penalties imposed in terms of this section of the Act.

2.80 Clause 85

Clause 85 substitutes the preamble to the Act to indicate that in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the State has a duty to maintain public order and to protect and secure everyone in the Republic, that the State, being a signatory to regional and international instruments on the control of firearms and ammunition, has a responsibility to enact firearms legislation that complies with regional and international instruments on firearm control and that the uncontrolled presence of firearms constitute major threats to the security of persons, property, sustainable development and the stability of the State.

2.81 Clause 86

The clause provides for amendment of arrangement of section of the Act.

2.82 Clause 87

The clause provides for the short title of the Act and for proclamation of commencement date of the Act by the President by means of a notice in the Gazette.

3. DEPARTMENTS/ BODIES/ PERSONS CONSULTED

Departments and institutions consulted, responded positively and were supportive of the Bill. These include: Participants of the Firearms Summit; Department of Environmental Affairs; all relevant Divisions of the South African Police Service; Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID); Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA); State Security Agency; Firearms Appeal Board; Department of Defence; National Prosecuting Authority; and the Department of Tourism.

The Bill was published for public comments and thereafter consultations with industry bodies were conducted. The comments received from the members of the public and industry bodies were taken into account when finalizing the revised version of the Bill.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR STATE

The costs relating to the Appeal Board will be provided for in the budget of the South African Police Service. The other matters provided for in the Bill are factored into the financial and budgetary planning of the police service, within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. The costs relating to ballistic sampling of firearms will be borne by the licence holder and, where applicable, Official Institutions.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS

The Bill deals with amendments that have constitutional implications. The Office of the Chief State Law Adviser has scrutinized the Bill and have issued a preliminary certificate that the Bill is constitutionally sound.

6. COMMUNICATION IMPLICATIONS

After obtaining Cabinet approval of the Bill, the Bill shall be introduced in Parliament, and during parliamentary deliberations on the Bill all interested persons and stakeholders will be afforded an opportunity to comment on the Bill.

7. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The Constitution prescribes procedure for the classification of Bills, therefore a Bill must be correctly classified so that it does not become inconsistent with the Constitution.

The Office of the Chief State Law Adviser considered the Bill against the provisions of the Constitution relating to the tagging of Bills and against the functional areas listed in Schedule 4 (functional areas of concurrent national and provincial legislative competence) and Schedule 5 (functional areas of exclusive provincial legislative competence) to the Constitution.

The established test for classification of a Bill is that any Bill whose provisions in substantial measure fall within a functional area listed in Schedule 4 to the Constitution must be classified in terms of that Schedule. The process is concerned with the question of how the Bill should be considered by the provinces and in the National

Council of Provinces. Furthermore, how a Bill must be considered by the provincial legislatures depends on whether it affects the provinces. The more the Bill affects the interests, concerns and capacities of the provinces, the more say the provinces should have on the contents of the Bill.

The issue to be determined is whether the proposed amendments to the Act, as contained in the Bill, in substantial measure, fall within a functional area listed in Schedule 4 to the Constitution.

The Bill amends the Act to accommodate the deficiencies identified in the implementation of the Act and consequential amendments to the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2006.

The Bill generally provides the control and licensing of firearms; the verification of applications for firearm licences by an accredited association; the alignment of the control over muzzle loading firearms with the control over firearms; the period of validity for competency certificates and the period of renewal competency certificates; failure of which attracts an administrative penalty; the designation of a Designated Firearms Officer at each police station to improve the control over firearms in possession of the police and other Official Institutions; monitoring firearms in the possession of private security service providers; the regulation of muzzle loading firearms; the ballistic sampling of firearms of Official Institutions; transitional provisions in respect of licensing of percussion cap-and-ball firearms; The Bill provides for ballistic sampling of the firearm by the Designated Firearms Officer in the event of change in ownership, in which case the original owner must ensure that the firearm is

submitted , before the ownership of the firearm is transferred to any other person; the ballistic sampling of all firearms licensed in terms of the Act, inclusive of firearms for occasional and dedicated sports shooting and hunting, collection, subject to the ability of the firearm to be safely fire and the availability of ammunition, as well as firearms intended for business purposes, including for purposes of the rendering of security services.

The proposed amendments reflected have been carefully examined to establish whether, in substantial measure, they fall within any of the functional areas listed in Schedule 4 to the Constitution.

In the view of the Office of the Chief State Law Adviser, the subject matter of the proposed amendments does not fall within any of the functional areas listed in Schedule 4 to the Constitution and it does not affect provinces.

The Office of the Chief State Law Adviser is therefore of the opinion that since this Bill does not deal with any of the matters listed in Schedule 4 of the Constitution, it must be dealt with in accordance with the procedure set out in section 75 of the Constitution.

The Office of the Chief State Law Adviser is also of the opinion that it is not necessary to refer this Bill to the National House of Traditional and Khoi - San Leaders in terms of section 18(1)(a) of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, 2019 (Act No. 3 of 2019), since it does not contain provisions pertaining to customary law or customs of traditional communities.

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