BERMUDA

HEALTH PROFESSIONS (COMPLAINTS COMMITTEES) AMENDMENT ACT 2026

2026 : 39

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the statutory membership requirements of complaints committees established under the Dental Practitioners Act 1950, the Nursing and Midwifery Act 1997 and the Optometrists and Opticians Act 2008;

Be it enacted by The King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Citation

1 This Act may be cited as the Health Professions (Complaints Committees) Amendment Act 2026.

Amends Schedule 1 to the Dental Practitioners Act 1950

2 Schedule 1 to the Dental Practitioners Act 1950 is amended by repealing and replacing paragraph 1(c) with the following—

> "(c) one shall be appointed by the Minister and shall, in the opinion of the Minister, have the training or experience, or both, necessary to assist the Committee in matters of a legal or ethical nature.".

Amends Second Schedule to Nursing and Midwifery Act 1997

3 The Second Schedule to the Nursing and Midwifery Act 1997 is amended by repealing and replacing paragraph 1(c) with the following—

"(c) one who, in the opinion of the Minister, has the training or experience, or both, necessary to assist the Committee in matters of a legal or ethical nature.".

Amends Third Schedule to Optometrists and Opticians Act 2008

4 The Third Schedule to the Optometrists and Opticians Act 2008 is amended—

(a) by repealing and replacing paragraph 1(c) with the following—

"(c) one shall be appointed by the Minister and shall, in the opinion of the Minister, have the training or experience, or both, necessary to assist the Committee in matters of a legal or ethical nature.";

(b) by repealing and replacing paragraph 9A(2) with the following—

"(2) Where a member withdraws under subparagraph (1), the Chairperson of the Committee may request the Minister to appoint another person to act in the place of that member for the purposes of the proceedings and the person appointed shall satisfy the requirements applicable under paragraph 1 to the appointment of the member who withdrew."".

Savings and transitional

5 (1) Notwithstanding sections 2, 3 and 4 of this Act, a person who, immediately before the commencement of this Act, held office as a member of, or alternate to a member of, a complaints committee continues in office for the remainder of the person's term as if appointed in accordance with the relevant Schedule as amended by this Act.

(2) A complaint, investigation or other proceeding commenced but not completed by a complaints committee before the commencement of this Act may be continued and completed after commencement and anything lawfully done in relation to that complaint, investigation or proceeding before commencement continues to have effect as if done after commencement.

(3) In this section, "complaints committee" means—

(a) the Dental Professions Complaints Committee established under section 12C of the Dental Practitioners Act 1950;

(b) the Nursing and Midwifery Professions Complaints Committee established under section 6C of the Nursing and Midwifery Act 1997; or

(c) the Optometrists and Opticians Complaints Committee established under section 14 of the Optometrists and Opticians Act 2008.

[Assent Date: 12 October 2026]

[Operative Date: 12 October 2026]