
GENERAL NOTICE ALGEMENE KENNISGEWING

NOTICE 504 OF 2014

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT PUBLICATION OF EXPLANATORY SUMMARY OF THE LEGAL AID BILL, 2014

1. Notice is hereby given in terms of Rule 241(1)(b) of the Rules of the National Assembly that the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services intends to introduce the Legal Aid Bill, 2014, in the National Assembly shortly.

2. The explanatory summary of the Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 241(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly.

The Bill intends to ensure access to justice and the realisation of the right of a person to have legal representation as envisaged in the Constitution; for that purpose to establish an entity called Legal Aid South Africa with a Board of Directors and to define its objects, powers, functions, duties and composition; to provide for the independence and impartiality of Legal Aid South Africa; to provide for the appointment of the Board of Directors and qualification for membership thereof; to provide for the appointment of a chairperson and a deputy chairperson; to provide for the term of appointment of a member of the Board of Directors; to provide for the termination of membership of the Board of Directors; to provide for meetings of the Board of Directors, quorum and procedure; to provide for the establishment of committees by the Board of Directors; to provide for the delegation of powers and the assignment of duties or functions of the Board of Directors; to provide for the appointment of a chief executive officer and his or her functions; to provide for the appointment of employees and agents of Legal Aid South Africa and their terms and conditions of employment; to provide for the protection of client privilege in certain circumstances; to provide for the recovery of costs by Legal Aid South Africa; to provide for the finances of Legal Aid South Africa; to provide for the provision of legal aid by direction of courts in criminal matters; to provide for the compilation of a Legal Aid Manual; to provide for the making of regulations; to provide for the amendment or repeal of laws; to provide for transitional arrangements; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

3. A copy of the Bill can be found on the websites of the Department and Parliamentary Monitoring Group at <http://www.doj.gov.za> and <http://www.pmg.org.za> and, after introduction, may also be obtained from: Government Printers: Cape Town (Telephone number: (021) 465-7531).