

# IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

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## IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024

### A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE IMMIGRATION ACT

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

#### 1. Short title and commencement.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Immigration (Amendment) Act, 2024.
- (2) This Act shall come into operation on the date appointed by the Minister, by notice published in the *Gazette*.

#### 2. Amendment of section 36 of Ch. 191.

Section 36 of the Immigration Act is amended —

- (a) by the deletion of subsection (1) and the substitution of the following —

“(1) Every non-citizen or non-resident passenger arriving in or departing from The Bahamas shall —

- (a) electronically complete a declaration in the prescribed form on the designated website or any other digital application designated by the Minister, for such purpose; or
- (b) manually complete a declaration in the prescribed form.”; and

- (b) by the insertion, immediately after subsection (2), of the new subsections (2A) and (2B) as follows —

“(2A) Subsection (2) does not apply, where the passenger uses the designated website or designated digital application to complete and submit the prescribed declaration to the Director.

(2B) The Director shall publish guidelines for passengers on the manner in which the designated website or

designated digital application is to be used to properly complete the prescribed declaration.”.

### **OBJECTS AND REASONS**

The Immigration (Amendment) Bill, 2024, amends section 36 of the Immigration Act (*Ch. 191*), to provide that a non-citizen or non-resident passenger shall complete the prescribed declaration either —

- (a) electronically on the website or digital application designated for such purpose;
- or
- (b) manually.

The Bill also vests the Director of Immigration with the duty to publish guidelines, for completing the prescribed declaration by passengers, using the designated website.