Ministry of
Caymanian Employment
& Immigration
Cayman Islands Government

PUBLIC INFORMATION
Frequently Asked Questions

Immigration (Transition) (Amendment & Validation) Bill, 2025

(23 October 2025)

Background

This information document provides guidance on how applications, permits, and facilities submitted or held before the Immigration (Transition) (Amendment & Validation) Bill, 2025 comes into effect.

It aims to help residents, employers, and public sector employees understand what happens during the transition to the new law.

Note: The proposed amendments to the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision) are intended to update and refine aspects of the existing legislative framework to ensure it remains responsive to evolving social and economic circumstances. It should be noted, however, that the Immigration (Transition) (Amendment & Validation) Bill, 2025 does not propose any changes to the permanent residency (PR) framework. Such changes will be addressed in the next round of legislative amendments.

Public Consultation Period Now Open

Please note that any responses may be made public, albeit on an anonymous basis where possible. Responses may also be shared with other public bodies involved in this consultation to assist the Ministry in developing the relevant policies. The Ministry also encourages stakeholders to provide as much supporting examples as possible with their responses.

Responses must be submitted via email by close of business on 14 November 2025, to ImmigrationConsultation@gov.ky.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Applications or Appeals Submitted Before the New Law Starts

Q: I sent in my immigration application or appeal before the new Immigration (Transition) (Amendment & Validation) Bill, 2025 takes effect. Will my case be decided under the old or new law?

A: Any application or appeal that was submitted **before the new law begins** will continue to be processed **under the old law**. The rules that applied at the time of your submission will still govern your case.

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2. Valid Permits, Visas, and Existing Permissions

Q: What happens to my current work permit, permanent residency or Residency Employment Rights Certificate facility once the new Immigration (Transition) (Amendment & Validation) Bill, 2025 starts? Will it still be valid?

A: Any **work permit** that is **valid when the new law starts** will **remain valid until it expires. Thereafter, the new rules will apply.**

A: Any **permanent residency or Residency Employment Rights Certificate** that is **valid when the new law starts** will **remain valid until it is lost, or is cancelled**.

Q: (follow-up): I already have a valid permanent residency or Residency Employment Rights Certificate facility, permission, or exemption under the current law — do the new rules in section 10(a) and (b) about Caymanian status apply to me?

A: No. The new Caymanian status provisions **do not apply** to people who already hold a valid permanent residency or Residency Employment Rights Certificate facility, permission, or exemption, permission, or exemption under the current law. You may continue to apply for Caymanian status **under the law that originally issued your document**.

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3. Health Services Authority (HSA) and University College of the Cayman Islands (UCCI) Employees

Q: I work for the HSA or UCCI. Will my immigration facility or exemption stay valid after the new law begins?

A: Yes. If you are employed by the **Health Services Authority** or the **University College of the Cayman Islands**, your current immigration permission or exemption will stay valid **until your employment contract ends, or one year after the new law starts — whichever is later**.

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4. Certificate for Specialist Caregivers

Q: I have a Certificate for Specialist Caregivers. When the new Immigration (Transition) (Amendment & Validation) Bill, 2025 starts, can I still renew it?
A: Yes. If you already hold a Certificate for Specialist Caregivers when the new law begins, you may **renew it once more for an additional five-year period**.

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5. Annual Declarations for Existing Certificate Holders

Q: I already hold a certificate under the current immigration law. Will I need to do anything new under the new Immigration (Transition) (Amendment & Validation) Bill, 2025 law?
A: Yes. Individuals who already possess certain types of certificates (listed below) when the new law begins will now be required to **submit a yearly declaration**, as outlined in the new legislation:

- Persons granted the right to be Caymanian (married or in a civil partnership with a Caymanian) (for the first seven (7) years of being granted Caymanian Status);
- Holder of a RERC (married to or in a civil partnership with a Caymanian);
- Certificate of Direct Investment;
- Residency Certificate (Substantial Business Presence).

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6. Transition from private sector worker to Civil Servant

Q: If I was a private-sector worker and later became a civil servant, does my time limit start over, or does it continue from when I first started working?
A: Your time continues to count from the date you **first became a worker**. Becoming a civil servant does **not reset your time limit** under the new law.

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7. Work Permit Applications Submitted Before the New Law

Q: My employer submitted my work permit application before the new immigration law takes effect. Which rules apply?
A: Any work permit application that was **submitted before the new law starts** will be **processed under the old law**, not the new one.

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8. Caymanian by Entitlement

Q: Who is considered Caymanian by entitlement?

A: Caymanian by entitlement relates to the child of a Caymanian whose parents did not did not have Caymanian status at the time of the child's birth and that child was granted Caymanian status (by entitlement) before they turned 18.

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9. Revocation of the right to be Caymanian by entitlement

Q: Is the loss provision for persons who obtain the right to be Caymanian by entitlement, included in section 11(b), new?

A: No. This is a repeal and replace of current section 33(2) in the Immigration (Transition) Act (2022 Revision). Currently, the right to be Caymanian by entitlement can be revoked if a person has not been legally and ordinarily resident in the Islands for a period of seven years immediately before reaching the age of eighteen years. The Bill has amended this provision to state that the right to be Caymanian by entitlement can be revoked – (a) if the person has not been legally and ordinarily resident in the Islands for a period of seven years before reaching the age of eighteen; **and** (b) after reaching the age of eighteen years, if the person resides outside the Islands for a period of five years, other than for medical reasons or educational purposes.

Note: This FAQ will be updated as needed during the public consultation period.
Persons who have questions or feedback should email ImmigrationConsultation@gov.ky or the https://publicconsultation.gov.ky/