The amendment revises the legal framework on international protection and residence permits by clarifying and expanding the statutory grounds for exclusion from, and revocation of, refugee status and subsidiary protection where there are serious reasons to consider that a foreigner constitutes a danger to national security, public order, or public safety, including where the person has been finally convicted of a serious crime or of repeated criminal offences.

It establishes a new legal basis for granting a temporary residence permit on grounds of tolerated (bearable) stay to persons who cannot be removed but who are excluded from protection under Articles 40, 41, or Article 48(4), subject to special conditions such as reporting obligations, restrictions on employment, or other coercive measures, and limits such permits in duration, legal effects, and eligibility for permanent residence.

The amendment provides that withdrawal of international protection renders any residence and work permits invalid, enables the authorities to consider humanitarian residence permits in certain revocation cases, restricts the application of ordinary administrative procedural safeguards and appeal rights for decisions on tolerated stay, and authorizes the withholding of information from parties where required for reasons of public interest, national security, or international relations.

It further amends transitional and employment provisions to accommodate the new permit category and enters into force immediately, subject to limited exceptions for applications already pending under Article 74.

Summary of the legislative amendments and the approved text already published in the Parliamentary Gazette. The amended legislative act has not yet been published in the official government gazette.

Source(s)

- Parliamentary Gazette | Althingistídindi (16 February, 2026), Lög um breytingu á lögum um útlendinga, nr. 80/2016 (afturköllun alþjóðlegrar verndar). [Laws on amendments to the Aliens Act, No. 80/2016 (withdrawal of international protection).], https://www.althingi.is/altext/157/s/0759.html

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