

Regulatory Systems Amendment Bills

What is an RSAB?

Regulatory Systems Amendment Bills (RSABs) are omnibus bills used for the improvement, repair, and maintenance of legislation, as part of good regulatory stewardship. Agencies use RSABs to:

1. Make multiple changes to two or more Acts
2. Repeal Acts that are no longer needed

Unlike other bills, Parliament's Business Committee must approve RSABs before they can be introduced to the House. Because the Committee includes members from all political parties, RSABs need to be non-contentious and broadly supported.

Why use an RSAB?

At a high level agencies use RSABs to:

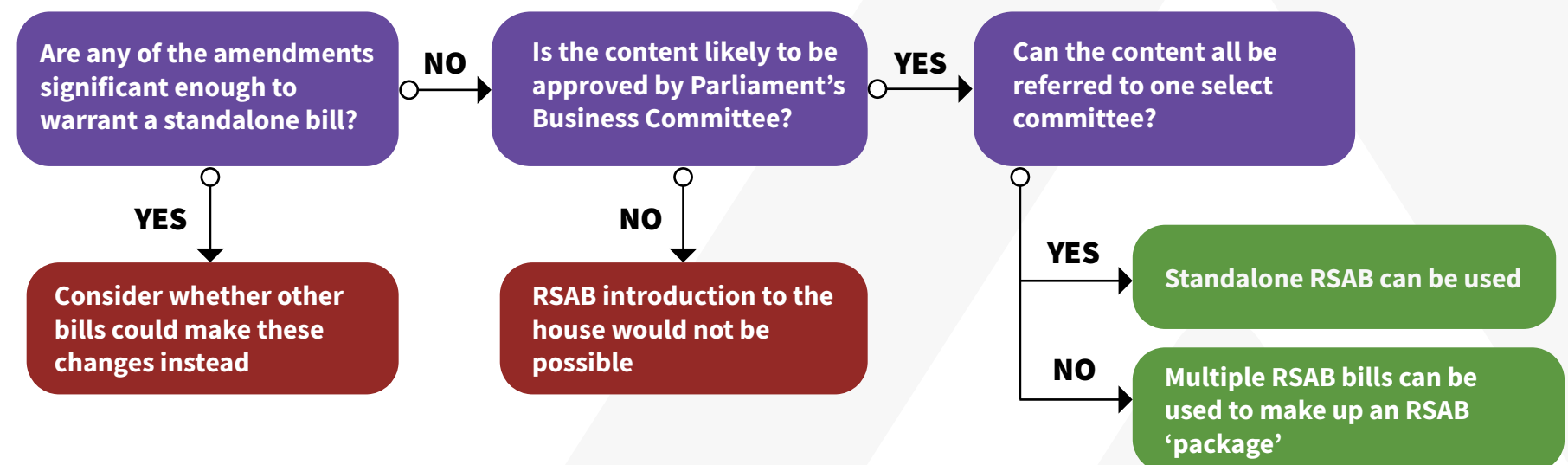
- Get rid of unnecessary or unused legislation
- Improve how Acts achieve their purpose
- Enable regulators to be more efficient
- Keep laws up to date and relevant
- Fix duplication, gaps, errors or inconsistencies in the statute book
- Align Acts with best regulatory practice
- Make straightforward or common-sense improvements

RSABs are an effective and practical way for agencies to undertake good regulatory stewardship of their legislation.
For a complete overview of RSABs see our guidance: regulation.govt.nz/RSAB

When should you use an RSAB?

Agencies can use RSABs if:

1. None of the amendments are significant enough to warrant a standalone bill
2. The amendments will likely be supported by Parliament's Business Committee



Developing an RSAB

Refer to our RSAB Guidance (regulation.govt.nz/RSAB) for detailed information on how to develop a successful RSAB. Agencies will need to:

1. Identify and collect potential amendments from across the agency (Chapter 1)
2. Assess and vet each proposed amendment for suitability, political support, and readiness (Chapter 2)
3. Coordinate and prepare drafting instructions (Chapter 3)
4. Navigate the parliamentary process for RSABs, including seeking Cabinet and Business Committee approvals, preparing supporting documents, and coordinating with select committees (Chapter 4)



Good fit for an RSAB

Amendments with these characteristics are generally well-suited for an RSAB:

- Enable new technology
- Update old setting or thresholds in Acts
- Delete old or unused provisions
- Fix mistakes
- Delegate decisions to better decision-makers
- Align provisions
- Enables efficiencies



Consider another type of bill

Amendments with these characteristics may not be well suited for an RSAB:

- Offences and penalties
- Controversial subject matter
- Costly initiatives
- New fees or levies
- Strong public interest
- Wide-sweeping, complex changes
- Significant impacts
- Changing an Act's purpose or direction