



REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

ACTS SUPPLEMENT

Published by Authority

NO. 22]

FRIDAY, MAY 29

[2020

First published in the *Government Gazette*, Electronic Edition, on 22 May 2020 at 5 pm.

The following Act was passed by Parliament on 4 May 2020 and assented to by the President on 15 May 2020:—

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (COVID-19 SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS) ACT 2020

(No. 21 of 2020)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

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REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

No. 21 of 2020.

I assent.



HALIMAH YACOB,
President.
15 May 2020.

An Act to authorise temporary arrangements for the purposes of any election under the Parliamentary Elections Act (Chapter 218 of the 2011 Revised Edition) so that certain electors who are subject to COVID-19 stay orders may vote outside of their electoral divisions, an aspiring candidate need not be present in person during nomination proceedings if ill, and special steps may be taken during a poll and vote counting in the interest of public health.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act is the Parliamentary Elections (COVID-19 Special Arrangements) Act 2020 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“boarding premises”, for an elector subject to a COVID-19 stay order —

(a) means a hotel, serviced apartment, hostel, dormitory or other similar boarding premises —

(i) from which the elector is required under the COVID-19 stay order to not leave; and

(ii) that is not the ordinary residence of the elector in Singapore as shown in the register of electors; but

(b) excludes a hospital, convalescent home or a similar institution;

“COVID-19” means the infectious disease known as Coronavirus Disease 2019;

“COVID-19 quarantine order” means an order under section 15(1) or (2) of the Infectious Diseases Act (Cap. 137) because of the COVID-19;

“COVID-19 stay order” means an order under the Infectious Diseases (COVID-19 — Stay Orders) Regulations 2020 (G.N. No. S 182/2020) that an individual given the order must not leave a place of accommodation specified;

“election” means an election under the Parliamentary Elections Act held on or before 14 April 2021;

“nomination day”, for an election in an electoral division, means —

(a) the day of nomination of the election; or

(b) a day to which the nomination of candidates is postponed under section 56A of the Parliamentary Elections Act for the election;

“place of accommodation” includes a boarding premises;

“poll” does not include a poll using a direct recording electronic voting system;

“polling day”, for an election in an electoral division, means —

(a) the day on which the poll is to be taken at the election;
or

(b) a day to which the poll is adjourned and postponed under section 56C of the Parliamentary Elections Act for the election;

“Returning Officer” means the individual appointed as a Returning Officer under section 3(1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act;

“special polling station” means a polling station established under section 5(2);

“Stay Order Regulations” means the Infectious Diseases (COVID-19 — Stay Orders) Regulations 2020.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, an elector is subject to —

(a) a COVID-19 quarantine order for so long as the elector is required to be detained and isolated, or to remain and be isolated, in a place because of the COVID-19 quarantine order applicable to the elector; or

(b) a COVID-19 stay order for so long as the elector is required to not leave a place of accommodation because of the COVID-19 stay order applicable to the elector.

(3) Unless expressly provided otherwise in this Act, any word or expression in this Act that is defined in section 2(1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act has the meaning given to it by that section.

Quarantined elector, etc., not voting is excused

3.—(1) Subsection (2) applies to an elector who, on the polling day of an election in an electoral division, is subject to —

- (a) a COVID-19 quarantine order; or
- (b) a requirement under the Stay Order Regulations to go to and not leave his or her place of accommodation but not because of a COVID-19 stay order to not leave a boarding premises.

(2) If an elector mentioned in subsection (1) does not record his or her vote at an election in an electoral division, he or she —

- (a) must be treated under section 43(8) of the Parliamentary Elections Act as having a good and sufficient reason for not recording his or her vote at the election; and
- (b) is entitled to have his or her name restored to the relevant register of electors without penalty, and without application in the case of an elector subject to a COVID-19 quarantine order or COVID-19 stay order, after the Registration Officer gives notice in the *Gazette* under section 43(6) of that Act after that election.

(3) In any proceedings for an offence under the Infectious Diseases Act against an elector mentioned in subsection (1)(a) for —

- (a) failing to proceed to the place in which he or she is to be isolated within the time specified in the COVID-19 quarantine order;
- (b) leaving or attempting to leave the place in which he or she is being isolated; or
- (c) failing to comply with any condition to which he or she is subject,

it is not a reasonable excuse or other defence that the act or omission constituting the offence was committed for the purpose of voting at an election.

(4) In any proceedings for an offence under the Infectious Diseases Act against an elector mentioned in subsection (1)(b) for or in