

Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill

Table of Contents

Bill No: 14/1999

Read the first time: 18th March 1999

Long Title

Enacting Formula

1 Short title and commencement

2 Amendment of section 2

3 Amendment of section 13

4 Amendment of section 40

5 Amendment of section 42

6 Amendment of section 49

7 Amendment of section 50

8 Amendment of section 64

9 Consequential and related amendments to Presidential Elections Act

Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 14/1999

Read the first time on 18th March 1999.

An Act to amend the Parliamentary Elections Act (Chapter 218 of the 1995 Revised Edition) and to make consequential and related amendments to the Presidential Elections Act (Chapter 240A of the 1992 Revised Edition).

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 may be cited as the Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act 1999 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Parliamentary Elections Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by inserting, immediately after the definition of “polling district”, the following definition:

““principal election agent” means an election agent of a candidate in a group who has been appointed under section 62(5) as the principal election agent for that group;”.

Amendment of section 13

3. Section 13(4) of the principal Act is amended by deleting paragraph (a).

Amendment of section 40

4. Section 40 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (3), the following subsection:

“(4) The official mark for the authentication of ballot papers shall comprise a pattern, design, watermark or logo approved by the Returning Officer which shall be affixed, stamped, overprinted or marked (by writing or otherwise), or any combination thereof, on the ballot paper in a particular manner approved by the Returning Officer.”.

Amendment of section 42

5. Section 42(2) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “be stamped on the back or perforated with the official mark” in the 4th and 5th lines and substituting the words “, unless it already bears the complete official mark for the authentication of ballot papers, be affixed, stamped or marked (by writing or otherwise) by the presiding officer in the approved manner with that official mark or the remaining part thereof”.

Amendment of section 49

6. Section 49 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsections (1) and (2) and substituting the following subsections:

“(1) Subject to subsection (2), counting agents for any candidate nominated for an electoral division other than a group representation constituency may be appointed either by the candidate or his election agent only, and counting agents for any group of candidates nominated for a group representation constituency may be appointed either by the election agent of any candidate in the group or the principal election agent for that group only.

(2) Not more than one counting agent may be appointed for a candidate or group of candidates to attend the counting of votes at each counting place specified in the direction made under section 48A(1).”.

Amendment of section 50

7. Section 50(1) of the principal Act is amended by deleting paragraph (a) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(a) which does not bear the complete official mark for the authentication of ballot papers or is not initialled by the presiding officer;”.

Amendment of section 64

8. Section 64(1A) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “only the principal election agent of the group” in the 2nd line and substituting the words “either the principal election agent for the group or the election agent of any candidate in that group”.

Consequential and related amendments to Presidential Elections Act

9.—(1) Section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A) is amended by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Presidential Elections Committee”, the following definition:

“ “principal election agent” means an election agent of a candidate who has

been appointed under section 43(2A) as the principal election agent;”.

(2) Section 23 of the Presidential Elections Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(3) The official mark for the authentication of ballot papers shall comprise a pattern, design, watermark or logo approved by the Returning Officer which shall be affixed, stamped, overprinted or marked (by writing or otherwise), or any combination thereof, on the ballot paper in a particular manner approved by the Returning Officer.”.

(3) Section 25(3) of the Presidential Elections Act is amended by deleting the words “be stamped on the back or perforated with the official mark” in the 2nd and 3rd lines and substituting the words “, unless it already bears the complete official mark for the authentication of ballot papers, be affixed, stamped or marked (by writing or otherwise) by the presiding officer in the approved manner with that official mark or the remaining part thereof”.

(4) Section 31A(2) of the Presidential Elections Act is amended by deleting the words “election agent” and substituting the words “principal election agent”.

(5) Section 32 of the Presidential Elections Act is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after the words “Each candidate” in subsections (1) and (2), the words “or any of his election agents”; and
- (b) by deleting the words “election agents” in subsection (8B)(b) and substituting the words “principal election agents”.

(6) Section 33(1) of the Presidential Elections Act is amended by deleting paragraph (a) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(a) any ballot paper which does not bear the complete official mark for the authentication of ballot papers or is not initialled by the presiding officer;”.

(7) Section 43 of the Presidential Elections Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “a person” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “not more than 20 persons”;
- (b) by deleting the words “election agent” in subsection (1) and in the marginal note and substituting in each case the words “election agents”;
- (c) by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(2A) On or before nomination day at an election, not more than one principal election agent for that election shall be appointed by