

Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 29/1996

Read the first time: 1st October 1996

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Expenditure of Public Money

Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 29/1996

Read the first time on 1st October 1996.

An Act to amend the Parliamentary Elections Act (Chapter 218 of the 1995 Revised Edition) and to make 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 1996 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 —

- (a) by deleting the definition of “group” and substituting the following definition:

“ “group” means a group of not less than 3 but not more than 6 candidates nominated for any election in any group representation constituency in accordance with section 27B;”;

- (b) by deleting the definition of “Parliamentary Secretary”; and
- (c) by deleting the definitions of “register” and “register of electors” and substituting the following definitions:

“ “register” or “register of electors” means the register of electors for any particular electoral division comprising sections, each of which shall relate to a polling district of that electoral division;”.

Amendment of section 5

3. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “1st July” wherever they appear in subsections (1) and (2) and substituting in each case the words “the prescribed date”;
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the words “electoral division” in subsection (2)(c), the words “and polling district of the electoral division”; and
- (c) by inserting, immediately after subsection (3), the following subsections:

“(4) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), the prescribed date shall be 1st July or such other date as the Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, specify.

(5) No order shall be made under subsection (4) between the date of commencement of any preparation or revision of any register of electors for any year and the date of certification of that register under this Act (both dates inclusive).”.

Amendment of section 8A

4. Section 8A of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “3 candidates, or on the basis of a group of 4 candidates” in the sixth and seventh lines of subsection (1)(a) and substituting the words “such number of candidates, being not less than 3

but not more than 6”;

(b) by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) There shall at all times be at least 8 electoral divisions which are not declared under subsection (1)(a) to be group representation constituencies.”; and

(c) by deleting the words “or more than three-quarters” in the third line of subsection (2).

Amendment of section 20

5. Section 20(2) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the words “section 13, 17 or 43” in the ninth line, the words “or with section 26 of the Presidential Elections Act [Cap. 240A]”.

New section 20A

6. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 20, the following section:

“Redistribution of polling districts, etc.

20A.—(1) Where any new electoral division is created or the boundaries of any existing electoral division are altered by —

- (a) redistributing the whole of one or more contiguous polling districts of any existing electoral division or divisions to form a polling district or districts of the new or altered electoral division without any change in the boundaries of those polling districts; or
- (b) transferring the whole of one or more contiguous polling districts of any existing electoral division or divisions to any other existing division or divisions without any change in the boundaries of those polling districts,

the Minister may, in lieu of specifying the boundaries of the electoral divisions in a notification under section 8, specify —

- (i) the polling districts which have been retained, redistributed or transferred to form subdivisions of the respective electoral divisions; and
- (ii) the new distinguishing letter or letters (if any) assigned to each such polling district,

and each electoral division shall be deemed to have been subdivided under

section 9(1) into the polling districts so retained, redistributed or transferred as its subdivisions.

(2) Unless the Minister otherwise directs, whenever any new electoral division is created or any electoral division is altered in the manner referred to in subsection (1)(a) or (b), section 10 shall not apply to that new or altered electoral division and the Registration Officer shall, before the next general election, prepare in accordance with subsection (3) a composite register for each new or altered division and certify it in the Form 7 in the First Schedule.

(3) A composite register for any new or altered electoral division shall be prepared by using the certified registers in operation and combining the sections of these certified registers relating to the polling districts which have been redistributed or transferred to form the polling districts of the new or altered electoral division.

(4) Any composite register prepared in accordance with subsection (3) for a new or altered electoral division shall be deemed to be the certified register in operation for that electoral division at the next general election following its certification but not earlier, and subject to such alterations as may be made therein in accordance with section 13, 17 or 43 or with section 26 of the Presidential Elections Act [Cap. 240A], shall continue in operation until superseded by the coming into operation of the next certified register for that electoral division.”.

Amendment of section 22

7. Section 22(2) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “3 or 4 Members” and substituting the words “such number of Members”.

Amendment of section 27A

8. Section 27A of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “3 or 4 candidates” in subsections (2) and (3) and substituting in each case the words “such number of candidates”.

Amendment of section 39

9. Section 39 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (5) and substituting the following subsections:

“(5) The number of polling agents that may be admitted to any polling station for an electoral division shall be as follows:

(a) only one polling agent for each candidate contesting the election in