

The Religious Societies Act, 1880

(ACT NO. I OF 1880)

An Act to confer certain powers on Religious Societies.

Preamble

WHEREAS it is expedient to simplify the manner in which certain bodies of persons associated for the purpose of maintaining religious worship may hold property acquired for such purpose, and to provide for the dissolution of such bodies and the adjustment of their affairs and for the decision of certain questions relating to such bodies; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Short title

1. This Act may be called the Religious Societies Act, 1880.

Local extent

It shall extend to the whole of ¹[Bangladesh] but nothing herein contained shall apply to any Hindus, ²[Muslims] or Buddhists, or to any person whom the ³[Government] may from time to time by notification in the official Gazette, exclude from the operation of this Act.

Appointment of new trustee in cases not otherwise provided for

2. When any body of persons associated for purpose of maintaining religious worship has acquired, or hereafter shall acquire, any property, and such property has been or hereafter shall be vested in trustees in trust for such body,

and it becomes necessary to appoint a new trustee in the place of or in addition to any such trustee or any trustee appointed in the manner hereinafter prescribed,

and no manner of appointing such new trustee is prescribed by any instrument by which such property was so vested or by which the trusts on which it is held have been declared, or such new trustee cannot for any reason be appointed in the manner so prescribed,

such new trustee may be appointed in such manner as may be agreed upon by such body, or by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the

members of such body actually present at the meeting at which the appointment is made.

Appointment under section 2 to be recorded in a memorandum under the hand of the chairman of the meeting

3. Every appointment of new trustees under section 2 shall be made to appear by some memorandum under the hand of the chairman for the time being of the meeting at which such appointment is made.

Such memorandum shall be in the form set forth in the schedule hereto annexed, or as near thereto as circumstances allow, shall be executed and attested by two or more credible witnesses in the presence of such meeting, and shall be deemed to be a document of which the registration is required by the ⁴[Registration Act, 1908] section 17.

Property to vest in new trustees without conveyance

4. When any new trustees have been appointed, whether in the manner prescribed by any such instrument as aforesaid or in the manner hereinbefore provided, the property subject to the trust shall forthwith, notwithstanding anything contained in any such instrument, become vested, without any conveyance or other assurance, in such new trustees and the old continuing trustees jointly, or, if there are no old continuing trustees, in such new trustees wholly, upon the same trusts, and with and subject to the same powers and provisions, as it was vested in the old trustees.

Saving of existing modes of appointment and conveyance

5. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to invalidate any appointment of new trustees, or any conveyance of any property, which may hereafter be made as heretofore was by law required.

Provision for dissolution of societies and adjustment of their affairs

6. Any number not less than three-fifths of the members of any such body as aforesaid may at a meeting convened for the purpose determine that such body shall be dissolved; and thereupon it shall be dissolved forthwith, or at the time then agreed upon; and all necessary steps shall be taken for the