

# **Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill**

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**Bill No: 8/2008**

***Read the first time: 21st July 2008***

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## **Explanatory Statement**

## **Expenditure of Public Money**

### **Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill**

#### **Bill No. 8/2008**

*Read the first time on 21st July 2008.*

An Act to amend the Parliamentary Elections Act (Chapter 218 of the 2007 Revised Edition) and to make related amendments to the Presidential Elections Act (Chapter 240A of the 2007 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 2008 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(1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Commissioner of National Registration”, the following definition:

“ “contact address”, in relation to any person, means the person’s contact address under section 8(2) of the National Registration Act;” and

(b) by deleting the definition of “overseas polling station” and substituting the following definition:

“ “overseas polling station” means such of the following premises situated outside Singapore as the Returning

Officer may approve under section 36A(2) to be an overseas polling station:

- (a) an embassy, a High Commission, diplomatic mission, permanent mission or consulate of Singapore (or any part thereof) in a country or territory outside Singapore;
- (b) the official residence (or any part thereof) of any person who is appointed to hold or act in any of the following offices in a country or territory outside Singapore:
  - (i) an ambassador, a High Commissioner, Consulate-General or head of a diplomatic mission or consulate;
  - (ii) the Permanent Representative; or
  - (iii) such other senior diplomatic or consular office as the Minister may, from time to time, prescribe;”.

### **Amendment of section 5**

3. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting subsection (1A) and substituting the following subsection:

“(1A) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), a person shall be deemed to be ordinarily resident in Singapore on the prescribed date in a year if the person has resided in Singapore for an aggregate of 30 days during the period of 3 years immediately preceding the prescribed date, even though the person is not resident in Singapore on that date.”; and

(b) by deleting the words “referred to in section 8(2) of the National Registration Act (Cap. 201)” in subsection (6).

### **Amendment of section 6**

4. Section 6 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(a) has done any of the following:

- (i) acquired or applied to acquire by registration, naturalisation or other voluntary and formal act (other than marriage) the citizenship of any country outside Singapore;
- (ii) voluntarily claimed and exercised any rights (other than any rights in connection with the use of a passport) available to him under the law of any country outside Singapore being rights accorded exclusively to the citizens or nationals of that country;
- (iii) taken any oath or made any declaration or acknowledgment of allegiance, obedience or adherence to any foreign power or state; or
- (iv) applied to the authorities of a place outside Singapore for the issue or renewal of a passport or used a passport issued by such authorities as a travel document;”;

(b) by deleting paragraph (f) of subsection (1); and

(c) by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a)(ii), the exercise of a vote in —

- (a) any national, state or provincial election; or
- (b) any election for the local government of any metropolitan or urban area,

in a country outside Singapore (but not an election under this Act or a presidential election) shall be deemed to be the voluntary claim and exercise of a right available under the law of that country.”.

## **Amendment of section 10**

5. Section 10(4) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “or consulate of Singapore situated in” and substituting the words “, permanent mission or consulate of

Singapore situated in any country or”.

### **Amendment of section 11**

6. Section 11 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “in duplicate” in subsections (5) and (6).

### **Amendment of section 13**

7. Section 13 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “a place of residence” in subsection (4) and substituting the words “his place of residence or his contact address”; and
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the words “his change of address” in subsection (4A), the words “or contact address”.

### **Amendment of section 13A**

8. Section 13A of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting subsection (1) and substituting the following subsection:

“(1) Any person not resident in Singapore but whose name is entered in the register of electors for an electoral division and who is entitled to have his name so entered or retained in that register of electors may, at any time before a writ of election is issued for any election in that electoral division, apply to the Registration Officer to be registered as an overseas elector for that electoral division at —

- (a) any overseas registration centre; or
- (b) any place in or near the electoral division for which the person seeks to be registered as an overseas elector.”;

- (b) by inserting, immediately after paragraph (c) of subsection (2), the following paragraph:

“(ca) a declaration that he —

- (i) has not acquired or applied to acquire by registration, naturalisation or other voluntary and formal act (other than marriage) the citizenship of any country outside Singapore;
- (ii) has not voluntarily claimed and exercised any rights (other than any rights in