

Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 9/2005

Read the first time: 18th April 2005

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Expenditure of Public Money

Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 9/2005

Read the first time on 18th April 2005.

An Act to amend the Parliamentary Elections Act (Chapter 218 of the 2001 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 2005 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(2) of the Parliamentary Elections Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by deleting the words “For the purposes of the definition of “election advertising” in subsection (1)” and substituting the words “For the purposes of this Act”.

Amendment of section 11

3. Section 11 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsections (7) and (16).

Amendment of section 12

4. Section 12 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “, shall state shortly the ground of appeal and shall bear a stamp of \$5” in subsection (3) and substituting the words “and shall state shortly the ground of appeal”; and
- (b) by deleting subsection (6).

Amendment of section 27

5. Section 27 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting subsections (2), (2A) and (2B) and substituting the following subsection:

“(2) A person may be nominated to be a candidate for election only by means of a nomination paper in Form 9 in the First Schedule, which shall —

- (a) set out the name, identity card number and occupation of the person;
 - (b) be signed by a proposer and a seconder, and 4 or more persons as assentors, each of whom must be a person whose name appears in the register of electors for the electoral division in which the person seeks election;
 - (c) contain a statement, signed by that person, to the effect that he consents to the nomination; and
 - (d) contain a statutory declaration by the person seeking nomination stating that he is qualified to be elected.”;
- (b) by deleting paragraph (a) of subsection (3);
 - (c) by deleting the words “under subsection (3)(a)” in subsection (3A) and substituting the words “which is required by subsection (2)(d) to be made is not so made,”; and
 - (d) by deleting the words “and statutory declaration” in subsection (4).

Amendment of section 27B

6. Section 27B of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting subsections (2), (2A) and (2B) and substituting the following subsection:

“(2) A group of persons may be nominated to be a group of candidates for election in a group representation constituency only by means of a nomination paper in Form 9A in the First Schedule, which shall —

- (a) set out the name, identity card number and occupation of each of those persons;
 - (b) be signed by a proposer and a seconder, and 4 or more persons as assentors, each of whom must be a person whose name appears in the register of electors for the group representation constituency in which the group seeks election;
 - (c) contain a statement, signed by each of the persons, to the effect that he consents to the nomination; and
 - (d) contain a statutory declaration by each of the persons seeking nomination stating that he is qualified to be elected, and the political party for which the group stands (if any).”;
- (b) by deleting paragraph (a) of subsection (3);
- (c) by deleting the words “statutory declaration or” in subsection (3A) and substituting the words “statutory declaration which is required by subsection (2)(d) to be made is not so made, or any”; and
- (d) by deleting the words “and statutory declaration” in subsection (4).

Amendment of section 29

7. Section 29 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “, statutory declarations,” in subsection (1) and substituting the word “and”;
- (b) by deleting subsection (2) and substituting the following subsection:

“(2) Every such nomination paper and certificate shall be delivered to the Returning Officer, in duplicate and in person, by the person seeking nomination accompanied by his proposer, seconder and at least 4 assentors, at the place of nomination between 11 a.m. and 12 noon (both times inclusive) on the day of nomination, and if not so delivered, shall be rejected.”; and

- (c) by deleting the words “and seconders” in subsection (4) and substituting the words “, seconders and assentors”.

New section 29A

8. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 29, the following section:

“Amendment of nomination papers

29A.—(1) Subject to subsection (3), where the Returning Officer detects in any nomination paper —

- (a) an error or omission, or what appears to be an error or omission, which may amount to a ground for rejecting the nomination paper or allowing an objection to the nomination paper; or
- (b) anything which may affect the validity of the nomination paper and the Returning Officer considers that it can be corrected before 12 noon on the day of nomination,

the Returning Officer may, before making his decision under section 29 or 30, give the candidate or person seeking nomination, as the case may be, a reasonable opportunity to correct the error or omission before 12 noon on the day of nomination.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), where any error or omission in a person’s nomination paper is brought to the attention of the candidate or person seeking nomination (whether by the Returning Officer under subsection (1) or following an objection made under section 30), the candidate or person seeking nomination, as the case may be, may, at any time before 12 noon on the day of nomination but no later, take such action as may be necessary to correct any such error or omission in his nomination paper.

(3) Nothing in subsection (1) or (2) shall authorise any candidate or person seeking nomination to substitute a different person —

- (a) as a candidate for election for an electoral division; or
- (b) as proposer, seconder or assentor.

(4) In this section, “error” has the same meaning as in section 103.”.

Amendment of section 30

9. Section 30 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection: