

Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 20/2001

Read the first time: 16th March 2001

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Expenditure of Public Money

Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 20/2001

Read the first time on 16th March 2001.

An Act to amend the Parliamentary Elections Act (Chapter 218 of the 1999 Revised Edition) and to make related and miscellaneous amendments to certain other written laws.

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 2001 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 inserting, immediately before the definition of “candidate”, the following definitions:

“ “ballot box” includes a ballot container;

“ballot display” means an electronic video display, image or representation of a ballot paper on a screen;”;

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

“ “direct recording electronic voting machine” or “DRE voting machine” means any mechanical, electronic or electro-optical machine that can —

(a) be activated by a voter to mark or record his vote for any candidate or group of candidates on a ballot display on the machine;

(b) process the vote by means of a computer program;

(c) instantaneously record and store that vote within a memory device within the machine;

and

- (d) sort and count votes marked or recorded on all ballot displays on that machine,

and includes any computer program that is used in the operation of the machine;

“direct recording electronic voting system” or “DRE voting system” means any voting system using DRE voting machines;”;

- (c) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Member”, the following definitions:

““overseas elector” means an elector who is registered under section 13 or 13A in any register of electors as an overseas elector;

“overseas polling station” means such premises within an embassy, High Commission, diplomatic mission or consulate of Singapore situated in any territory outside Singapore as the Returning Officer approves under section 36A(2) to be an overseas polling station;

“overseas registration centre” means an overseas registration centre established under section 10(4);”;

- (d) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “polling district”, the following definitions:

““polling station” means any polling station established by or under the authority of the Returning Officer under section 36A for voters to cast their votes at an election, and includes any overseas polling station;

“presidential election” means an election under the Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A);” and

- (e) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “principal election agent”, the following definition:

““public authority” means any body corporate, board or authority established by or under any written law for the performance of any public function, but excludes any Town Council constituted under the Town Councils Act (Cap.

329A);”.

Amendment of section 5

3. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), 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, on that date —

(a) the person is not resident in Singapore but has resided in Singapore for an aggregate of 2 years during the period of 5 years immediately preceding the prescribed date; or

(b) the person is —

(i) a member of the Singapore Armed Forces on full-time training or service outside Singapore;

(ii) a public officer or an employee of any public authority employed in full-time service outside Singapore;

(iii) a public officer or an employee of a public authority on full-time training outside Singapore;

(iv) a citizen of Singapore of not less than 21 years of age on full-time training outside Singapore that is sponsored by the Government or any public authority;

(v) employed outside Singapore by an international organisation of which Singapore is a member or by any other body or organisation designated by the President under Article 135(1)(c)(ii) of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore; or

(vi) the spouse or a parent, child or dependent of any person referred to in sub-paragraph