

Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 11/1993

Read the first time: 26th February 1993

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Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 11/1993

Read the first time on 26th February 1993.

An Act to amend 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 Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act 1993 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 Presidential Elections Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by deleting the definition of “Election Judge” and substituting the following definition:

“ “Election Judge” has the same meaning as in the Constitution;”.

Amendment of section 8

3. Section 8(1) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “the date of the notice referred to in section 7 for the holding of an election and at least two clear days before nomination day for the election” in the first, second and third lines and substituting the words “the date referred to in section 6(1)(a) or such date which is 3 months before the date referred to in section 6(1)(b), whichever is the earlier, but in any case not later than 3 days after the date of the writ for an election”.

Amendment of section 31

4. Section 31 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (3) and substituting the following subsection:

“(3) Every presiding officer of a polling station shall despatch each such packet and the ballot box or boxes in safe custody to the Returning Officer at the counting place where the votes cast at the polling station are to be counted in accordance with the provisions of this Act, except that where the Returning Officer has in any direction made under section 31A(1) specified a polling station to be a counting place, the presiding officer of the polling station shall keep at that station every such packet and ballot box in safe custody pending counting of the votes thereat.”.

New section 31A

5. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 31, the following section:

“Counting at counting places

31A.—(1) The Returning Officer may direct —

- (a) that the votes cast at any polling station or stations be counted at such time and counting place (which may or may not be a polling station) as he may specify; and
- (b) where more than one counting place is specified under paragraph (a), that the total number of votes given to each candidate at the poll be ascertained at such other time and place (referred to in this Act as the principal counting place) as he may specify.

(2) The Returning Officer shall give notice in writing of his direction under subsection (1) to each candidate or his election agent not less than two clear days before polling day.”.

Amendment of section 32

6. Section 32 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting subsection (2) and substituting the following subsections:

“(2) Each candidate may appoint not more than one counting agent to attend the counting of votes at each counting place specified in the direction made under section 31A(1).

(2A) The Returning Officer shall make arrangements for counting the votes in the presence of such of the candidates and their counting agents as attend as soon as practicable —

- (a) where only one counting place is specified in a direction made under section 31A(1) — after he has received all the ballot boxes used during the poll; or
- (b) where more than one counting place is specified in a direction made under section 31A(1) —
 - (i) after the procedure in section 31 has been complied with at the close of the poll if the polling station is a counting place; or
 - (ii) after he has received at that counting place all the ballot boxes containing the