

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Federal Constitution.

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ENACTED by the Parliament of Malaysia as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Constitution (Amendment) Act 2019.

(2) Section 3 of this Act comes into operation on a date to be appointed by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong by notification in the *Gazette*.

Amendment of Article 47

2. The Federal Constitution is amended in Article 47, in paragraph (*b*), by substituting for the words “twenty-one years” the words “eighteen years”.

Amendment of Article 119

3. Article 119 of the Federal Constitution is amended—

(a) in Clause (1), in paragraph (a), by substituting for the words “twenty-one years” the words “eighteen years”; and

(b) in Clause (4), in paragraph (b), by substituting for the words “applies for registration” the words “is registered”.

Amendment of Eighth Schedule

4. The Eighth Schedule to the Federal Constitution is amended in section 5 by substituting for the words “twenty-one years” the words “eighteen years”.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Federal Constitution.

2. *Clause 1* of this Bill provides for the short title of the proposed Act and the power of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to appoint the date of coming into operation of *clause 3* of the proposed Act. *Clauses 2* and *4* shall come into operation on the date immediately following the date of the publication of the proposed Act in the *Gazette* in accordance with section 19 of the Interpretation Acts 1948 and 1967 [*Act 388*].

3. *Clause 2* of this Bill seeks to amend paragraph (b) of Article 47 of the Federal Constitution to lower the age of a citizen who is qualified to be a member of the House of Representatives from twenty-one years to eighteen years.

4. *Clause 3* of this Bill seeks to amend Article 119 of the Federal Constitution. *Subclause 3(a)* seeks to amend paragraph (a) of Clause (1) of Article 119 of the Federal Constitution to lower the age of a citizen who is entitled to vote from twenty-one years to eighteen years. This would allow more Malaysian citizens to vote.

Currently, a person is required to apply for registration as an elector in a constituency and qualifying date in paragraph (b) of Clause (4) of Article 119 of the Federal Constitution refers to the date of such application. *Subclause 3(b)* seeks to amend the definition of “qualifying date” in paragraph (b) of Clause (4) of Article 119 to mean the date on which a person is registered by the Election Commission as an elector in a constituency. With this amendment, when a citizen attains the age of eighteen years and is qualified to vote, he will be automatically registered as an elector by the Election Commission.

5. *Clause 4* of this Bill seeks to amend section 5 of the Eighth Schedule to the Federal Constitution to lower the age of a citizen who is qualified to be a member of the Legislative Assembly from twenty-one years to eighteen years similar to the proposed amendment to Article 47 in *clause 2*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This Bill will involve the Government in extra financial expenditure the amount of which cannot at present be ascertained.

[PN(U2)3160]