

A BILL

*i n t i t u l e d*

An Act to amend the Federal Constitution.

[ ]

**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”.

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**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]