

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998.

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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 Communications and Multimedia (Amendment) Act 2026.

(2) This Act comes into operation on a date to be appointed by the Minister by notification in the *Gazette*.

Amendment of section 202

2. The Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 [*Act 588*] is amended in section 202—

(a) by inserting after subsection (1) the following subsection:

“(1A) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Minister may direct the Commission to support a national universal service provision initiative relating to the usage of network services or applications services or both by encouraging the installation of network facilities and the provision of network services or applications services

or both for the preservation of national security where the determination of national security shall be made by the National Security Council in accordance with section 4 of the National Security Council Act 2016 [Act 776].

(1B) Any national universal service provision initiative under subsection (1A) shall be consistent with the objects of this Act.”; and

(b) in subsection (2), by substituting for the words “subsection (1)” the words “subsections (1) and (1A)”.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (“Act 588”), specifically section 202 of Act 588 in respect of universal service provision.

2. *Clause 1* contains the short title and the provision on the commencement of the proposed Act.

3. *Clause 2* seeks to amend section 202 of Act 588.

Subclause 2(a) seeks to introduce new subsections (1A) and (1B) into section 202 Act 588.

The proposed subsection 202(1A) seeks to introduce an additional category in respect of the provisioning of universal service for the purposes of preservation of national security where the determination of national security shall be made by the National Security Council in accordance with section 4 of the National Security Council Act 2016 [Act 776]. This additional category is to create a more comprehensive universal service provision framework, considering the evolution of the communications and multimedia industry, advancement of technology and the needs of the country from a security aspect.

The proposed subsection 202(1B) seeks to provide that any national universal service provision initiative shall be consistent with the objects of Act 588.

Subclause 2(b) seeks to amend subsection 202(2) of Act 588 to provide that the Minister may also make regulations under section 16 of Act 588 for the implementation of new subsection 202(1A) as introduced under *subclause 2(a)*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This Bill will not involve the Government in any extra financial expenditure.

[PN(U2)2688]