

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Adoption Act 1952.

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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 Adoption (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 2

2. The Adoption Act 1952 [*Act 257*], which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Act, is amended in section 2, in the definition of “child”, by substituting for the word “twenty-one” the word “eighteen”.

Saving

3. (1) Any application made under the principal Act which is pending before the date of coming into operation of this Act shall, on the date of coming into operation of this Act, be continued in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act as if the principal Act had not been amended by this Act.

(2) Any order made under the principal Act before the date of coming into operation of this Act shall, on the date of coming into operation of this Act, continue in force and have full effect, and the order may be varied by a subsequent order made in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act as if the principal Act had not been amended by this Act.

(3) Any appeal pending before the date of coming into operation of this Act shall, on the date of coming into operation of this Act, be continued in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act as if the principal Act had not been amended by this Act.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Adoption Act 1952 (“Act 257”).

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

3. *Clause 2* seeks to amend section 2 of Act 257 in the definition of “child” to lower the age of child from twenty-one years to eighteen years so as to be consistent with the age limit to apply for citizenship by registration as provided in the Constitution (Amendment) Act 2025 [Act A1752], the age for voting in Malaysia as provided in the Federal Constitution, the definition of child as provided in the Child Act 2001 [Act 611] and the age of majority as provided in the Age of Majority Act 1971 [Act 21].

4. *Clause 3* deals with saving provision.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

[PN(U2)3456]