



**GUYANA**

**ACT No. 14 of 2005**

**NATIONAL REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT 2005**

I assent.

Bharrat Jagdeo,  
President.  
4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005

**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

**SECTION**

1. Short title.
2. Amendment of section 2 of the Principal Act.
3. Amendment of section 3 of the Principal Act.

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4. Amendment of section 4 of the Principal Act.
5. Amendment of section 5 of the Principal Act.
6. Amendment of section 6 of the Principal Act.
7. Amendment of section 9 of the Principal Act.
8. Amendment of section 10 of the Principal Act.
9. Amendment of section 11 of the Principal Act.
10. Amendment of section 13 of the Principal Act.
11. Amendment of section 14 of the Principal Act.
12. Insertion of new section 28 in the Principal Act.

AN ACT to amend the National Registration Act.

A.D. 2005

Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:-

Short title.  
Cap. 19:08

1. This Act, which amends the National Registration Act, may be cited as the National Registration (Amendment) Act 2005.

Amendment  
of section 3 of  
the Principal  
Act

2. Section 2 (1) of the Principal Act is hereby amended in the following manner -

- (a) in the definition of "divisional register" for the word "registrar" substitute the words "registration officer";
- (b) insert after the definition of "qualifying date" the following definition -

' "registration area" means such part of a district which comprises one or more registration divisions;'

3. Section 3 of the Principal Act is hereby amended in the following manner -

- (a) by the substitution for subsections (1) and (2) of the following -

"Commissioner,  
Deputy  
Commissioner,  
and Assistant  
Commissioner  
of Registration.

3. (1) There shall be a Commissioner of Registration, hereinafter referred to as "the Commissioner", a Deputy Commissioner of Registration, hereinafter referred to as the "Deputy Commissioner" and an Assistant Commissioner of Registration, hereinafter referred to as the "Assistant Commissioner".

(2) Forthwith upon their appointment, the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner shall respectively take and subscribe the oath of office before a Judge of the Supreme Court."

- (b) by the insertion immediately after subsection (4) of the following subsection -

(4A) The Assistant Commissioner shall, subject to any general or special directions of the Commissioner, act as assistant generally to the Deputy Commissioner and, in

his absence, exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Deputy Commissioner.

Amendment  
of section 4 of  
the Principal  
Act

4. Section 4 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution therefor of the following -

“Registrars,  
divisional  
registers,  
registration  
officers, etc  
No. 15 of 2000.

4. (1) There shall be appointed in accordance with section 17 of the Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2000, such number of registrars, deputy registrars, divisional registrars, registration officers, assistant registration officers, registration clerks and other officers and employees as may be requisite for the execution of the provisions of this Act; and, subject thereto the persons appointed as such shall respectively discharge such functions in that behalf as they may from time to time, under the authority of the Commissioner, be directed to perform.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), section 3 (4) shall apply in relation to -

(a) a registrar and deputy registrar;

(b) a registration officer and assistant registration officer,

as they apply in relation to the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, respectively.

(3) A registration officer shall be assigned to a registration area in a district, and shall be assisted by an assistant registration officer and such other officers and employees as may be necessary, under the direction of the Commissioner.

(4) Forthwith upon their appointment every officer referred to in subsection (1), shall take and subscribe the oath of office.

(5) Every oath under this section shall, in the case of a registrar or deputy registrar or a registration officer or an assistant registration officer, be taken and subscribed before the Commissioner, and in the case of a divisional registrar and a registration clerk before a registrar and a registration officer, respectively.

(6) Every oath administered by a registrar or a registration officer under subsection (5) shall be transmitted by him to the Commissioner."

Amendment  
of section 5 of  
the Principal  
Act.

5. Section 5(2) of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for the words "registration divisions" of the words "registration areas and registration divisions".

Amendment  
of section 6 of  
the Principal  
Act.

6. Section 6 of the Principal Act is hereby amended in the following respects-

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following -

"(1) It shall be lawful for the Commission by order with effect from a specific date to authorise the registration of -

(a) all persons who are qualified to be electors;  
and

(b) all other persons in Guyana of the age of fourteen years and over,

and such registration shall continue and be conducted in such manner and at such time as the Commission shall direct, suspending temporarily for periods prescribed by the Commission.";

(b) in subsection (2) by the insertion immediately after the word "persons" of the words "referred to in subsection (1) (b)";

(c) by the substitution for the opening part of subsection (4) of the following -

"(4) The Commission shall establish in each registration district one or more offices and obtain in so far as practicable the registration of every person eligible therefor, resident at the qualifying date in a registration division in that district.";

(d) in subsections (4), in the proviso thereto, (6) and (7), as amended, by the substitution for the words "divisional registrar" of the words "registration officer";

(e) in subsection (5) by the deletion of the word "not" and by the substitution for the word "may" of the word "shall";

- (f) in subsection (6) by the substitution for the words "under the age of fourteen years" of the words "of the age of fourteen years and over";
- (g) by the insertion immediately after subsection (6) of the following subsection -

(6A) The Elections Commission shall use the official list of electors from the 2001 general and regional elections as the base to commence continuous registration.

Provided that at any stage the Commission may undertake such verification as necessary by a means to be determined by the Commission..

- (h) in subsection (7) -
  - (i) by the deletion of the opening part;
  - (ii) by the substitution for the words in the proviso,

"Provided that, notwithstanding anything provided in the foregoing provisions of this section, the court may," of the words "The court may.,";

- (iii) by re-numbering what was the proviso to subsection (7) as subsection (7).

Amendment  
of section 9 of  
the Principal  
Act.

7. Section 9 of the Principal Act is hereby amended -

- (a) in subsection (1) by the substitution for the word "cards" of the word "records", by the insertion immediately after the words "consist of " of the words "a computerised database and" and by the insertion immediately after the words "persons registered" of the words "under the continuous registration process mentioned in section 6";
- (b) by the insertion immediately after subsection (1) of the following subsection -
 

"(1A) The Commission shall be empowered to determine from time to time procedures for the acquisition and electronic processing of data."
- (c) in subsection (2) by the substitution for the word "registrar" of the words "registration officer".

Amendment  
of section 10 of  
the Principal  
Act.

8. Section 10 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the Substitution for the word "registrar" of the words "registration officer".

Amendment  
of section 11 of  
the Principal  
Act.

9. Section 11 (2) of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for the words "divisional registrar", wherever they appear, of the words "registration officer" and by the substitution for the words "under the age of fourteen years" of the words "of the age of fourteen years and over".

Amendment  
of section 13 of  
the Principal  
Act.

10. Section 13 (1) of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the substitution for the words "registrar or divisional registrar" of the words "registration officer".

Amendment  
of section 14 of  
the Principal  
Act.

11. Section 14 (1) of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion immediately after the word "Commissioner" of the words "in writing" and immediately after the words "preliminary list" of the words "from the central register established under section 9 (1)".

Insertion of  
new section  
28 in the  
Principal Act.

12. The Principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion immediately after section 27 of the following section -

"Authorisation  
of disclosure  
of information  
by the  
Commission.

28. Notwithstanding anything in this Act, the Commission may authorise the release of such information as the Commission may deem necessary to facilitate the verification of registrants' records in any particular case.

*Passed by the National Assembly on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2005.*

*S. E. Isaacs,*  
Clerk of the National Assembly.

(BILL No. 11/2005)