

# Bill No. 2 of 1963

PUBLISHED 12TH JANUARY, 1963.

No. 26

Bill No. 2 of 1963. (L.A.)

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 1963

### Arrangement of Sections

#### Section

- 1. Short title.
- 2. Interpretation.
- 3. Holding of election of chairman and deputy chairman for 1963.
- 4. Validation of acts.

#### A BILL

#### Intituled

An Ordinance to make special provision for the election of chairmen and deputy chairmen of village councils for 1963 and for purposes connected therewith.

Enacted by the Legislature of British Guiana:—

A.D. 1963.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Local Government (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1963.

Short title.

2. In this Ordinance —

“the Principal Ordinance” means the Local Government Ordinance;

Interpretation  
Cap. 150.

“the Board” means the Local Government Board established under the Principal Ordinance.

3. (1) The election of the chairman and deputy chairman of a village council for the year 1963 shall be held on a date not later than ten days after the commencement of this Ordinance, and the provisions of section 55 of the Principal Ordinance shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the election of a chairman and deputy chairman under this subsection:

Holding of election of chairman and deputy chairman for 1963.

Provided that if the election of a chairman and deputy chairman be not held within the time allowed by this subsection, the time for holding such election may for good and sufficient cause be extended by the Board.

(2) If upon a vote being taken for the election of a chairman or deputy chairman in pursuance of the provisions of the preceding subsection there is an equality in the highest number of votes cast for two or more candidates the Overseer shall forthwith decide between such candidates by lot and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote.

(3) The persons elected to the office of chairman and deputy chairman aforesaid shall hold office as such, as if they had been elected thereto in accordance with the provisions of the Principal Ordinance.

4. (1) Every chairman and deputy chairman of a village council holding office as such on the 31st December, 1962, and who purported to continue in such office thereafter but prior to the coming into force of this Ordinance shall be deemed to have been lawfully in office.

Validation of acts.

(2) All acts done in good faith by any such chairman or deputy chairman in purported exercise of the powers conferred upon them by or under the Principal Ordinance or any other law, shall be deemed to have been lawfully done and any chairman and deputy chairman aforesaid is hereby indemnified as against any person whatever from all legal proceedings of any kind whatsoever, whether civil or criminal, in respect of any such acts as aforesaid.

(3) The provisions of the preceding subsection shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to the acts of any chairman and deputy chairman of a village council holding office as such on the 31st December, 1962, and who purported to continue to hold such office thereafter, but prior to the commencement of this Ordinance.

*deleted*

#### OBJECTS AND REASONS

The election of village councillors was suspended by the Local Government (Postponement of Elections) Ordinance, 1961, in view of the fact that it was hoped to introduce voting on the basis of adult suffrage at village elections from December, 1962. The councillors then in office were continued in office by the Ordinance.

2. The Local Government (Postponement of Elections) Ordinance, 1961, although suspending the election of councillors provided for the election of chairmen and deputy chairmen of village councils for 1962. It has not been possible to set the necessary machinery in motion to enable elections on the basis of adult suffrage to be held, and it is considered desirable that the election of chairmen and deputy chairmen should proceed in the normal course.

3. This Bill therefore seeks to enable elections to be held for the offices of chairmen and deputy chairmen of village councils for 1963 and to validate certain acts.

F. H. W. RAMSAHOYE,  
Attorney General.

(M.P. 16/4/2 II).

(Bill 2/1962(L.A.).)