

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown,  
Guyana.  
26th May, 1973

The following Bill which will be introduced in the National Assembly is published for general information.

F. A. NARAIN,  
Clerk of the National Assembly.



## **GUYANA**

BILL No. 9 of 1973

### **REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (ADAPTATION AND MODIFICATION OF LAWS) BILL 1973**

#### Arrangement of Sections

#### **PART I — PRELIMINARY**

Section

1. Short title and commencement.

#### **PART II — AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

2. Amendment of articles 5, 8 and 22 of the Constitution.
3. Amendment of article 34 of the Constitution.
4. Amendment of articles 59 and 65 of the Constitution.
5. Amendment of article 67 of the Constitution.

PART III — MODIFICATION OF ELECTORAL LAWS

6. Amendment of section 14 of the National Registration Act 1967
7. Amendment of section 15 of the National Registration Act 1967.
8. Amendment of section 3 of the Representation of the People (Adaptation and Modification of Laws) Act 1968.

PART IV — REDUCTION OF AGE OF MAJORITY  
AND RELATED PROVISIONS

9. Reduction of the age of majority from twenty-one years to eighteen years.
10. Time at which a person attains a particular age.
11. Persons under full age may be described as minors instead of infants.

A BILL

Intituled

An act to amend the Constitution in accordance with Article 73 thereof for the purpose of reducing the age of majority for electoral and other purposes and for determining the number of Ministers who may be appointed from among persons who are not elected members of the National Assembly; and to make provision for the adaptation and modification of laws relating to the election of members of the National Assembly, for reducing the age of majority generally, and for matters connected therewith.

A.D. 1973

Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana: —

PART I — PRELIMINARY

Short title  
and com-  
mencement.

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Representation of the People (Adaptation and Modification of Laws) Act 1973.

(2) Section 2, and the provisions of Part IV (sections 9, 10 and 11) shall come into operation on such date as the President may, by order, appoint.

## PART II — AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

2. Articles 5 (1) (f), 8 (2) (b) (iii) and 22 (5) of the Constitution are hereby amended by the substitution of the word “eighteen” for the word “twenty-one” where it appears therein. Amendment of articles 5, 8 and 22 of the Constitution.
3. Article 34 of the Constitution is hereby amended by the substitution of the words “the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister may, from time to time, determine” for the words “Parliament may prescribe” in paragraph (a) of the proviso to paragraph (4). Amendment of article 34 of the Constitution.
4. Articles 59 and 65 (2) of the Constitution are hereby amended by the substitution of the word “eighteen” for the word “twenty-one” where it appears therein. Amendment of articles 59 and 65 of the Constitution.
5. The proviso to article 67 of the Constitution is hereby amended by the deletion therefrom of the words “not resident in Guyana on the qualifying date within the meaning of article 65 of this Constitution”. Amendment of article 67 of the Constitution.

## PART III — MODIFICATION OF ELECTORAL LAWS

6. Section 14 of the National Registration Act 1967 is hereby amended in the following respects — Amendment of section 14 of the National Registration Act 1967.
- (a) by the deletion of the words “, and with such period commencing from the qualifying date as may be prescribed,” from subsection (1);
  - (b) by the deletion from subsection (1) of the words “(with reference to the said qualifying date)” and the substitution therefor of the words “,with reference to such date, being not later than the qualifying date, as may be appointed in such direction,”; and
  - (c) by the addition thereto of the following subsections as subsections (3) and (4) thereof —
    - “(3) The date appointed by the Minister in directions under subsection (1) of this section shall be the date with reference to which a register of electors shall be compiled or revised, as the case may be;

- (4) Every reference to a registrar in subsection (2) of this section and in subsections (3), (4) and (5) of section 15, shall include a reference to a deputy registrar.”.

Amendment  
of section  
15 of the  
National  
Registration  
Act  
1967.

No. 24 of  
1967.

7. Section 15 of the National Registration Act 1967 is hereby amended by the deletion of the proviso thereto and the substitution of a full stop for the colon after the word “aforesaid”.

Amendment  
of section  
3 of the  
Representa-  
tion of the  
People  
(Adaptation  
and Modifica-  
tion of Laws)  
Act 1968.

No. 16 of  
1968.

8. Section 3 (1) (d) of the Representation of the People (Adaptation and Modification of Laws) Act 1968 is hereby amended in the following respects —

- (a) by the deletion of the words “resident outside Guyana” from subparagraph (i); and
- (b) by the insertion in subparagraph (iv) of the words “for making better provision for any of the matters specified in paragraph (4) of article 66 of the Constitution or” immediately after the word “expedient”.

#### PART IV — REDUCTION OF AGE OF MAJORITY AND RELATED PROVISIONS

Reduction of  
the age of  
majority  
from twenty-  
one years to  
eighteen  
years.

9. (1) As from the date on which this section comes into operation a person shall attain full age on attaining the age of eighteen years instead of on attaining the age of twenty-one years; and a person shall attain full age on that date if he has then already attained the age of eighteen years but not the age of twenty-one years.

(2) Subsection (1) applies for the purposes of any rule of law and, in the absence of a definition or of any indication of a contrary intention, for the construction of the expressions “full age”, “infant”, “infancy”, “minor”, “minority” and similar expressions in —

- (a) any law, enacted before, on or after the date on which this section comes into operation; and
- (b) any deed, will or other instrument of whatever nature (not being a law) made on or after that date.

(3) The President may, by order, which shall be subject to negative resolution, amend any provision in any law enacted before the

date on which this section comes into operation by substituting a reference to the age of eighteen years for any reference therein to the age of twenty-one years; and any such order may contain such other provisions for the purpose of giving effect to this subsection.

(4) Notwithstanding any rule of law, a will or codicil executed before the date on which this section comes into operation shall not be treated for the purposes of this section as made on or after that date by reason only that the will or codicil is confirmed by a codicil executed on or after that date.

10. (1) The time at which a person attains a particular age expressed in years shall be the commencement of the relevant anniversary of the date of his birth.

Time at which a person attains a particular age.

(2) This section applies only where the relevant anniversary falls on a date after that on which this section comes into operation, and, in relation to any law, deed, will or other instrument, has effect subject to any provision therein.

11. Anything in any law to the contrary notwithstanding a person who is not of full age may be described as a minor instead of as an infant.

Persons under full age may be described as minors instead of infants.

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution and certain enactments.

CLAUSE 3 seeks to amend article 34 of the Constitution to enable the President, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister, to determine the number of persons who may be appointed as Ministers although they are not elected members of the National Assembly.

CLAUSE 4 seeks to amend articles 59 and 65 of the Constitution to reduce the qualifying age for electors and members of the National Assembly from twenty-one years to eighteen years.

CLAUSE 5 seeks to make provision by way of amendment of the proviso to article 67 of the Constitution to make it of general application.

CLAUSES 6 and 7 seek to amend the National Registration Act 1967 in relation to the preparation and revision of the preliminary list of electors.

CLAUSE 8 seeks to amend section 3 of the Representation of the People (Adaptation and Modification of Laws) Act 1968 in relation to the power to make regulations.

CLAUSES 9, 10 and 11, which will be amplified by subsidiary legislation, seek to make provision for reducing the age of majority from twenty-one years to eighteen years.

O. E. CLARKE,  
Minister of Home Affairs.

(Bill 9/1973)