



## ST HELENA

### A BILL

### FOR

### AN ORDINANCE

**to amend the Elections Ordinance, 2009, to make provision for compulsory registration of electors.**

Enacted by the Governor of St Helena with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of St Helena.

#### Short title and commencement

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017, and comes into force on the date of publication.

#### Register of Electors

2. Section 4 of the Elections Ordinance, 2009, is amended—

- (a) by deleting the character and words “, or is the spouse or life partner of such a person” in subsection (1)(a);
- (b) by deleting the expression “18 years” in subsection (1)(b) and substituting “176 years” therefor;
- (c) by deleting the words in subsection (2) preceding the proviso and substituting the following therefor:

“For the purposes of subsection (1)(c), a person who is not in fact present in St Helena shall be treated as being both present and ordinarily resident in St Helena if he or she makes a declaration in the prescribed form to the effect that he or she—

- (a) has St Helenian status; and
- (b) is ordinarily resident in St Helena but is absent from St Helena in connection with employment, education, or training (of him- or herself or that of his or her spouse or life partner) or for the purposes of medical treatment (of him- or herself or that of his or her spouse or life partner or a dependant);”;
- (d) by adding the following subsection:

“(6) A person entitled to be registered as an elector under this section who is not so registered and who, without reasonable excuse, fails to apply to have his name entered in the Register within the period allowed under the regulations for amendment of the Provisional Register, commits an offence.

Penalty: A fine of £100.”.

**Comment [AB1]:** The EMs do not want a positive requirement for people to have to register. So I suggest that Christell includes a provision to allow for information to be obtained from the census and other government sources for the purposes of compiling the electoral roll. So this would mean that the residents would not have to do any thing extra, but that the elections officer would be able to go to the source such as immigration or the statistician to compile the roll. I think this requires a change to the census ordinance but it is for a legitimate purpose and the information required is name, address of persons over 17 with SH status

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Ordinance)*

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Elections Ordinance, 2009, to make it compulsory for persons who are eligible to be registered as electors to so register. It also lowers the age for registration to 16 years and removes eligibility for registration of spouses and life partners who do not have St Helena status.