

S.P. 27/17



ST. HELENA

GOVERNMENT OF ST HELENA
A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE
THE ELECTIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017

Laid upon the Table, 12th May 2017



ST HELENA

A BILL

FOR

AN ORDINANCE

to amend the Elections Ordinance, 2009, to limit eligibility to be registered as an elector to persons with St Helenian status and to lower the age of eligibility for registration from 18 to 17 years; and for connected and incidental purposes.

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 “17 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 must 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):”.

Transitional Provision

3. Notwithstanding the amendment of section 4(1)(a) of the Elections Ordinance, 2009, by section 2(a) of this Ordinance, any spouse or life partner whose name is included in

the Register of Electors on the date of commencement of this Ordinance remains entitled to be so registered as an elector until 30 June 2020, provided that such spouse or life partner continues to comply with the other requirements of section 4 of the Elections Ordinance, 2009.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Ordinance)

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the Elections Ordinance, 2009, to lower the age for registration as an elector to 17 years and to remove eligibility for registration of spouses and life partners who do not have St Helenian status.