



Western Australia

Electoral Act 1907

Electoral Act 1907

Contents

Part I — Preliminary

1.	Short title	2
2.	Commencement	2
4.	Terms used	2
4AA.	Official agents for the appointment of scrutineers	7

Part II — Administration

4A.	Western Australian Electoral Commission, nature of	9
5.	Electoral Commissioner, office of established	9
5A.	Deputy Electoral Commissioner, office of established	9
5B.	Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner, appointment etc. of	9
5C.	Electoral Commissioner or Deputy Electoral Commissioner, suspension or removal of	11
5D.	Acting Electoral Commissioner etc., appointment of	12
5E.	Electoral Commissioner etc., other provisions as to	13
5F.	Electoral Commissioner, functions of	14
5G.	Electoral Commissioner, delegation by	16
5H.	Deputy Electoral Commissioner, functions of	16
6.	Enrolment officers and returning officers, appointment of	17
7.	Substitute for returning officer, appointment of	17
9.	Returning officers, number of	17
10.	Returning officer for district is deputy returning officer for whole of State electorate	18

13.	Restriction on resignation of returning officer after issue of writ	18
14.	Replacement of returning officer after issue of writ	18
15.	Temporary assistants, appointment of	19
15A.	Officers to make declaration before acting etc.	19
16.	People not eligible to be officer etc.	20

Part IIA — Representation in Parliament

Division 1 — Preliminary

16A.	Terms used	21
16B.	Electoral Distribution Commissioners, appointment of etc.	22

Division 2 — Whole of State electorate and electoral districts

16C.	Whole of State electorate and representation	24
16D.	Electoral districts and representation	24

Division 3 — Division of State into districts

16E.	Division of State into districts required after each general election for Assembly	25
16F.	Commissioners, functions of	25
16G.	Districts, how State to be divided into	28
16I.	Dividing State, matters Commissioners to consider when	28
16J.	District boundaries etc., Commissioners may modify etc.	29
16K.	Effect of notice under s. 16F(2)(f) as to division of State	29
16MA.	Map or maps of districts generated from digital or electronic record	30
16M.	One vote one value principle, absolute majorities required for Bills affecting	30

Part III — Enrolment

Division 1 — Qualification of electors

17.	Who is entitled to be enrolled and vote	32
17A.	Enrolled voter leaving Australia but staying on Cwlth roll to stay on WA roll etc.	34

17B.	Elector with no fixed address on Cwlth roll, enrolment of on WA roll	35
18.	People disqualified from voting and being enrolled	36
	Division 2 — Electoral rolls	
19.	Electoral rolls required	37
22.	Form and content of rolls; when information can be omitted from printed etc. rolls	38
23.	Rolls, arrangement of names on	38
24.	Rolls, when to be printed and issued	39
25.	Rolls, public inspection of	39
25A.	Enrolment information, provision to members of Parliament and parliamentary parties	40
25B.	Enrolment information, when available to others	41
25C.	Enrolment information may be given to government departments etc.	43
25D.	Enrolment information given under s. 25A, 25B or 25C, use of restricted	43
25E.	Enrolment information given under s. 25A, 25B or 25C, disclosure of restricted	44
26.	Supplementary rolls, when to be printed and issued	45
27.	Previous supplementary roll to be incorporated in subsequent one	45
28.	Amalgamated roll, printing of	45
29.	Rolls to be dated	45
30.	Supplementary rolls to be numbered and dated	45
31.	Arrangement with Cwlth for single enrolment procedure	46
31A.	Arrangement with Commonwealth for sharing of information for revision of rolls	48
31AB.	Revision of rolls in response to notification about Commonwealth rolls	48
31B.	Arrangement with Cwlth as to s. 51B requests	49
34.	Rolls and documents, when not invalid	51
35.	Public officers to give Electoral Commissioner etc. information	51
37.	New rolls, when required etc.	51
38.	Regulations as to preparation of rolls and compulsory enrolment	52
39.	Electoral census, when required etc.	52
40.	New rolls, rules for preparing	53

	Division 3 — Additions to rolls	
41.	When new names may be added	54
42.	Claims, form etc. of	54
43.	Claims of certain Cwlth electors to be taken to be in order	55
44.	Claims, essential parts of	56
44A.	Enrolment of claimants and rejection of claims	57
45.	Compulsory enrolment, offences as to etc.	58
46.	Qualification of claimant considered insufficient or incorrect, enrolment officer's functions as to	59
	Division 4 — Objections	
	Subdivision 1 — To claims	
47.	Objections to claims	60
	Subdivision 2 — To enrolment	
48.	Objections to enrolment	62
	Subdivision 3 — Powers of Electoral Commissioner on appeal	
49.	Electoral Commissioner's powers	65
	Division 5 — Miscellaneous	
51.	Removal of names repeated on roll and adjusting rolls	66
51A.	Incapacitated elector, removal of name of from roll etc.	66
51AA.	Removal of name following declaration by SAT etc.	67
51B.	Request for address not to be shown on roll	68
52.	Alteration of rolls, Electoral Commissioner's powers as to	70
53.	Alteration to rolls, time for making	71
54.	Alteration to roll, how to be made	71
55.	Removing name from printed roll, manner of	72
56.	Deaths in State, Registrar of Births etc. to notify Electoral Commissioner of	72
59.	Certain prisoners and detained persons, Electoral Commissioner to be informed about	72
60.	Changes to rolls required due to information given under s. 56 and 59	74
62A.	Enrolment information may be recorded etc. on computer etc.	75

Part IIIA — Registration of political parties

62B.	Scope of Part	77
62C.	Terms used	77
62CA.	Membership requirements for qualification as eligible political party	78
62D.	Register of political parties, Electoral Commissioner to keep etc.	79
62E.	Applications for registration	79
62F.	Variation of application, Electoral Commissioner may advise etc.	80
62G.	Public notice of application to be given etc.	81
62H.	Registration of political party	82
62HA.	Political party taken not to be registered for certain purposes	83
62I.	Parliamentary party existing at 21 Oct 2000, registration of as political party	84
62J.	Refusal of registration, grounds for etc.	84
62K.	Amendment of register	86
62KA.	Annual returns in relation to continued registration	87
62L.	Cancellation of registration	87
62M.	Public inspection and notice of register etc.	89
62N.	Review of decision under s. 62H, 62J or 62L	89
62O.	False representation as to registration, offence	91
62P.	Information, Electoral Commissioner may request from party etc.	91
62Q.	Offences relating to information	91
62R.	Certificate of Electoral Commissioner is evidence	92

Part IV — Elections

Division 1 — Writs

64.	General elections, issue of writs for	93
65.	Writ issued under s. 64, 67 or 156E, notice of to be gazetted etc.	93
67.	Vacancy in Assembly, issue of writ for etc.	94
68.	Writ deemed to be issued at 6 p.m. on day of issue	95
69.	Writ, form and content of	95
69A.	Rolls, when closed after issue of writ	95
70.	Last day for nomination, rules for fixing	95

71.	Polling day, rules for fixing	96
72.	Last day for return of writ, rules for fixing	97
74.	Writ to be addressed to Electoral Commissioner who is to forward copy to returning officer etc.	98
75.	Advertisement of writ and other matters relating to election	98
76.	Time fixed in writ, extending	99
	Division 2 — Nominations	
76A.	Who is qualified to be elected as member of Parliament	100
76B.	Who is not qualified to be elected as member of Parliament	100
77.	Nomination: candidates to nominate and invalid nominations etc.	101
78.	Nomination: form and content of etc.	102
79.	Nomination: when receivable by returning officer	103
80.	Grouping of candidates	103
81.	Nomination paper and deposit required for valid nomination	105
81A.	Party nomination, making and effect of	105
82.	Nomination, withdrawal of	107
83.	Nomination paper, effect of defects etc. in	107
84.	Deposit by candidate, return or forfeiture of	108
85.	Place of declaration of nominations; hour of nomination is noon on last day	109
86.	Close of nominations procedure for single member election	109
87.	Close of nominations procedure for Council election where relevant number more than one	110
87A.	Close of nominations, returning officer's other duties as to	113
88.	Death of candidate after nomination	113
89.	Failure and partial failure of election, when occurs and consequences of	116
	Division 3 — Voting	
	Subdivision 1 — Early and absent voting	
90.	Early ballot paper, application for and issue of etc.	117
91.	Visiting an eligible elector to take vote	122
92.	Early ballot paper, how to vote by means of	123

93.	General early voter, registration of etc.	129
94.	Authorised witnesses for this Division	130
95.	Early ballot papers etc., offences as to	130
97.	Spelling mistakes on early ballot papers, effect of	133
98.	Officer's decision to allow etc. early ballot paper, status of	133
99A.	Absent vote, who may make etc.	133
99B.	Regulations about early, absent and provisional voting	134
	Subdivision 2 — Technology assisted voting	
99C.	Terms used	135
99D.	Electoral Commissioner may approve procedures for technology assisted voting	136
99E.	Record of vote	137
99F.	Independent auditing of technology assisted voting	137
99G.	Scrutineers	138
99H.	Counting of technology assisted votes	139
99I.	Secrecy relating to technology assisted voting	139
99J.	False or misleading statements in relation to technology assisted voting	139
99K.	Protection of computer hardware and software	140
99L.	Approvals must be published on the internet	140
99M.	Regulations relating to technology assisted voting	140
99N.	How this Act applies in relation to technology assisted voting	141
99O.	Electoral Commissioner may determine that technology assisted voting is not to be used	141
	Subdivision 3 — At the poll	
100.	Polling places etc., appointing etc.	142
100A.	Mobile portable ballot boxes at certain institutions and hospitals, provision of etc.	144
100B.	Mobile portable ballot boxes in declared remote areas, provision of etc.	145
101.	Taking the poll, returning officer's duties as to arranging	146
102.	Taking the poll, returning officer's particular duties as to arranging	146
102A.	Conjoint elections, appointments and directions for	146
104.	Polling place, appointment of officers for	147

Contents

105.	Substitute and assistant presiding officers, appointment and powers of	148
106.	Absence of returning officer or presiding officer due to illness etc., consequences of	148
107.	Polling place, subdivision of into sections	148
108.	Licensed premises not to be used for polling place	149
109.	Certain buildings to be used free	149
110.	Separate voting compartments etc. at polling place required	149
111.	Ballot boxes required at polling places	150
112.	Rolls for use in election, provision of	150
113.	Ballot papers, form and content of	150
113B.	Printing of Council ballot papers	151
113BA.	Assembly ballot papers, printing of	153
113C.	Political party names or “independent”, printing of on ballot papers	153
113D.	Claims etc. may be lodged with Electoral Commissioner	155
114.	Scrutineers, appointment of etc.	156
115.	Candidates not to conduct election; who can be in polling place etc.	157
116.	Police may be summoned to keep order etc.	157
117.	Polling, rules for conduct of	158
119.	Person claiming to vote, questions for and declarations by etc.	159
120.	Answers by person claiming to vote, consequences of	160
121.	Elector’s answers are conclusive	161
122.	Elector objected to with name marked under s. 47, voting by etc.	161
122A.	Person not on roll or struck off roll or on roll and cannot be found or struck out under s. 126, voting by etc.	161
123.	No other answer or declaration required from elector; who can be excluded from voting	163
124.	Right to vote despite error in roll or change of name on marriage	164
125.	Ballot paper, procedure when delivering to elector	164
126.	Roll to be marked on ballot paper being delivered	165
127.	Elector’s duties on receiving ballot paper	166

128.	How ballot paper to be marked by elector	166
129.	Electors with disability etc., assistance for to vote	169
130.	Ballot paper spoiled by elector, replacement of etc.	170
131.	Adjourning polling due to riot etc.	171
132.	Adjourning polling for other reasons	171
133.	Voting at adjourned polling	171
	Division 4 — Counting of votes (general)	
134.	Count of votes, rules for conducting	172
135.	Adjournment of count etc. to be announced	173
136.	Before adjourning, ballot papers etc., to be sealed in boxes	173
	Division 4A — Scrutiny and count (Assembly elections)	
136A.	Application of Division	173
137.	Scrutineers, appointment of	174
138.	Scrutineers, submissions by etc.	174
139.	Informal ballot papers defined	175
140.	Electors' intention to be given effect	176
140A.	Some ballot papers with non-consecutive preferences can be formal	176
141.	Counting places and assistant returning officers	177
142.	Count of votes by assistant returning officers, procedure for	178
142A.	Early, absent and provisional votes, appointment of assistant returning officers for count of	180
143.	Returning officer to ascertain number of votes for each candidate	181
144.	Count of votes by returning officer, procedure for	181
145.	Equal votes, procedure in case of etc.	186
146.	Re-count, when may be conducted etc.	188
	Division 4B — Scrutiny and count (Council elections)	
146A.	Application and construction of Division	188
146B.	Assistant returning officers, counting places etc.	189
146C.	Scrutineers, appointment of	189
146D.	Scrutineers, submissions by etc.	190
146E.	Informal ballot papers	190
146EA.	Formal votes for individual candidates	192
146EB.	Formal votes for groups	193

146EC.	Treatment of ballot papers of electors who have voted above the line	194
146G.	Count of votes by assistant returning officers, procedure for	195
146H.	Count of votes by deputy returning officer, procedure for	196
146I.	Count of votes by returning officer, procedure for	199
146J.	Re-count, when may be conducted etc.	201
Division 5 — Declaration of poll and return of the writ		
147.	Declaration of poll and certification and return of writ	201
148.	Election not to be questioned on certain grounds	203
149.	Informality in election, Governor's powers as to	204
149A.	Election of unqualified or disqualified person void	204
Division 6 — After the poll		
149B.	Term used: document	205
150.	Statistical return and rolls, returning officer to send to Electoral Commissioner	205
151.	Other election papers, returning officer to send to Electoral Commissioner	205
152.	Election papers, how long to be kept for	206
153.	Rolls used at election, candidate may require production of	207
154.	Election papers, production of to Court of Disputed Returns; purposes for which they can be used restricted	208
155.	Election papers, destruction of	208
155AA.	Election papers used for referendum etc., use of and destruction of afterwards	208
Division 7 — Voting to be compulsory		
155AB.	Terms used	209
156.	Elector's duty to vote; penalty and infringement notices, offences etc. for not voting	209
156AA.	Evidentiary certificate for s. 156 proceedings	214
Part IVA — Filling vacancies in the Council		
156A.	Terms used	216
156B.	Vacancy in Council, Governor to be notified of etc.	217

156C.	Electoral Commissioner's duties when informed of vacancy; nominations of candidates for vacancy being filled by re-count	217
156D.	Vacancy being filled by re-count, procedure at close of nominations	219
156E.	Vacancy being filled by fresh election, writ for	221

Part V — Disputed returns

157.	Validity of election or return, how to dispute	223
158.	Petition to Court of Disputed Returns, content of etc.	223
159.	Return of writ, presumed date of	223
160.	Security for costs, petitioner to give	224
161.	No proceedings on petition unless it complies with law	224
162.	Court's powers on petition	224
163.	Court's duties etc.; roll and electors' qualifications, status of	225
164.	Bribery etc. by candidate or illegal practice, voiding election in case of	226
165.	Illegal practice, Court to report to Electoral Commissioner	226
166.	Delays and immaterial errors not to vitiate election	226
167.	Court's decision is final	227
168.	Copies of petition etc. to be sent to House affected	227
169.	Costs	227
170.	Security for costs, how to be dealt with	227
171.	Other costs	227
172.	Court's decision, effect of	228
173.	Rules of Court for this Part	229
174.	Election of MLC on re-count, application of this Part to	229

Part VI — Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 1 — Preliminary

175.	Terms used	231
175A.	Interpretation of this Part	235

Division 2 — Agents		
175B.	Agent of political party, appointment of	237
175C.	Agent of candidate, appointment of etc.	237
175D.	Agent of group, appointment of etc.	238
175E.	Appointment under s. 175B, 175C and 175D, eligibility for and notice of	238
175F.	Agent of political party, registration of	239
175G.	Agent of political party, appointment of has no effect if not on register	240
175H.	Agent of political party, removing from register	240
175I.	Agent of political party, evidence of appointment of	240
175J.	No agent of political party, who has Div. 3 duties in case of	241
175K.	Agent of candidate or group, revoking appointment of	241
175L.	Agent of candidate or group, notice of death or resignation of to be given	241
Division 2A — Electoral funding		
175LA.	Terms used and interpretation	241
175LB.	Election funding reimbursement amount, entitlement to	242
175LC.	Election funding reimbursement amount, calculation of	243
175LD.	Claim for payment, requirement for and making etc.	244
175LE.	Electoral Commissioner to determine claims	245
175LF.	Circumstances in which payment to be made	246
175LG.	Amount paid not to exceed electoral expenditure	246
175LH.	Payments, to whom to be made	247
175LI.	Decision as to payment, revoking and re-making	248
175LJ.	Death of candidate, payments etc. in case of	248
175LK.	Appropriation for payments under this Division	249
Division 3 — Disclosure of gifts and other income		
175M.	Relevant details of gifts, defined	249
175N.	Gifts etc. received by political party, annual return as to required	250

175NA.	Gifts etc. received by associated entity, annual return as to required	251
175O.	Gifts received by candidate in disclosure period, return as to required	252
175P.	Gifts received by group in disclosure period, return as to required	254
175Q.	Gifts received in disclosure period by other persons who incur expenditure for political purposes, return as to required	255
175R.	Gifts not to be accepted from unidentified donors etc.	257
175S.	Return under s. 175N, 175O and 175P required even if nothing to disclose etc.	259
	Division 4 — Disclosure of electoral expenditure	
175SA.	Electoral expenditure by political party, return as to required	260
175SB.	Electoral expenditure by candidate, return as to required	260
175SC.	Electoral expenditure by group, return as to required	261
175SD.	Electoral expenditure by other person, return as to required	261
175SE.	Return under s. 175SA, 175SB and 175SC required even if no expenditure etc.	262
175SF.	Two or more elections on one day, one return may be lodged in case of	262
	Division 5 — Miscellaneous	
175T.	Interpretation	263
175U.	Offences	263
175V.	Payments due to State, recovery of	265
175W.	Investigation powers etc. for this Part	265
175X.	Incomplete returns, lodging etc.	269
175Y.	Extension of time to lodge annual return	271
175Z.	Information in return, verification of etc.	271
175ZA.	Non-compliance with Part does not affect election	271
175ZB.	Return, amendment of	272
175ZC.	Public may obtain copies of returns	273
175ZD.	Unincorporated party, proceedings against	274
175ZE.	Public agencies to report on certain expenditure	275

175ZF.	Regulations for this Part	275
175ZG.	Annual report by Electoral Commissioner	277

Part VII — Electoral offences

179.	Offences generally	278
180.	Term used: breach or neglect of official duty	278
181.	Bribery, offence of	278
182.	Term used: bribery	279
183.	Undue influence, offence of	280
184.	Term used: undue influence	281
185.	Exception to what is bribery or undue influence	281
186.	Disqualification for bribery or undue influence	281
187.	Illegal practices defined	281
187A.	Intentionally rendering person unable to vote etc.	283
187B.	Electoral advertisement on internet, when publishing is an illegal practice	284
188.	Illegal practices, penalties for	284
189.	Gift etc. by candidate to club etc., offence in some cases	284
190.	Electoral offences and punishments	285
191.	False statement in electoral paper	287
191A.	Misleading or deceptive publication etc.	288
192.	Canvassing etc. in or near polling place	289
192A.	Loud speakers etc., use of during polling hours	290
193.	Collecting etc. petitions etc. in polling places etc.	290
194.	Failure to transmit claim for enrolment	291
195.	Information for preparation of roll etc., not obeying requirement to provide	291
196.	Employer to allow employee leave of absence to vote	291
197.	Person misbehaving etc. may be removed from polling place	292
198.	Re-entering etc. polling place after being removed from	292
199.	Incurring unauthorised electoral expense on behalf of a candidate	292
199A.	Interfering with political liberty	293
200.	Illegal practice committed indirectly etc., liability for	293
201.	Attempt to commit offence	293

202.	Evidentiary provision	293
204.	Offences that are crimes	294
205.	Summary offences and time limit for prosecutions	294
206.	<i>The Criminal Code</i> Ch. XIV not to apply to parliamentary elections	294
Part VIII — Miscellaneous		
207.	Who may witness signatures and take declarations	295
208.	Notices, service of	295
209.	Electoral papers sent by post, deemed service of	295
210.	Electronic communication of electoral matter permitted	296
211A.	Certain documents may be transmitted electronically	296
211.	Person unable to write may make mark etc.	297
212.	Forms, compliance requirements	298
213.	Regulations generally	298
213A.	Regulations affecting certain candidates	298
Part 9 — Transitional provisions		
Division 1 — Transitional provisions for <i>Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Act 2021</i>		
215.	Terms used	300
216.	Vacancies and representation in Legislative Council	300
217.	Continued registration of existing parties	301
Division 2 — Transitional provisions for <i>Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023</i>		
Subdivision 1 — Transitional provisions commencing on day after Royal Assent of <i>Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023</i>		
218.	Terms used	302
219.	Pre-commencement registered parties opting in to receive higher reimbursement amount	303
220.	Elected non-party members opting in to receive higher reimbursement amount for next election after amount change day	304

Contents

221.	Independent candidates may opt in to receive higher reimbursement amount for next post-change election	306
222.	Independent candidates may opt in to receive higher reimbursement amount for that election held after amount change day	307
223.	Publishing information about who has opted in to receive higher reimbursement amount	307

Schedule 1

Counting of votes at Council elections

Schedule 2

Ballot procedure

Notes

Compilation table	316
Uncommenced provisions table	324
Other notes	325

Defined terms

Electoral Act 1907

An Act to regulate parliamentary elections and for related purposes.

[Long title amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 12.]

Part I — Preliminary

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Electoral Act 1907*.

2. Commencement

This Act shall come into operation on 1 March 1908.

[3. Deleted: No. 10 of 1998 s. 76.]

4. Terms used

(1) In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears —

above the line, in relation to a square on a ballot paper, has the meaning given in section 128(1)(a);

absent voter means any person who votes under the provisions of section 99A;

approved form means a form that —

- (a) is approved by the Electoral Commissioner; and
- (b) has been published by the Electoral Commissioner by any means (including on the Commission website) that the Electoral Commissioner thinks fit;

Assembly means the Legislative Assembly;

Australian citizen means a person who is an Australian citizen under the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* of the Commonwealth¹ or any Act amending that Act or substituted therefor;

authorised witness has the meaning given by section 94;

below the line, in relation to a square on a ballot paper, has the meaning given in section 128(1)(b);

candidate in Parts II and VII includes any person who, within 3 months before the day of election, offers himself for election as a member of the Council or Assembly;

christian name means the name or names prefixed to the surname of any person, whether received at Christian baptism or not;

Commission website means a website maintained by or on behalf of the Electoral Commissioner;

conjoint election means a general election for the Council and the Assembly that are both to be held on the same day pursuant to writs issued on the same day;

constitution, in relation to a political party, means a written set of principles and rules (however described) under which the party is governed;

Council means the Legislative Council;

Council ballot paper means a ballot paper used in a Council election;

Council election means a general election or other election for the Council;

Deputy Electoral Commissioner means the person holding or acting in the office of Deputy Electoral Commissioner referred to in section 5A;

district means an electoral district for the election of a member of the Assembly;

early ballot paper means a ballot paper issued under section 90 and ***early vote*** has a corresponding meaning;

election means a Council election or an election in a district;

election year, in relation to a periodic election, means the year in which the writ for the periodic election is issued;

elector means any person whose name appears on a roll as an elector;

electoral census means any enumeration of persons eligible as electors for the Council or Assembly, made under the provisions of Part III;

Electoral Commissioner means the Electoral Commissioner appointed under this Act;

enrolment information means a roll, information on a roll or other information relating to electors;

expiry year means a year in which an Assembly, if it is not previously dissolved, will expire by effluxion of time;

general election —

- (a) in relation to the Assembly, means the elections in the districts the writ for which is issued under section 64(1) or (2);
- (b) in relation to the Council, means the election for the Council the writ for which is issued under section 64(3);

general polling place has the meaning given by section 100(3);

group means a group constituted in accordance with section 80;

hour of nomination means the hour fixed by section 85(2);

officer includes all persons appointed to any office under this Act or in the Western Australian Electoral Commission, or exercising any power or discharging any duty under this Act, except as an honorary Government electoral agent;

official agent has the meaning given in section 4AA;

official paper means paper referred to in section 113(4);

periodic election means —

- (a) a general election for the Assembly the writ for which is issued under section 64(2); or
- (b) any general election for the Council;

political party means —

- (a) a body corporate or other body or organisation (not being a body corporate or other body or organisation described in paragraph (b)) having as one of the objects or activities of the body or organisation the promotion of the election to the Parliament of this State of a candidate or candidates endorsed by it or by a body or organisation that forms part of it; or

- (b) the branch or division for this State of a body corporate or other body or organisation which —
 - (i) is organised on a basis that includes this State and another State or Territory or other States or Territories; and
 - (ii) has a branch or division for this State; and
 - (iii) has as one of the objects or activities of the body or organisation the promotion of the election to the Parliament of this State of a candidate or candidates endorsed by it or by a body or organisation that forms part of it;

polling place means any building or structure in which the polling at elections is appointed to take place;

President means the President of the Legislative Council;

prison means a prison within the meaning of that expression as defined by section 3 of the *Prisons Act 1981*;

referendum means the submission of a question to the electors pursuant to an Act but does not include an election under this Act, and a reference to an election being held on the same day as a referendum is a reference to the polling at an election being conducted on the day on which the votes of the electors are taken for the purposes of a referendum;

registered political party has the meaning given by section 62C;

relevant citizenship law means the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948*¹ of the Commonwealth, as amended and in force immediately before the day fixed by proclamation for the purposes of section 2(2) of the *Australian Citizenship Amendment Act 1984*, of the Commonwealth, and the regulations in force immediately before that day under the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* of the Commonwealth¹, as so amended and in force;

relevant number, in relation to a Council election, means the number of members of the Council that are to be returned at the election;

returning officer includes deputy returning officer;

roll means an electoral roll under this Act;

secretary, in relation to a political party, means the person who holds the office of secretary or chief administrative officer (however described) of the party;

single member election means —

- (a) an election in a district; or
- (b) a Council election where the relevant number is one;

Speaker means the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly;

sub-district means a portion of a district the boundaries of which have been defined under the provisions of section 100;

vote record has the meaning given in section 99E(1);

whole of State electorate has the meaning given in section 16C(1);

writ means a writ directing the Electoral Commissioner to proceed with an election in a district, elections in all the districts or a Council election.

- (2) A reference in this Act to a poll for a district or an election in or for a district is a reference to a poll or an election for the return by a district of a member of the Assembly.
- (3) A reference in this Act to a poll or election for the Council is a reference to a poll or election for the return by the whole of State electorate of a member or members, as the case may require, of the Council but does not include the election of a member of the Council under sections 156C and 156D.
- [(4) *deleted*]
- (5) A reference in this Act to the functions of the Electoral Commissioner or the Deputy Electoral Commissioner is a reference to the person's functions under this Act and other written laws.

- (6) A reference in this Act to the functions of a returning officer is a reference to the returning officer's functions under this Act.

[Section 4 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 2; No. 63 of 1948 s. 3; No. 34 of 1953 s. 2; No. 51 of 1962 s. 2; No. 33 of 1964 s. 4; No. 68 of 1964 s. 3; No. 28 of 1970 s. 3; No. 39 of 1979 s. 4 and 5; No. 9 of 1983 s. 3 and 29; No. 54 of 1983 s. 2; No. 66 of 1983 s. 3; No. 104 of 1985 s. 3; No. 40 of 1987 s. 17 and 84; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 43 of 1996 s. 4; No. 36 of 2000 s. 4, 28(1), 43, 62, 67 and 82; No. 64 of 2006 s. 13; No. 7 of 2009 s. 4; No. 49 of 2011 s. 4; No. 35 of 2012 s. 4; No. 14 of 2016 s. 4; No. 20 of 2021 s. 10 and 94.]

4AA. Official agents for the appointment of scrutineers

- (1) The following people are official agents for the purpose of the appointment of scrutineers under sections 99G, 114, 137, 146C and 156D(11) —
- (a) in the case of a candidate not included in a group who has been endorsed by a political party — the secretary of the political party;
 - (b) in the case of a candidate not included in a group other than a candidate referred to in paragraph (a) — a person nominated by the candidate;
 - (c) in the case of a candidate included in a group in which all the candidates have been endorsed by the same political party — the secretary of the political party;
 - (d) in the case of a candidate included in a group other than a group referred to in paragraph (c) — a person nominated by all of the candidates;
 - (e) in the case of a group in which all the candidates have been endorsed by the same political party — the secretary of the political party;
 - (f) in the case of a group other than a group referred to in paragraph (e) — a person nominated by all the candidates.

s. 4AA

- (2) A nomination for the purposes of subsection (1)(b), (d) or (f) must be made by notice in an approved form given to the Electoral Commissioner.
- (3) A nomination for the purposes of subsection (1)(b), (d) or (f) may be withdrawn by a candidate by notice in an approved form given to the Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 4AA inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 5.]

Part II — Administration

4A. Western Australian Electoral Commission, nature of

The department of the Public Service of the State through which this Act is administered shall be known as the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

[Section 4A inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 18.]

5. Electoral Commissioner, office of established

There shall be an Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 5 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 19.]

5A. Deputy Electoral Commissioner, office of established

There shall be a Deputy Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 5A inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 19.]

5B. Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner, appointment etc. of

- (1) In this section and sections 5C and 5E *Electoral Commissioner* includes Deputy Electoral Commissioner.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner shall be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Premier, and shall hold office in accordance with this Act.
- (3) Before making a recommendation under subsection (2) the Premier shall consult with the parliamentary leader of each party in the Parliament.
- (4) A person appointed as the Electoral Commissioner shall hold office for such term not exceeding 9 years as is specified in the instrument of his appointment, and is eligible for reappointment.
- (5) The Electoral Commissioner may, at any time, by writing under his hand, addressed to the Governor, resign his office, and on

s. 5B

receipt of his resignation by the Governor, he shall vacate office as Electoral Commissioner.

[(6) *deleted*]

- (7) Subject to the *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*, the Electoral Commissioner shall be paid a salary at such rate as the Governor may determine; and the rate of that salary shall not, without the consent of the Electoral Commissioner, be reduced during the term of office of the Electoral Commissioner.
- (8) The salary payable to the holder of the office of Electoral Commissioner under this section shall be charged to the Consolidated Account which, to the necessary extent, is hereby appropriated accordingly.
- (9) The Electoral Commissioner is entitled to such leave of absence and such travelling and other allowances as the Governor determines.
- (10) No person who is or has been a member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth or any State or Territory shall be appointed as Electoral Commissioner, and if the Electoral Commissioner is nominated for election for the Parliament of the Commonwealth, or any other State, or a Territory he shall vacate office as Electoral Commissioner.
- (11) The Electoral Commissioner shall not, except in so far as he is authorised so to do by resolutions of both Houses of Parliament, hold any office of profit or trust (other than his office as Electoral Commissioner) or engage in any occupation for reward outside the duties of his office and if the Electoral Commissioner contravenes this subsection he shall be regarded, for the purposes of section 5C, as being guilty of misconduct.

- (12) Section 52 of the *Interpretation Act 1984* does not apply to the office of Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 5B inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 20; amended: No. 6 of 1993 s. 11; No. 49 of 1996 s. 64; No. 42 of 1997 s. 8; No. 77 of 2006 s. 4.]

5C. Electoral Commissioner or Deputy Electoral Commissioner, suspension or removal of

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may, at any time, be suspended or removed from his office by the Governor on addresses from both Houses of Parliament.
- (2) Where the Governor is satisfied that the Electoral Commissioner —
- (a) is incapable of properly performing the duties of his office; or
 - (b) has shown himself incompetent properly to perform, or has neglected, those duties; or
 - (c) is, according to the *Interpretation Act 1984* section 13D, a bankrupt or a person whose affairs are under insolvency laws; or
 - (d) has been guilty of misconduct,
- the Governor may suspend him from his office.
- (3) When the Electoral Commissioner has been suspended from his office under subsection (2) he shall be restored to office unless —
- (a) a statement of the grounds of his suspension is laid before each House of Parliament during the first 7 sitting days of that House following the suspension; and
 - (b) each House of Parliament, during the session in which the statement is so laid, and within 30 sitting days of that statement being so laid, passes an address praying for his removal from his office.

[Section 5C inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 20; amended: No. 18 of 2009 s. 34.]

5D. Acting Electoral Commissioner etc., appointment of

- (1) The Governor, on the recommendation of the Premier, may appoint an Acting Electoral Commissioner to act in the office of the Electoral Commissioner —
 - (a) when the Electoral Commissioner is absent from duty for any reason or is absent from the State; or
 - (b) when the Electoral Commissioner has been suspended; or
 - (c) when the office of Electoral Commissioner is vacant.
- (2) Before making a recommendation under subsection (1) the Premier shall consult with the parliamentary leader of each party in the Parliament.
- (3) While the Acting Electoral Commissioner is so acting —
 - (a) he may perform the functions of the Electoral Commissioner, and anything done by him in so performing those functions has the like effect as if it were done by the Electoral Commissioner;
 - (b) any act or thing that is required under a written law to be done to, by reference to or in relation to the Electoral Commissioner shall be regarded as effectually done if done to, by reference to or in relation to the Acting Electoral Commissioner.
- (4) The Governor, on the recommendation of the Premier, may appoint an Acting Deputy Electoral Commissioner to act in the office of the Deputy Electoral Commissioner —
 - (a) when the Deputy Electoral Commissioner is absent from duty for any reason or is absent from the State; or
 - (b) when the Deputy Electoral Commissioner is acting in the office of Electoral Commissioner under section 5H(2); or

- (c) when the Deputy Electoral Commissioner has been suspended; or
 - (d) when the office of Deputy Electoral Commissioner is vacant.
- (5) Before making a recommendation under subsection (4) the Premier shall consult with the parliamentary leader of each party in the Parliament.
- (6) While the Acting Deputy Electoral Commissioner is so acting —
- (a) he may perform the functions of the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, and anything done by him in so performing those functions has the like effect as if it were done by the Deputy Electoral Commissioner;
 - (b) any act or thing that is required under a written law to be done to, by reference to or in relation to the Deputy Electoral Commissioner shall be regarded as effectually done if done to, by reference to or in relation to the Acting Deputy Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 5D inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 20; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 14.]

5E. Electoral Commissioner etc., other provisions as to

- (1) The *Public Sector Management Act 1994* does not apply to or in relation to the appointment of the Electoral Commissioner and the Electoral Commissioner is not, except as provided in section 4 of that Act, subject to the provisions of that Act.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner shall, for the purposes of the *Superannuation and Family Benefits Act 1938*², be deemed to be an employee within the meaning of that Act.
- (3) When an officer of the Public Service is appointed to the office of Electoral Commissioner he is entitled to retain all his existing and accruing rights as if his service in such an office, were a continuation of his service as an officer of the Public Service.

s. 5F

- (4) When a person ceases to hold the office of Electoral Commissioner and becomes an officer of the Public Service his service in such an office shall be regarded as service in the Public Service for the purposes of determining his rights as an officer of the Public Service.
- (5) Where the Electoral Commissioner immediately before his appointment to such an office occupied an office under Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, he shall, if his term of office expires by effluxion of time and he is not reappointed, be entitled to be appointed to an office under Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, not lower in status than the office which he occupied immediately prior to his appointment as Electoral Commissioner.
- (6) Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* does not apply to an Acting Electoral Commissioner unless, immediately before his appointment to that office, he occupied an office under that Act.

[Section 5E inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 20; amended: No. 32 of 1994 s. 11; No. 42 of 1997 s. 8.]

5F. Electoral Commissioner, functions of

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner —
 - (a) subject to section 5E(1) is the chief executive officer of the Western Australian Electoral Commission; and
 - (b) is responsible for the proper maintenance of electoral rolls and the proper conduct of elections under this Act; and
 - (c) shall consider, and report to the Minister on, electoral matters referred to him by the Minister and such other electoral matters as the Electoral Commissioner thinks fit; and
 - (d) shall promote public awareness of electoral and parliamentary matters by means of the conduct of

- education and information programmes and by other means; and
- (e) shall provide information and advice on electoral matters to the Parliament, Members of Parliament, the Government, departments and authorities of the State; and
 - (ea) may conduct other elections, referendums or polls —
 - (i) if authorised to do so under another written law; or
 - (ii) if they are provided for under another written law and the regulations authorise the Electoral Commissioner to conduct them;
- and
- (eb) may make arrangements with any person for the conduct by the Electoral Commissioner of elections or polls not provided for under a written law on such terms and conditions as are agreed between the Electoral Commissioner and that person; and
 - (f) may conduct and promote research into electoral matters and other matters that relate to his functions; and
 - (g) may publish material on matters that relate to his functions; and
 - (h) shall perform such other functions as are conferred on him by or under this Act or any other written law.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of his functions.

[Section 5F inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 20; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 72; No. 64 of 2006 s. 15.]

s. 5G

5G. Electoral Commissioner, delegation by

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may —
 - (a) by instrument in writing signed by him; and
 - (b) either generally or as otherwise provided by that instrument,delegate to the Deputy Electoral Commissioner —
 - (c) any of the functions of the Electoral Commissioner under this Act other than this power of delegation; or
 - (d) any of the functions of the Electoral Commissioner under any other written law.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (1) is to be read as limiting the ability of the Electoral Commissioner to act through officers in the normal course of operations.

[Section 5G inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 20; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 73.]

5H. Deputy Electoral Commissioner, functions of

- (1) The Deputy Electoral Commissioner shall assist the Electoral Commissioner as directed by the Electoral Commissioner and shall perform any function delegated to him under section 5G.
- (2) Subject to section 5D, when —
 - (a) the Electoral Commissioner is absent from duty for any reason or is absent from the State; or
 - (b) the Electoral Commissioner has been suspended; or
 - (c) the office of Electoral Commissioner is vacant,the Deputy Electoral Commissioner shall act in the office of the Electoral Commissioner during the absence, suspension or vacancy and, while he is so acting —
 - (d) he may perform all the functions of the Electoral Commissioner and anything done by him in so

performing those functions has the like effect as if it were done by the Electoral Commissioner; and

- (e) any act or thing that is required under a written law to be done to, by reference to or in relation to the Electoral Commissioner shall be regarded as effectually done if done to, by reference to or in relation to the Deputy Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 5H inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 20.]

6. Enrolment officers and returning officers, appointment of

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may appoint such enrolment officers and returning officers as may be required for the effective administration of this Act.
- (2) A person appointed to be an enrolment officer or returning officer shall be deemed to have been appointed, where no date is specified in his appointment as the date of his appointment, on the date on which he is appointed as an enrolment officer or returning officer, as the case may be.

[Section 6 inserted: No. 68 of 1964 s. 4; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 21; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

7. Substitute for returning officer, appointment of

The Electoral Commissioner may, during the absence or temporary incapacity of any returning officer appoint a substitute to perform the functions of that returning officer.

[Section 7 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 22; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

[8. Deleted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

9. Returning officers, number of

There shall be a returning officer for the whole of State electorate and each district.

[Section 9 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 20 of 2021 s. 11.]

10. Returning officer for district is deputy returning officer for whole of State electorate

The returning officer for each district is a deputy returning officer for the whole of State electorate.

[Section 10 inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 12.]

[11. Deleted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

[12. Deleted: No. 43 of 1996 s. 5.]

13. Restriction on resignation of returning officer after issue of writ

- (1) After the issue of a writ for a Council election —
 - (a) the returning officer for the whole of State electorate must not, without the consent of the Electoral Commissioner, resign from office before complying with section 147(1)(b); and
 - (b) the returning officer for any district must not, without the consent of the Electoral Commissioner, resign from office before the returning officer's functions in relation to the election have been completed.
- (2) After the issue of a writ for an election for a district, the returning officer for that district must not, without the consent of the Electoral Commissioner, resign from office before complying with section 147(1)(b).

[Section 13 inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 13.]

14. Replacement of returning officer after issue of writ

- (1) If the returning officer for the whole of State electorate dies, resigns, leaves, or is removed, after the issue of a writ for a Council election, the Electoral Commissioner may appoint

another person to replace the returning officer and perform the returning officer's functions in relation to the writ and the election so far as they have yet to be completed.

- (2) If the returning officer for a district dies, resigns, leaves, or is removed, after the issue of a writ for a Council election, the Electoral Commissioner may appoint another person to replace the returning officer and perform the returning officer's functions in relation to the election so far as they have yet to be completed.
- (3) If the returning officer for a district dies, resigns, leaves, or is removed, after the issue of a writ for an election for that district, the Electoral Commissioner may appoint another person to replace the returning officer and perform the returning officer's functions in relation to the writ and the election so far as they have yet to be completed.

[Section 14 inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 13.]

15. Temporary assistants, appointment of

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may appoint such temporary assistants as he may consider requisite for the due administration of this Act.
- (2) Part 3 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* shall not apply to temporary assistants appointed under this section.

[Section 15 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 25; No. 32 of 1994 s. 11.]

15A. Officers to make declaration before acting etc.

- (1) A person appointed as an officer under this Act shall make a declaration in the prescribed form before acting in the office and on such other occasions as the Electoral Commissioner may require.

s. 16

- (2) Subject to subsection (3) a declaration under this section shall be made before an officer authorised by section 207 to witness signatures.
- (3) A declaration by the Electoral Commissioner, the Deputy Electoral Commissioner, an Acting Electoral Commissioner or a returning officer shall be made before a justice of the peace.
- (4) A declaration under this section (other than one made by the Electoral Commissioner) shall be lodged with the Electoral Commissioner or a returning officer.
- (5) If a declaration is lodged with a returning officer the returning officer shall forward it to the Electoral Commissioner.
- (6) All declarations under this section are to be filed at the office of the Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 15A inserted: No. 43 of 1996 s. 6.]

16. People not eligible to be officer etc.

- (1) No candidate, and no person holding any official position in connection with any political organisation or election committee, shall be appointed an officer under this Act.
- (2) If any such officer knowingly becomes a candidate, or is elected, appointed, or otherwise becomes an official of any political organisation or election committee, he shall be deemed to have vacated the office held by him under this Act, and some other person shall be appointed in his stead.

Part IIA — Representation in Parliament

[Heading inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4.]

Division 1 — Preliminary

[Heading inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4.]

16A. Terms used

In this Part —

average district enrolment has the meaning given to that term in section 16G(1);

Commissioners means the Electoral Distribution Commissioners appointed under section 16B including any person appointed under section 16B(2), (3) or (4) to act in the office of an Electoral Distribution Commissioner;

Government Statistician means the Government Statistician appointed under the *Statistics Act 1907*;

Land Information Authority means the Western Australian Land Information Authority established by the *Land Information Authority Act 2006* section 5;

person with judicial experience means a person who is or has been a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia;

relevant day, in relation to a division of the State into districts in accordance with this Part, means the day specified in section 16E as the day as soon as practicable after which the division is to be carried out.

[Section 16A inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4; amended: No. 38 of 2008 s. 4; No. 14 of 2014 s. 4; No. 20 of 2021 s. 14 and 93.]

16B. Electoral Distribution Commissioners, appointment of etc.

- (1) For the purposes of this Part there shall be 3 Electoral Distribution Commissioners of whom —
 - (a) one shall be a person with judicial experience, appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Premier, who shall be chairman; and
 - (b) one shall be the Electoral Commissioner; and
 - (c) one shall be the Government Statistician.
- (2) If the person appointed an Electoral Distribution Commissioner under subsection (1)(a) is absent or is for any other reason unable to act as an Electoral Distribution Commissioner, the Governor, on the recommendation of the Premier, may appoint another person with judicial experience to act in the office of Electoral Distribution Commissioner and as chairman during the absence or inability.
- (3) A person acting in the office of the Electoral Commissioner under section 5D or 5H(2) shall, while so acting, act in the office of Electoral Distribution Commissioner under subsection (1)(b).
- (4) If the office of the Government Statistician is vacant, or the holder of that office is absent or is for any other reason unable to act as an Electoral Distribution Commissioner, the Governor, on the recommendation of the Premier, may appoint a suitable person to act in the office of Electoral Distribution Commissioner under subsection (1)(c) during the vacancy, absence or inability.
- (4A) Before making a recommendation under subsection (1)(a) or (2) that a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia be appointed, the Premier shall consult the Chief Justice of Western Australia.

- (5) Before making a recommendation under subsection (1)(a), (2) or (4) the Premier shall consult with, and seek the written views of, the parliamentary leader or representative of each party and Independent members in the Parliament.
- (5A) A person appointed under subsection (1)(a) shall hold office for such term, not exceeding 5 years, as is specified in his or her instrument of appointment, and is eligible for reappointment once.
- (5B) The appointment of a person who is a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia under subsection (1)(a) or (2) does not affect the person's tenure of office as, or status as, a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia nor the payment of the person's salary or allowances as a judge nor any other rights or privileges of the person as a judge.
- (5C) If a person appointed under subsection (1)(a) or (2) is not a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia, the person's conditions of service as an Electoral Distribution Commissioner, including remuneration and allowances, are to be determined by the Governor from time to time.
- (5D) Any remuneration and allowances paid to a person under subsection (5C) do not affect any entitlements the person may have under the *Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act 1950*.
- (6) The Commissioners shall meet as often as may be necessary for carrying out their duties under this Part.
- (7) For the purposes of this Part —
 - (a) the Commissioners have the powers, protections and immunities of a Royal Commission and the Chairman of a Royal Commission under the *Royal Commissions Act 1968*; and

(b) the provisions of the *Royal Commissions Act 1968* have effect in relation to the Commissioners as if they were enacted in this Act and in terms made applicable to the Commissioners and the performance of the functions of the Commissioners under this Part.

- (8) The moneys reasonably required for the purposes of the Commissioners shall be charged, on the certificate of the Auditor General, to the Consolidated Account, which this subsection appropriates to the necessary extent.

[Section 16B inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4; amended: No. 77 of 2006 s. 4; No. 38 of 2008 s. 5; No. 14 of 2014 s. 5.]

Division 2 — Whole of State electorate and electoral districts

[Heading inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 15.]

16C. Whole of State electorate and representation

- (1) The State is a single electorate (the *whole of State electorate*) for the purposes of the election of members of the Council.
- (2) The whole of State electorate will return the number of members of the Council prescribed by the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* section 5(1) to serve in the Council.

[Section 16C inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 15.]

16D. Electoral districts and representation

- (1) The State must be divided into the same number of electoral districts as the number of members of the Assembly prescribed by the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* section 18(1).
- (2) Each district will return 1 member to serve in the Assembly.

[Section 16D inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 15.]

Division 3 — Division of State into districts

[Heading inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 16.]

16E. Division of State into districts required after each general election for Assembly

The State must be divided into districts in accordance with this Part as soon as practicable after the day that is 2 years after polling day for each general election for the Assembly.

[Section 16E inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 17.]

16F. Commissioners, functions of

- (1) The Commissioners shall divide the State into districts in accordance with this Part whenever a division of the State is required under this Part.
- (2) For the purposes of carrying out their duty under subsection (1) the Commissioners shall —
 - (a) by notice published in the *Gazette* and in a newspaper circulating throughout the State —
 - (i) invite written suggestions relating to the division of the State as required by subsection (1) to be lodged with the Commissioners within 30 days from the day of the publication of the notice in the *Gazette*; and
 - (ii) invite written comments being comments on the suggestions lodged under subparagraph (i) to be lodged with the Commissioners within 14 days from the expiration of the period of 30 days referred to in that subparagraph;

and

- (b) forthwith after the expiration of the period of 30 days referred to in paragraph (a)(i), cause copies of the suggestions lodged with the Commissioners under paragraph (a)(i) to be made available for perusal at the office of the Electoral Commissioner; and
 - (c) consider all of the suggestions and comments lodged with the Commissioners under paragraph (a); and
 - (d) as soon as practicable after the expiration of the period of 14 days referred to in paragraph (a)(ii), formulate proposals for the division of the State in the manner required under subsection (1) and the names proposed to be assigned to the districts and publish in the *Gazette* and in a newspaper circulating throughout the State —
 - (i) a map or maps setting out those proposals; and
 - (ii) a statement of the Commissioners' reasons for making those proposals;and
 - (e) consider any objections in writing that may be lodged with the Commissioners within 30 days from the day of the publication of the map or maps and statement in the *Gazette* under paragraph (d); and
 - (f) as soon as practicable after the expiration of the period of 30 days referred to in paragraph (e), by notice published in the *Gazette*, divide the State in the manner required under subsection (1).
- (3) Any additional details and explanatory information that the Commissioners think appropriate may be included on or published with the map or maps mentioned in subsection (2)(d).
- (4) The notice mentioned in subsection (2)(f) shall set out —
- (a) the average district enrolment at the relevant day; and
 - (b) in respect of each of the districts —
 - (i) the name assigned to the district; and

- (ii) a description of the boundaries fixed for the district; and
- (iii) the number of electors within the boundaries as so fixed,

[(c) deleted]

and shall include a map or maps showing the boundaries of the districts.

(5A) For the purposes of subsection (4)(b)(ii), the boundaries may be described —

- (a) by setting out in the notice a description of the boundaries by reference to any of the following —
 - (i) local government or other administrative boundaries;
 - (ii) cadastral, topographical or other spatial information;
 - (iii) such other matters as the Commissioners think appropriate;

or

- (b) by referring in the notice to a version of a map or maps showing those boundaries that has been lodged with the Land Information Authority under section 16MA(1).

- (5) Suggestions under subsection (2)(a)(i), comments under subsection (2)(a)(ii) and objections under subsection (2)(e) may be made by any person.
- (6) In performing functions under this section, the Commissioners must ensure that the period beginning on the day on which the notice under subsection (2)(a) is published and ending on the day on which the notice under subsection (2)(f) is published does not exceed 8 months.
- (7) The Commissioners may at any time publish in any manner the Commissioners think appropriate a consultation paper

formulated by the Commissioners about any division of the State required under this Part.

[Section 16F inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4; amended: No. 2 of 2005 s. 4(3); No. 14 of 2014 s. 6; No. 20 of 2021 s. 18 and 93.]

16G. Districts, how State to be divided into

- (1) For the purposes of this section the Commissioners shall divide the number of electors by the number of districts, and the result of that division is referred to as the *average district enrolment*.
- (2) The Commissioners shall divide the State into districts in accordance with the principle that, for each district, the number of electors that the district would have had at the relevant day must not be more than 10% greater, or more than 10% less, than the average district enrolment at the relevant day.
- (3) If a district has an area of 100 000 square kilometres or more, subsection (2) does not apply but the sum of —
 - (a) the number of electors that the district would have had at the relevant day; and
 - (b) the large district allowance,must not be more than 10% greater, or more than 20% less, than the average district enrolment at the relevant day.

- (4) In subsection (3) —

large district allowance means 1.5% of the number of square kilometres in the area of the district.

[Section 16G inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4.]

[16H. Deleted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 19.]

16I. Dividing State, matters Commissioners to consider when

In making the division of the State into districts the Commissioners shall give due consideration to —

- (a) community of interest; and

- (b) land use patterns; and
- (c) means of communication, means of travel and distance from the capital; and
- (d) physical features; and
- (e) existing boundaries of districts; and
- (f) existing local government boundaries; and
- (g) the trend of demographic changes.

[Section 16I inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4; amended: No. 14 of 2014 s. 7; No. 20 of 2021 s. 20.]

16J. District boundaries etc., Commissioners may modify etc.

In the exercise of the powers conferred on the Commissioners by this Part, the boundaries of the districts may be modified by the Commissioners by excising portions from them, or by adding other portions to them and the districts may be designated and redesignated.

[Section 16J inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4.]

16K. Effect of notice under s. 16F(2)(f) as to division of State

The division of the State made by the Commissioners in a notice published under section 16F(2)(f) has effect and applies in respect of —

- (a) the first general election for the Assembly held after the day on which the notice is published in the *Gazette*; and
- (b) elections in districts held after that general election and before the first general election for the Assembly held after the day on which another notice is published under section 16F(2)(f).

[Section 16K inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 21.]

[16L. Deleted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 22.]

16MA. Map or maps of districts generated from digital or electronic record

- (1) For the purposes of preparing a notice for publication under section 16F(2)(f) that will describe the boundaries of the districts into which the State is divided in accordance with section 16F(5A)(b), the Commissioners must —
 - (a) identify the boundaries of the districts by reference to any of the matters referred to in section 16F(5A)(a); and
 - (b) cause those boundaries to be recorded in digital or electronic form in such a way as to be capable of generating a digital, electronic or printed version of a map or maps showing the boundaries of each district; and
 - (c) lodge with the Land Information Authority a version of a map or maps showing the boundaries of each district that is generated from a record made under paragraph (b).
- (2) In any proceedings, the version of a map or maps lodged under subsection (1)(c) is, without proof of any appointment or signature, evidence of the boundaries of the districts fixed under a notice mentioned in section 16F(2)(f) if that notice describes those boundaries by reference to that version.

[Section 16MA inserted: No. 14 of 2014 s. 9.]

16M. One vote one value principle, absolute majorities required for Bills affecting

- (1) A Bill that repeals or alters the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* section 5(2) or 18(2) or any of the provisions of this Part, other than section 16G(3) or (4), shall not be presented for assent by or in the name of the Queen unless the second and third readings of the Bill shall have been passed with the concurrence of an absolute majority of the whole number of the members for the time being of the Council and the Assembly, respectively.

- (2) A Bill assented to consequent upon its presentation in contravention of subsection (1) shall be of no effect as an Act.

[Section 16M inserted: No. 1 of 2005 s. 4; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 23.]

Part III — Enrolment

Division 1 — Qualification of electors

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

17. Who is entitled to be enrolled and vote

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, any person —

(a) who is —

(i) an Australian citizen; or

(ii) a person (other than an Australian citizen) who would, if the relevant citizenship law had continued in force, be a British subject within the meaning of that relevant citizenship law and who was at some time within 3 months, immediately preceding 26 January 1984, an elector of the Assembly or an elector, under a Commonwealth Act, of the Commonwealth Parliament;

and

(b) who has attained 18 years of age; and

(c) who has lived in the same district or sub-district for at least one month immediately before the enrolment,

is entitled —

(d) to be enrolled as an elector for the Council and the Assembly; and

(e) when so enrolled and while he continues to live in that district or sub-district, to vote at —

(i) any Council election; and

(ii) any election in the district or the district of which the sub-district forms part.

(2) Subject to sections 145(7) and 172(1)(c) where an elector enrolled under subsection (1) changes his place of living to another district he may, until his name is transferred to another

roll, vote at any Council election, and any election in the district in respect of which his name continues enrolled, if the election is held within 3 months after he has so changed his place of living.

- (3) For the purposes of this Act a person shall be deemed to have lived within a district or sub-district, if he has his usual place of abode therein and notwithstanding his occasional absence from that district or sub-district and any period of absence from such usual place of abode by a person —
- (a) while serving a sentence of imprisonment for an offence; or
 - (b) while otherwise in lawful custody or detention in relation to an offence,

shall be deemed to be such occasional absence, and that person shall be deemed not to have his usual place of abode at the place of imprisonment or custody or detention, as the case may be.

- (4) A member of the Assembly and the member's spouse may claim to be enrolled for the district that the member represents and, when so enrolled, are deemed to live in that district.
- (4a) A person who —
- (a) has attained 17 years of age; and
 - (b) would be entitled to be enrolled on a roll if he had attained 18 years of age,

is entitled to be enrolled on that roll as an elector.

- (4b) Notwithstanding section 4, or subsection (4a), or an enrolment under subsection (4a), if a person who has been enrolled under subsection (4a) does not attain 18 years of age until after the date fixed for the polling in an election, that person —
- (a) is not entitled to vote at that election; and
 - (b) shall not be taken to be —
 - (i) an elector; or

- (ii) entitled to be enrolled on a roll; or
 - (iii) enrolled on a roll,
- for the purposes of this Act in relation to that election.
- (4c) Subsection (4a) does not apply to a person who does not know his date of birth.
- (5) Subject to subsection (4) and sections 17A, 17B and 19(5), a person is not entitled to be enrolled on any roll other than the roll for the district or sub-district in which the person lives.

[Section 17 inserted: No. 33 of 1964 s. 6; amended: No. 33 of 1967 s. 3; No. 94 of 1970 s. 3; No. 39 of 1979 s. 6; No. 9 of 1983 s. 4 and 30; No. 104 of 1985 s. 4; No. 40 of 1987 s. 26 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 3; No. 36 of 2000 s. 32(1); No. 64 of 2006 s. 16; No. 7 of 2009 s. 5; No. 14 of 2016 s. 6; No. 20 of 2021 s. 24.]

17A. Enrolled voter leaving Australia but staying on Cwlth roll to stay on WA roll etc.

- (1) This section applies to a person if —
- (a) the name of the person appeared on —
 - (i) the roll for a district or sub-district; and
 - (ii) the electoral roll maintained under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* for a Commonwealth subdivision in the State,in respect of the same address; and
 - (b) by virtue of an application made under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* section 94(1) before the person ceased to reside in Australia, the name of the person is retained on the electoral roll maintained under that Act for the Commonwealth subdivision referred to in paragraph (a)(ii); and

- (c) the Commonwealth roll referred to in paragraph (b) is annotated to indicate that the person is an eligible overseas elector under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* section 94.
- (2) While the name of the person continues to be included on the Commonwealth roll referred to in subsection (1)(b) with the annotation referred to in subsection (1)(c) —
 - (a) the name of the person is to be retained on the roll for the district or sub-district referred to in subsection (1)(a)(i); and
 - (b) the person is entitled to vote at —
 - (i) any Council election; and
 - (ii) any election in the district or the district of which the sub-district forms part.

[Section 17A inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 17; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 25.]

17B. Elector with no fixed address on Cwlth roll, enrolment of on WA roll

- (1) If —
 - (a) a person fulfils the requirements of section 17(1)(a) and (b) but does not live in any particular district or sub-district in the State; and
 - (b) the person's name appears on a roll maintained under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* in respect of an address in a Commonwealth subdivision in the State with which the person has established a connection under section 96 of that Act; and
 - (c) the Commonwealth roll referred to in paragraph (b) is annotated to indicate that the person is an itinerant

elector under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* section 96,

the person is to be enrolled on the roll for the district or sub-district in which the address referred to in paragraph (b) is situated.

- (2) While the name of the person continues to be included on the Commonwealth roll referred to in subsection (1)(b) with the annotation referred to in subsection (1)(c), the person is entitled —
- (a) to remain enrolled on the roll for the district or sub-district referred to in subsection (1); and
 - (b) to vote at —
 - (i) any Council election; and
 - (ii) any election in the district or the district of which the sub-district forms part.

[Section 17B inserted: No. 7 of 2009 s. 6; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 26.]

18. People disqualified from voting and being enrolled

- (1) Every person, nevertheless, shall be disqualified from voting at any election, who —
- (a) is of unsound mind; or
 - (b) has been attainted of treason; or
 - (c) is serving or is yet to serve a sentence of detention (imposed under the *Young Offenders Act 1994*), or imprisonment, of one year or longer; or
 - (ca) is serving or is yet to serve indefinite imprisonment imposed under Part 14 of the *Sentencing Act 1995*; or
 - (cb) is subject to an order under section 279(5)(b) of *The Criminal Code*; or

- (cc) is subject to an order under repealed section 19(6a)(a), 282(c)(iii) or (d)(ii), 653, 661, 662 or 693(4) of *The Criminal Code*; or
 - (cd) is, or is taken to be, a mentally impaired accused as defined in the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996*; or
 - (d) is the holder of a temporary entry permit for the purposes of the *Migration Act 1958*, of the Parliament of the Commonwealth as amended from time to time, or is a prohibited immigrant under that Act.
- (2) A person mentioned in subsection (1)(a), (b) or (d) is disqualified from being enrolled as an elector.

[Section 18 amended: No. 39 of 1934 s. 2; No. 58 of 1951 s. 3; No. 51 of 1962 s. 3; No. 68 of 1964 s. 6; No. 39 of 1979 s. 7; No. 78 of 1995 s. 35; No. 69 of 1996 s. 23; No. 34 of 2004 Sch. 2 cl. 8; No. 84 of 2004 s. 82; No. 64 of 2006 s. 18; No. 29 of 2008 s. 32; No. 7 of 2009 s. 7.]

Division 2 — Electoral rolls

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

19. Electoral rolls required

- (1) There shall be a roll for the whole of State electorate.
- (2) There shall be a roll for each district.
- (3) There shall be a roll for each sub-district.
- (4) All the rolls for the sub-districts of a district form the roll for that district.
- (5) All the rolls for the districts form the roll for the whole of State electorate.

- (6) Each person whose name, whether immediately before or at any time after the coming into operation of the *Electoral Act Amendment Act 1964*, is on the roll for a district is, subject to this Act, entitled to vote at any election in the district and at any Council election.

[(7) Omitted under the Reprints Act 1984 s. 7(4)(e).]

[Section 19 inserted: No. 33 of 1964 s. 7; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 27 and 84; No. 20 of 2021 s. 27.]

[20. Deleted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

[21. Omitted under the Reprints Act 1984 s. 7(4)(e).]

22. Form and content of rolls; when information can be omitted from printed etc. rolls

- (1) Rolls may be in the prescribed form, and shall set out the surname, christian or given name, and, subject to section 51B, the residence in respect of which each elector is enrolled and, subject to subsection (2), such other particulars as are prescribed.
- (2) The regulations may provide that particulars prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1) may be omitted when rolls are printed under section 24, made available under section 25, provided under section 25A or supplied under section 112 or when information on rolls or other information relating to electors is provided or made available under section 25A, 25B or 25C.

[Section 22 inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 4; amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 7; No. 36 of 2000 s. 30; No. 64 of 2006 s. 19.]

23. Rolls, arrangement of names on

- (1) The rolls shall be arranged in lexicographical order of surnames, and where the surnames are identical, then in lexicographical order of the christian or given names.

- (2) The names appearing on the printed roll shall be numbered in regular, progressive arithmetical order, commencing with number 1 for the first name.
- (3) In the supplementary printed roll the first name shall have the number next following that which is set against the last name on the general printed roll.

[Section 23 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 8; No. 79 of 1987 s. 5.]

24. Rolls, when to be printed and issued

- (1) The rolls shall be printed, and issued under the hand of the Electoral Commissioner, whenever he thinks fit.
- (2) An amalgamation of each roll with its supplement shall be made, and shall be printed immediately after the close of the rolls for a general election or the writ for a referendum.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (1), the rolls shall be printed and issued as soon as practicable after a notice dividing the State into districts has been published.

[Section 24 amended: No. 5 of 1918 s. 2; No. 54 of 1983 s. 5; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 6; No. 1 of 2005 s. 5; No. 20 of 2021 s. 93.]

25. Rolls, public inspection of

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to make rolls available, in any form the Electoral Commissioner thinks fit, for inspection by the public, without fee, at the office of the Electoral Commissioner.

[(2)-(4) deleted]

- (5) The regulations may provide that if by virtue of section 51B information relating to a person is not shown on a roll, that person's name may be omitted when the Electoral Commissioner makes rolls available under this section.

[Section 25 inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 31; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 20.]

25A. Enrolment information, provision to members of Parliament and parliamentary parties

- (1) Subject to subsections (3) and (5), the Electoral Commissioner shall at the request of the person or organisation in question cause to be provided, without charge —
- (a) to any parliamentary party — 2 copies of the latest print of the roll for each district and the prescribed information relating to each elector;
 - (b) to a member of the Council — 2 copies of the latest print of the roll for each district and the prescribed information relating to each elector;
 - (c) to a member of the Assembly — 2 copies of the latest print of the roll for the district for which the member was elected and the prescribed information relating to each elector for the district.

- (1a) In subsection (1) —

prescribed information relating to an elector means —

- (a) the elector's postal address; and
- (b) details of when the particulars on the roll relating to the elector were entered or most recently changed; and
- (c) the local government district in which, and if that district is divided into wards the ward in which, the elector's residence is situated; and
- (d) the elector's date of birth.

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the Electoral Commissioner shall, so far as it is practicable to do so, cause to be provided to each parliamentary party, without charge, at the request of the party once during each Parliament, 2 copies of a habitation index for each district, being a list of electors for that district arranged, in a manner determined by the Electoral Commissioner, by reference to the residences of the electors whose names are entered on the roll for that district.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner shall not provide a parliamentary party with —
- (a) copies of a print of the roll for a district under subsection (1); or
 - (b) copies of a habitation index in respect of a district under subsection (2),
- unless a branch or division of the party is organised in that district.
- (4) If by virtue of section 51B information is not shown on a roll, that information is not to be provided under this section.
- (5) Without limiting subsection (1) or (2), the Electoral Commissioner may comply with a requirement of this section by providing the required enrolment information in the form of particulars recorded or stored on a mechanical, electrical, or other device.
- (6) In this section —
- parliamentary party*** has the meaning given by section 62C.
- [Section 25A inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 7; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 64; No. 64 of 2006 s. 21; No. 7 of 2009 s. 8; No. 20 of 2021 s. 28.]*

25B. Enrolment information, when available to others

- (1) Subject to this section, the Electoral Commissioner may, at the request of a person or organisation not referred to in

section 25A, make enrolment information available to that person or organisation.

- (2) Enrolment information is not to be made available under this section unless the Electoral Commissioner considers that the public interest in making the enrolment information available outweighs the public interest in protecting the privacy of personal information.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner must obtain from the person or organisation to which enrolment information is to be made available under this section an undertaking that the person or organisation —
 - (a) will only use the enrolment information for the purpose for which the Commission agreed to make it available; and
 - (b) will not copy the enrolment information or give it to any other person or organisation; and
 - (c) will return the enrolment information to the Electoral Commissioner or destroy the enrolment information after using it for the purpose for which the Electoral Commissioner agreed to make it available.
- (4) If by virtue of section 51B information is not shown on a roll, that information is not to be made available under this section.
- (5) The regulations may provide that if by virtue of section 51B information relating to a person is not shown on a roll, that person's name may be omitted when the Electoral Commissioner makes enrolment information available under this section.
- (6) The Electoral Commissioner may charge a fee that covers the cost of making enrolment information available under this section.

[Section 25B inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 22.]

25C. Enrolment information may be given to government departments etc.

The Electoral Commissioner may provide enrolment information to a department or organisation as defined in the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* section 3(1) by arrangement with its chief executive officer or chief employee.

[Section 25C inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 22.]

25D. Enrolment information given under s. 25A, 25B or 25C, use of restricted

- (1) A person or organisation that has acquired enrolment information under section 25A, 25B or 25C must not use that enrolment information except for a permitted purpose.

Penalty: \$1 000.

- (2) In this section —

permitted purpose means —

- (a) for a member of the Council or a member of the Assembly —
 - (i) the exercise of the member's functions; or
 - (ii) a purpose connected with an election or referendum; or
 - (iii) monitoring the accuracy of information in the roll; or
 - (iv) research regarding electoral matters;and
- (b) for a parliamentary party —
 - (i) the exercise by a party member of the member's function as a member of the Council or the Assembly; or
 - (ii) a purpose connected with an election or referendum; or

- (iii) monitoring the accuracy of information in the roll; or
 - (iv) research regarding electoral matters;
- and
- (c) for a person or organisation to whom or which enrolment information is made available under section 25B, the purpose for which the Electoral Commissioner agreed to make the enrolment information available; and
 - (d) for a department or organisation referred to in section 25C, use in connection with the functions of that department or organisation.

[Section 25D inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 22.]

25E. Enrolment information given under s. 25A, 25B or 25C, disclosure of restricted

- (1) For the purposes of this section, enrolment information is protected information in relation to a person if the person knows, or has reasonable grounds for believing, that the information has been provided or made available under section 25A, 25B or 25C.
- (2) A person must not disclose protected information unless the disclosure would be a use of the information for a permitted purpose under section 25D.
Penalty: \$1 000.
- (3) A person must not use protected information for a commercial purpose.
Penalty: \$10 000.

[Section 25E inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 22.]

26. Supplementary rolls, when to be printed and issued

Supplementary rolls, setting out additions and alterations since the last print, shall be printed and issued under the hand of the Electoral Commissioner whenever he thinks fit.

[Section 26 inserted: No. 28 of 1970 s. 4; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84.]

27. Previous supplementary roll to be incorporated in subsequent one

In the printing of a second or subsequent supplementary roll, all the names in the last preceding supplementary roll shall be incorporated in lexicographical order.

[Section 27 inserted: No. 44 of 1911 s. 11.]

28. Amalgamated roll, printing of

- (1) Whenever the Electoral Commissioner thinks fit, the roll and any supplementary roll may be printed in an amalgamated form.
- (2) In the preparation of such amalgamated roll, the provisions of section 23 shall be observed.
- (3) Every amalgamated roll shall have printed upon it in a conspicuous place an indication of what roll and supplementary roll it is an amalgamation, giving the number and date of such rolls.

[Section 28 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 28.]

29. Rolls to be dated

Each new or amalgamated roll shall be dated with the date of its completion.

30. Supplementary rolls to be numbered and dated

- (1) The supplementary rolls shall be numbered in regular progressive arithmetical order. The first issue following upon a

new roll, or an amalgamated roll as aforesaid, shall be supplementary roll No. 1, and subsequent rolls numbered consecutively.

- (2) The date to which a supplementary roll is made up shall also appear on such roll.

31. Arrangement with Cwlth for single enrolment procedure

- (1) The Governor may arrange with the Governor General of the Commonwealth for the Australian Electoral Officer to perform all or any of the following functions —

- (a) the receipt and initial checking of claims for enrolment under this Act (including claims under section 45(2)) and the undertaking of enquiries in respect thereof; and
- (b) the transmission to the Electoral Commissioner of the information necessary for the preparation, alteration, and revision of rolls under this Act.

- (2) An arrangement entered into under subsection (1) may provide that —

- (a) the Australian Electoral Officer shall be the officer to whom a claimant shall send any claim under this Act, but that a claim may be sent, or in specified circumstances or cases may be sent, to a Divisional Returning Officer or an Assistant Divisional Returning Officer (within the meaning of those terms in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*) acting on behalf of the Australian Electoral Officer; and
- (b) the Australian Electoral Officer shall have the powers, functions and duties conferred or imposed on the Electoral Commissioner or an enrolment officer by sections 42(1)(c), 44(2) and (3), 44A(3) and (5), and 45(4); and
- (c) a claim shall be in a form provided by the Electoral Commissioner and the Australian Electoral Officer for

putting into effect a single enrolment procedure for the purpose of Commonwealth and State elections,

but shall not make provision for the removal of the name of a person from the roll otherwise than pursuant to a provision of this Act.

- (3) Where an arrangement is entered into under subsection (1) the Governor may by order, which shall be published in the *Gazette*, declare that a single enrolment procedure is in operation for the purpose of enrolment for Commonwealth and State elections as from such date as is specified in the order.
- (4) An order under subsection (3) —
 - (a) shall be accompanied by an explanatory note indicating briefly to intending claimants the requirements of the single enrolment procedure so far as it affects the making of a claim under this Act;
 - (b) may contain such incidental or transitional provisions as the Governor considers necessary to give effect to this section;
 - (c) may be revoked by the Governor by further order published in the *Gazette*.
- (5) An order under subsection (3), and the arrangement to which it relates shall have effect notwithstanding anything in this Act.
- (6) In this section and in sections 31A and 31B ***Australian Electoral Officer*** means the Australian Electoral Officer for this State provided for by section 20 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* of the Commonwealth Parliament or any provision amending, or in substitution for, that section.

[Section 31 inserted: No. 9 of 1983 s. 5; amended: No. 76 of 1984 s. 4; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1) and 29.]

31A. Arrangement with Commonwealth for sharing of information for revision of rolls

- (1) The Governor may arrange with the Governor General of the Commonwealth for the Australian Electoral Officer to notify the Electoral Commissioner (whether in lists or otherwise) of the name and description of —
 - (a) each person whose name is removed, in accordance with the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, from a Commonwealth roll for this State on the ground that the person is no longer living at the address in respect of which the person was enrolled; and
 - (b) each person whose enrolment on a Commonwealth roll for this State is updated or transferred under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* section 103A; and
 - (c) each person whose name is entered on a Commonwealth roll for this State under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* section 103B.
- (2) During any period when an arrangement is in operation under subsection (1), section 31AB has effect despite anything in this Act other than section 53.
- (3) An arrangement for notification under subsection (1)(b) or (c) may relate to additions to or alterations of a Commonwealth roll whether made before or after the commencement of the *Electoral Amendment Act 2016* section 7.

[Section 31A inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 7.]

31AB. Revision of rolls in response to notification about Commonwealth rolls

- (1) For the purposes of this section, the Electoral Commissioner may form an opinion because of a notification given to the Electoral Commissioner under section 31A and not otherwise.

- (2) If the Electoral Commissioner forms the opinion that a person who is not enrolled for any district or sub-district is entitled to be enrolled for a district or sub-district, the Electoral Commissioner may enrol the person for the district or sub-district.
- (3) If the Electoral Commissioner forms the opinion that a person is enrolled for a district or sub-district but that person is living at an address in the district or sub-district (the *new address*) that is different to the address shown on the roll, the Electoral Commissioner may change the address on the roll to the new address.
- (4) If the Electoral Commissioner forms the opinion that a person is incorrectly enrolled for a district or sub-district (the *first district or sub-district*), but that person is entitled to be enrolled for another district or sub-district (the *second district or sub-district*), the Electoral Commissioner may —
 - (a) remove the person's name from the roll for the first district or sub-district; and
 - (b) enrol the person for the second district or sub-district.
- (5) If the Electoral Commissioner forms the opinion that a person who is enrolled for a district or sub-district is not entitled to be enrolled for that district or sub-district, the Electoral Commissioner may remove the person's name from the roll for the district or sub-district.

[Section 31AB inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 7.]

31B. Arrangement with Cwlth as to s. 51B requests

- (1) The Governor may arrange with the Governor General of the Commonwealth for the Australian Electoral Officer to perform the functions of the receipt, assessment and grant or refusal of requests under section 51B.

- (2) An arrangement entered into under subsection (1) may provide that —
- (a) the Australian Electoral Officer shall be the officer to whom a person shall send a request under section 51B, but that a request may be sent, or in specified circumstances and cases may be sent, to a Divisional Returning Officer or an Electoral Officer (within the meaning of those terms in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*) acting on behalf of the Australian Electoral Officer; and
 - (b) the Australian Electoral Officer shall have the powers, functions and duties conferred on the Electoral Commissioner by section 51B; and
 - (c) a request under section 51B shall be in a form provided by the Electoral Commissioner and the Australian Electoral Officer for putting into effect a single procedure for the purpose of making a request under section 51B of this Act and section 104 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.
- (3) Where an arrangement is entered into under subsection (1) the Governor may by order, which shall be published in the *Gazette*, declare that a single procedure is in operation for the purpose of making a request under section 51B of this Act and section 104 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* from such date as is specified in the order.
- (4) An order under subsection (3) —
- (a) shall be accompanied by an explanatory note indicating briefly the requirements of the procedure insofar as it affects the making of a request under section 51B;
 - (b) may contain such incidental or transitional provisions as the Governor considers necessary to give effect to this section;
 - (c) may be revoked by the Governor by further order published in the *Gazette*.

- (5) An order under subsection (3), and the arrangement to which it relates shall have effect notwithstanding anything in this Act.

[Section 31B inserted: No. 76 of 1984 s. 6; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1) and 29.]

[32, 33. Deleted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

34. Rolls and documents, when not invalid

No roll or other document shall be invalidated by reason only that it is not printed, kept, or published in the place or manner or for the time required for such purposes respectively, nor by reason of any error in the copying or printing of the same.

35. Public officers to give Electoral Commissioner etc. information

All public officers in the service of the State, and all officers in the service of any local government are hereby authorised and required to furnish to the Electoral Commissioner or any of his officers all such information as he requires to enable him to prepare or to revise the rolls.

[Section 35 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

[36. Deleted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

37. New rolls, when required etc.

A new roll for the whole of State electorate or for any district, and new rolls generally, shall be prepared by enrolment officers under the supervision of, and issued by, the Electoral Commissioner, whenever directed by proclamation, and shall come into operation at the date stated in the same or any subsequent proclamation.

[Section 37 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1); No. 20 of 2021 s. 29.]

38. Regulations as to preparation of rolls and compulsory enrolment

The Governor may by regulations, either general or applicable to any particular roll, specify the method of preparation and prescribe the rules to be observed in regard thereto.

Any such regulations may provide that any person entitled to enrolment as an elector for the Council or the Assembly shall fill in, sign, and send to the officer indicated therein a claim for enrolment in accordance with this Act, and otherwise comply with the relative provisions of this Act:

Provided that any elector who has been enrolled in pursuance of any claim signed by him and is correctly enrolled shall not be required to sign and send in any further claim for enrolment in connection with the preparation of a new roll unless he has changed his place of living.

The regulations may prescribe anything necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying a system of compulsory enrolment into effect and in particular prescribing the procedure in relation to the imposition and recovery of penalties by the Electoral Commissioner for offences against the compulsory enrolment provisions of this Act, and may prescribe a penalty not exceeding \$20 for the contravention of any regulation.

[Section 38 inserted: No. 59 of 1919 s. 2; amended: No. 33 of 1964 s. 14; No. 68 of 1964 s. 7; No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 76 of 1984 s. 7; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84.]

39. Electoral census, when required etc.

- (1) New rolls for the whole or any portion of the State shall, if the Governor so orders, be prepared, by enrolment officers under the supervision of the Electoral Commissioner, from the results obtained by means of an electoral census to be taken for that purpose.

- (2) Such electoral census shall be taken under the direction and superintendence of the Electoral Commissioner, in the manner prescribed by regulations, and at such time or times as the Governor may direct.
- (3) In such portion or portions of the State for which an electoral census may be ordered, the result of such census shall alone be used for the purpose of preparing new rolls.

[Section 39 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

40. New rolls, rules for preparing

- (1) In preparing new rolls —
 - (a) the names of all persons who appear to be qualified shall be inserted; and
 - (b) the names of all persons —
 - (i) who, from information supplied by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, appear to be dead; or
 - (iia) who, from information supplied by the chief executive officer (as defined in the *Prisons Act 1981* section 3(1)) appear to be disqualified; or
 - (ii) who appear to be otherwise disqualified; or
 - (iii) who do not appear to reside in the district for which they are enrolled,shall be omitted.
- (1a) Subsection (1)(b)(iii) does not apply to a person whose name is on the existing roll because of section 17(4), 17A or 17B.
- (2) The enrolment officer preparing a roll for a district shall forthwith give notice to any person whose name is omitted, if such name appears on an existing roll for the same district.

- (3) If the person to whom such notice is given makes and sends in a claim to be enrolled, and such claim appears to the enrolment officer to be in order, he shall enrol the claimant.
- (4) If the enrolment officer rejects such claim, he shall forthwith give notice thereof to the claimant, and the claimant may, within the prescribed time, appeal from the rejection of his claim to the Electoral Commissioner, and the provisions of Division 4 shall apply.

[Section 40 amended: No. 33 of 1964 s. 15; No. 33 of 1967 s. 4; No. 40 of 1987 s. 30 and 84; No. 69 of 1996 s. 24; No. 40 of 1998 s. 11(a); No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1) and (2) and 82; No. 64 of 2006 s. 23; No. 7 of 2009 s. 9; No. 25 of 2014 s. 58; No. 14 of 2016 s. 8.]

Division 3 — Additions to rolls

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

41. When new names may be added

New names may be added to rolls —

- (a) by enrolment officers pursuant to claims; or
- (b) under section 31AB(2).

[Section 41 inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 9.]

42. Claims, form etc. of

- (1) A claim —
- (a) may be in the prescribed form; and
 - (b) shall be signed by the claimant; and
 - (ca) shall include or be accompanied by such evidence of identity as is required under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* section 98AA(2) in relation to an application or claim to which that section applies; and

- (c) is to be sent to the Electoral Commissioner who shall cause the claim, and any request lodged with it under section 51B(1), to be referred to and recorded by an enrolment officer (in this Division and section 47 called the *enrolment officer*).
- (2) Despite subsection (1)(b), if —
- (a) the claimant is already enrolled; and
 - (b) the claimant's name is still the same as the name under which the claimant is enrolled,

the requirement that the claim be signed is to be taken to be satisfied if the claimant instead satisfies the requirements to be satisfied in respect of a claim under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* section 382(7).

[Section 42 inserted: No. 9 of 1983 s. 6; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1); No. 35 of 2012 s. 8.]

[42A. Omitted under the Reprints Act 1984 s. 7(4)(e).]

43. Claims of certain Cwlth electors to be taken to be in order

- (1) In this section —

claim means a claim made —

- (a) on or after 21 November 2006; but
- (b) before commencement day;

commencement day means the day on which the *Electoral Amendment Act 2012* Part 3 Division 1 comes into operation;

Commonwealth elector means a person enrolled under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* in respect of an address in a Commonwealth subdivision in the State;

in order means in order for the purposes of section 44A.

- (2) If a claimant —

- (a) is a Commonwealth elector on commencement day; and

(b) made a claim that was rejected as not in order,

then, on and after commencement day, the claim is to be taken to be in order if the claim would have been in order had it been made on commencement day.

[Section 43 inserted: No. 35 of 2012 s. 9.]

44. Claims, essential parts of

- (1) The essential parts of a claim shall be —
 - (a) the surname and christian or given names in full of the claimant; and
 - (b) the residence of the claimant; and
 - (c) the date of birth of the claimant; and
 - (d) the place of birth of the claimant; and
 - (e) the usual signature of the claimant in his own handwriting.
- (2) If the residence of the claimant is within a local government district or townsite, the name of the street and the number of the house, if numbered, shall be stated, and if not numbered, such particulars shall be given as, in the opinion of the enrolment officer, are sufficient to enable the exact locality of the claimant's residence to be ascertained.
- (3) If the residence of a claimant is not within a local government district or townsite, his residence shall be stated with such particulars as are, in the opinion of the enrolment officer, sufficient to enable the exact locality of the claimant's residence to be ascertained.
- (4) If the claimant is unable to insert in his claim the date of his birth because it is not known to him but —
 - (a) the claim contains a statement to that effect; and
 - (b) a person who may attest as to the claimant's identity under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*

section 98AA(2)(c), as read with section 42(1)(ca), certifies in writing that he or she is satisfied that the claimant is not under 18 years of age,

the claim shall be taken to sufficiently comply with subsection (1)(c).

[Section 44 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 14 and 43; No. 63 of 1948 s. 7; No. 33 of 1964 s. 16; No. 68 of 1964 s. 8; No. 33 of 1967 s. 6; No. 94 of 1970 s. 4; No. 39 of 1979 s. 9; No. 31 of 1982 s. 4; No. 9 of 1983 s. 9; No. 79 of 1987 s. 9; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(2); No. 35 of 2012 s. 10.]

44A. Enrolment of claimants and rejection of claims

- (1) A claim is in order for the purposes of this section if it complies with sections 42(1)(b) and (ca) and 44.
- (2) If a claim —
 - (a) is in order and is not objected to by the enrolment officer under section 47; or
 - (b) although it is not in order on receipt by the enrolment officer, is —
 - (i) rectified as mentioned in subsection (5); and
 - (ii) not objected to by the enrolment officer under section 47,

the enrolment officer shall enrol the claimant by entering his name and the other prescribed particulars on the roll.

- (3) If a claim is not in order the enrolment officer shall —
 - (a) reject it and give notice of the rejection to the claimant in the prescribed form; or
 - (b) make enquiries or seek further information under subsection (5).
- (4) The enrolment officer may exercise any power mentioned in subsection (3) notwithstanding that the power is for the time

being vested also in the Australian Electoral Officer for this State pursuant to section 31.

- (5) If a part of a claim is not in order but the enrolment officer considers that any defect in that part may be able to be rectified as a result of the making of enquiries or the seeking of further information or otherwise, he may, for that purpose and without prejudice to enrolment as provided in subsection (2)(b), defer rejection of the claim until he considers it is no longer expedient to seek to have the claim rectified.

[Section 44A inserted: No. 9 of 1983 s. 10; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1) and (2); No. 35 of 2012 s. 11.]

45. Compulsory enrolment, offences as to etc.

- (1) Every person who is entitled to have his name placed on the roll for any district or sub-district, otherwise than under section 17(4a) and whose name is not on the roll upon the expiration of 21 days from the date upon which he became so entitled, or at any subsequent date while he continues to be so entitled, shall be guilty of an offence unless he proves that his non-enrolment is not in consequence of his failure to send or deliver to the Electoral Commissioner, a claim in the prescribed form duly filled in and signed in accordance with the directions printed thereon.

Penalty: \$50.

- (2) Every person (including a person whose residence, in pursuance of a request made under section 51B is not entered on a roll) who is enrolled on the roll of any district or sub-district, and who changes his place of living from one address in the district or sub-district to another address therein, shall within 21 days after the change, give notice in writing of the new address to the Electoral Commissioner.

Penalty: \$50.

- (3) The fact that the name of any elector who has become entitled to have his name enrolled on any roll has not been enrolled thereon within 21 days after he became so entitled shall be prima facie evidence of a contravention on his part of the provisions of subsection (1).
- (3a) Where a person fails to have his name placed on a roll as provided in subsection (1) or fails to comply with the provisions of subsection (2), if the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that such failure was in consequence of the physical incapacity, mental illness or mental disorder of that person, the failure shall be deemed not to be a contravention of this section.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner or the enrolment officer shall issue a receipt to an elector for each claim received from the elector.
- (5) Where a person sends a claim to the Electoral Commissioner for enrolment on the relevant roll, proceedings shall not be instituted against the person for any offence against subsection (1) before the claim was sent.
- (6) Where a person sends a notice in writing of a new address to the Electoral Commissioner, proceedings shall not be instituted against the person for any offence against subsection (2) committed before the notice was sent.

[Section 45 inserted: No. 59 of 1919 s. 3; amended: No. 58 of 1951 s. 4; No. 51 of 1962 s. 4; No. 33 of 1967 s. 7; No. 28 of 1970 s. 6; No. 70 of 1973 s. 4; No. 39 of 1979 s. 5; No. 66 of 1983 s. 4; No. 76 of 1984 s. 8; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 10 and 77; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

46. Qualification of claimant considered insufficient or incorrect, enrolment officer's functions as to

- (1) If the enrolment officer has reason to believe that the qualification of the claimant as set out in his claim is insufficient or incorrect he may, if he thinks fit, refer the claim to —

- (a) any officer mentioned in section 35, qualified in his opinion to report thereon;
 - (b) an officer of the Australian Electoral Commission established by section 6 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, if he has reason to believe that an officer of that Commission is willing to report thereon.
- (2) An officer to whom a claim is referred under subsection (1)(a) shall forthwith make all necessary inquiries and report to the enrolment officer.
- (3) If a report from an officer mentioned in subsection (1) is adverse to the claimant, the enrolment officer shall object to the claim under section 47(3)(a) or, if the claimant has been enrolled, to the enrolment under section 48(3)(a).

[Section 46 inserted: No. 9 of 1983 s. 11; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(2) and 29.]

Division 4 — Objections

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

Subdivision 1 — To claims

[Heading inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(1).]

47. Objections to claims

- (1) The enrolment officer shall object to any claim if he has reason to believe that the claimant is not entitled to be enrolled.
- [(2) deleted]*
- (3) The following provisions apply where the enrolment officer decides to object to a claim:
- (a) The enrolment officer shall give notice of objection to the claimant setting forth —
 - (i) the grounds of objection; and

(ii) that unless notice of appeal is given within a time stated (not being less than 7 days) specifying the grounds of the appeal, the claim will be rejected.

The notice of objection may be in the prescribed form, and a form of notice of appeal shall be annexed thereto.

- (b) If notice of appeal is not duly given, the enrolment officer may reject the claim.
- (ba) If notice of appeal is duly given and the enrolment officer is satisfied on the grounds specified in the notice of appeal that the claimant is entitled to be enrolled the enrolment officer shall withdraw the objection.
- (c) If notice of appeal is duly given and the enrolment officer is not satisfied on the grounds specified in the notice of appeal that the claimant is entitled to be enrolled the enrolment officer shall set down the objection for hearing by the Electoral Commissioner, who shall appoint a day and place for the hearing.
- (d) The enrolment officer shall give notice to the claimant of the day and place appointed for the hearing.
- (e) The Electoral Commissioner shall hear and determine the objection, and may direct the enrolment officer to enrol the claimant or reject the claim, as he thinks fit, but no grounds of objection shall be entertained except such as are specifically set forth in the notice of objection.
- (f) No notice of objection shall be given by the enrolment officer between the day on which a writ is issued for a Council election or an election in the district, as the case may be, and either the close of polling at such election, or if only one candidate is nominated, the close of nominations for such election or between the day on which a writ is issued for a referendum and the close of voting at that referendum, but a claim may be rejected pursuant to paragraph (b) at any time before the 14th day next preceding the day fixed for a Council election or an

election in the district, as the case may be, or a referendum.

- (g) If any appeal has not been heard and determined on the 14th day next preceding the day fixed for a Council election or an election in the district, as the case may be, or a referendum and the claim was received by the enrolment officer before the time of the close of the roll, it shall be the duty of the enrolment officer to enrol the claimant but the enrolment officer shall place a mark in the prescribed manner against the claimant's name when enrolled, and section 122 applies to a person whose name is so marked.
- (4) Paragraphs (f) and (g) of subsection (3) do not apply where the claim is for enrolment under section 17(4a) and the election is an election referred to in section 17(4b).

[Section 47 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 43; No. 63 of 1948 s. 8; No. 68 of 1964 s. 9; No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 9 of 1983 s. 12; No. 54 of 1983 s. 6; No. 40 of 1987 s. 31 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 11; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(2); No. 20 of 2021 s. 30.]

Subdivision 2 — To enrolment

[Heading inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(2).]

48. Objections to enrolment

- (1) Any name on the roll for a district may be objected to —
- (a) by an elector enrolled on the same roll; or
 - (b) by an enrolment officer if the enrolment officer has reason to believe that the name should not be retained on the roll.
- (2) If the objection is by an elector, the following provisions shall apply:

- (a) The objection shall be in writing lodged in duplicate with the Electoral Commissioner, setting forth the grounds thereof, and may be in the prescribed form.
- (b) The sum of \$50 shall be deposited with the Electoral Commissioner, and shall be forfeited if the objection is held not to be reasonable.
- (ba) The Electoral Commissioner shall cause the objection to be referred to an enrolment officer.
- (c) The enrolment officer shall set down the objection for hearing by the Electoral Commissioner, who shall appoint a day and place for the hearing.
- (d) The enrolment officer shall give notice to the objector and the person objected to of the day and place appointed for the hearing, and a copy of the objection, setting forth the ground thereof, shall be sent therewith to the person objected to.
- (e) The person objected to, may, on the hearing of the objection, either —
 - (i) appear in person to prove his claim, or
 - (ii) appear by an agent appointed in writing under his hand, or
 - (iii) forward by post, addressed to the enrolment officer, a statement made by the person objected to and signed before another elector of the same district, setting forth reasons for his remaining on the roll.
- (f) The Electoral Commissioner shall hear and determine the objection, and may direct the enrolment officer to retain the name on the roll, or to strike the name off the roll, or to make such amendment as may be necessary according to such determination; but no grounds of objection shall be entertained except such as are specifically set forth in the objection lodged as aforesaid.

(3) If the objection is by an enrolment officer, the following provisions shall apply:

(a) The enrolment officer shall give notice of objection to the person objected to setting forth —

(i) the grounds of objection; and

(ii) that unless notice of appeal is given specifying the grounds of the appeal within a time stated (not being less than 7 days), the name of the elector will be struck off the roll.

The notice of objection may be in the prescribed form, and a form of notice of appeal shall be annexed thereto.

(b) If notice of appeal is not duly given, the enrolment officer may strike the name off the roll.

(ba) If notice of appeal is duly given and the enrolment officer is satisfied on the grounds specified in the notice of appeal that the person objected to is entitled to remain enrolled the enrolment officer shall withdraw the objection.

(c) If notice of appeal is duly given and the enrolment officer is not satisfied on the grounds specified in the notice of appeal that the person objected to is entitled to remain enrolled the enrolment officer shall set down the objection for hearing by the Electoral Commissioner, who shall appoint a day and place for the hearing.

(d) The enrolment officer shall give notice to the person objected to of the day and place appointed for hearing.

(e) The Electoral Commissioner shall hear and determine the objection, and may direct the enrolment officer to retain the name on the roll, or to strike the name off the roll, or to make such amendment as may be necessary according to such determination; but no grounds of objection shall be entertained except such as are specifically set forth in the notice of objection.

- (4) The name of every elector whose enrolment is objected to shall be publicly exhibited outside such place or places as the Electoral Commissioner may direct, and maintained there until the objection is heard and determined.
- (5) No name shall be struck from, or other amendment made to, a roll under this section during the period from the close of the roll for an election to the close of the polling at the election except where the name objected to was enrolled under section 17(4a) and the election is an election referred to in section 17(4b).

[Section 48 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 43; No. 63 of 1948 s. 9; No. 33 of 1964 s. 17; No. 68 of 1964 s. 10; No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 54 of 1983 s. 7; No. 40 of 1987 s. 32 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 12; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1), (2) and (3); No. 64 of 2006 s. 24; No. 20 of 2021 s. 31.]

Subdivision 3 — Powers of Electoral Commissioner on appeal

[Heading inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(3).]

49. Electoral Commissioner's powers

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner shall, for the purposes of this Part, be deemed to be and shall have all the powers of the Magistrates Court, and if any objection, except an objection by an enrolment officer, is held not to be reasonable, may make such order as to costs as he thinks fit.
- (2) If the parties to any proceeding appear by an authorised agent, the Electoral Commissioner may, if he deems it necessary, adjourn the hearing for the attendance of any party in person, and may make an order requiring his attendance accordingly.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner shall make such order for the forfeiture or return of the sum deposited with the objection as he thinks fit.

[Section 49 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 34; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(3); No. 59 of 2004 s. 141.]

Division 5 — Miscellaneous

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

[50. Deleted: No. 33 of 1964 s. 18.]

51. Removal of names repeated on roll and adjusting rolls

- (1) If the name of the same person appears more than once on the same roll, or on more than one district roll, the Electoral Commissioner is to cause all but the latest enrolled name to be removed.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may take such action and give such directions as he considers necessary in order for the rolls to be adjusted to give effect to a division of the State into districts.

[Section 51 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 17; No. 63 of 1948 s. 10; No. 33 of 1964 s. 19; No. 40 of 1987 s. 35 and 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1); No. 1 of 2005 s. 6; No. 20 of 2021 s. 93.]

51A. Incapacitated elector, removal of name of from roll etc.

- (1) Where the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied, that in consequence of physical incapacity, mental illness or mental disorder an elector is incapable of complying with the provisions of this Act relating to compulsory voting, the Electoral Commissioner may remove the name of that elector from the roll.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner shall not, under subsection (1), remove the name of the elector from the roll unless —
 - (a) he has, by notice in writing served on the elector, given notice of his intention so to remove the name of the elector; and

- (b) he has, in the notice, specified a date being not less than 14 days from the date of the notice on or before which the elector may by notice in writing served on the Electoral Commissioner advise him that he objects to his name being so removed; and
 - (c) the elector has failed to serve a notice on the Electoral Commissioner under and in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b).
- (3) A person whose name has been removed from a roll pursuant to this section may claim in the manner prescribed in section 42, to have his name entered upon any roll for which he possesses the necessary qualification.
- (4A) A person's name is taken to have been removed from a roll pursuant to this section if, immediately before the day on which the *Mental Health Legislation Amendment Act 2014* Part 4 Division 4 Subdivision 11 commences, the person's name did not appear on the roll because it had been removed from the roll under section 51AA(1a) of this Act as in force before that day.
- (4) The power of removal conferred on the Electoral Commissioner by subsection (1) does not extend to a person in respect of whom a guardianship or administration order is in force under the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1990*.

[Section 51A inserted: No. 33 of 1967 s. 8; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 24 of 1990 s. 123; No. 69 of 1996 s. 25; No. 25 of 2014 s. 59.]

51AA. Removal of name following declaration by SAT etc.

- (1) On receipt of notice of a declaration under section 111 of the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1990* in respect of an elector by the State Administrative Tribunal the Electoral Commissioner shall cause the name of that elector to be removed from the roll.

- (2) A person whose name has been removed from a roll pursuant to this section may claim in the manner prescribed in section 42 to have his name entered upon any roll for which he possesses the necessary qualification, but may not do so while a declaration referred to in subsection (1) is in force.

[Section 51AA inserted: No. 24 of 1990 s. 123; amended: No. 69 of 1996 s. 26; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1); No. 55 of 2004 s. 468; No. 25 of 2014 s. 60.]

51B. Request for address not to be shown on roll

- (1) Where a person claiming enrolment under this Act considers that having a residence shown on a roll would place the personal safety of that person or members of the family of that person, at risk, that person may lodge with the claim a request, in the prescribed form, that the residence not be entered on the rolls.

- (2) Where —

- (a) the residence of a person is included in the particulars relating to the person that are entered on a roll; and
- (b) the person considers that having the residence so shown places the personal safety of that person, or members of the family of that person, at risk,

the person may lodge with the Electoral Commissioner a request, in the prescribed form, that the residence be deleted from the particulars that are entered on the roll and the Electoral Commissioner is to cause the request to be referred to an enrolment officer.

- (3) A request under subsection (1) or (2) shall give particulars of the relevant risk and shall be verified by statutory declaration by the person making the request or some other person.

- (4) Where —

- (a) a request has been made under subsection (1) or (2); and

- (b) the enrolment officer to whom the request was referred is satisfied that having the residence of the person making the request shown on a roll would place or places the personal safety of the person or members of the family of that person, at risk,

the enrolment officer —

- (c) where the request is lodged under subsection (1), shall not include the residence of the person in the particulars that are entered on a roll; and
- (d) where the request is lodged under subsection (2), subject to section 53, shall delete the residence of the person from the particulars that are entered on the roll.
- (5) Where an enrolment officer grants or refuses a request made by a person under subsection (1) or (2), the enrolment officer shall notify the person in writing of the decision.
- (6) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 54, where a residence is deleted from a roll under subsection (4), the particulars so deleted shall be obliterated.
- (7) An enrolment officer shall, when directed to do so by the Electoral Commissioner, conduct a review of a roll in relation to electors whose residences are not shown on the roll by virtue of this section and, upon completion of the review, shall make such alterations to the roll as the enrolment officer thinks necessary to ensure that the only electors whose residences are not shown on the roll by virtue of this section are electors the personal safety of whom or of whose family, the enrolment officer is satisfied, would be at risk if their address were shown on the roll.

[Section 51B inserted: No. 76 of 1984 s. 9; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1) and (2).]

52. Alteration of rolls, Electoral Commissioner's powers as to

- (1) In addition to the other powers of alteration conferred by this Act, rolls may be altered by the Electoral Commissioner or by an enrolment officer as follows:
- (a) By correcting any obvious mistake or omission, but not to the extent of wholly removing a name from the roll except where a name is repeated.
 - (aa) By altering the particulars of the enrolment of an elector so as to record any change therein resulting from —
 - (i) the numbering or renumbering of a street or locality; or
 - (ii) the naming or renaming of a street or locality; or
 - (iii) any other like circumstance.
 - (b) By removing the name of any person who requests in writing that his name may be removed from the roll.
 - (c) By changing, upon the written application of an elector, the original name or address of the elector to an altered name or address.
 - [(d) *deleted*]
 - (e) By removing the names of persons reported as being —
 - (i) dead;
 - (ii) disqualified by section 18;
 - (iii) already enrolled in another district or whose names are repeated on the same roll.
 - (f) By re-instating any name struck off by mistake under the last preceding paragraph.
 - (g) By changing the address of an elector from that appearing on the claim, to the address inserted by the electoral canvasser on the roll revised by him after an electoral canvass or census taken by order of the Governor, if the new address is within the boundaries of the same district.

[(2) deleted]

[Section 52 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 18 and 43; No. 63 of 1948 s. 11; No. 68 of 1964 s. 11; No. 28 of 1970 s. 7; No. 39 of 1979 s. 10; No. 40 of 1987 s. 36 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 13; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(3); No. 35 of 2012 s. 30.]

53. Alteration to rolls, time for making

No addition to or alteration of the roll shall be made between the time of the close of the roll for a Council election or an election for the district, as the case may be, and the closing of the poll at such election, or if only one candidate is nominated, the close of nominations for such election, or between the time of the close of the roll for a referendum and the close of voting at the referendum except that —

- (a) claims received before the time of the close of the roll may be enrolled after that time if no notice of objection to such claim has been lodged or given under section 47; and
- (b) a claimant may be enrolled pursuant to section 47(3)(e) after that time; and

[(c), (d) deleted]

- (e) alterations may be made at any time not later than the 14th day next preceding the day fixed for the election or referendum pursuant to the provisions of sections 51 and 52.

[Section 53 inserted: No. 63 of 1948 s. 12; amended: No. 33 of 1964 s. 20; No. 9 of 1983 s. 13; No. 54 of 1983 s. 8; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 14; No. 20 of 2021 s. 32.]

54. Alteration to roll, how to be made

All alterations of the rolls shall be made in such manner that the original writing or print shall not be obliterated, and the reason for the alteration, the date thereof, and such reference to authority as may be deemed necessary, shall be set against the

alteration together with the initials of the person making such alteration.

[Section 54 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 19; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

55. Removing name from printed roll, manner of

A name shall be deemed to be removed from the roll when a line in ink is drawn through the name and a note stating the ground of removal made opposite thereto, with such reference to authority as may be deemed necessary, and initialled and dated by an officer authorised to remove such name from the roll.

56. Deaths in State, Registrar of Births etc. to notify Electoral Commissioner of

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the end of each month, forward to the Electoral Commissioner a list, in the prescribed form, containing the names, address, occupation, and age at the time of death of every person not under 17 years of age, whose death has been registered in the State during the month.

[Section 56 inserted: No. 40 of 1998 s. 11(b); amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 82.]

[57. Deleted: No. 69 of 1996 s. 27.]

[58. Deleted: No. 58 of 1951 s. 6.]

59. Certain prisoners and detained persons, Electoral Commissioner to be informed about

(1) In this section —

chief executive officer, prisons means the chief executive officer as defined in the *Prisons Act 1981* section 3;

mentally impaired accused has the meaning given to that term in the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996* Part 5;

prisoner means a person of a kind referred to in section 18(1)(b) to (cd) who is detained in a prison;

registrar, MIARB means the registrar of the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board established under the *Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996*;

required information, in relation to a person, means that person's name, address, date of birth, occupation and sex.

- (2) As soon as practicable after the beginning of each month —
- (a) the chief executive officer, prisons must forward to the Electoral Commissioner —
 - (i) a list containing the required information for each person who became a prisoner during the preceding month; and
 - (ii) a list containing the required information for each person who ceased to be a prisoner during the preceding month;

and

 - (b) the registrar, MIARB must forward to the Electoral Commissioner —
 - (i) a list containing the required information for each person who became a mentally impaired accused during the preceding month; and
 - (ii) a list containing the required information for each person who ceased to be a mentally impaired accused during the preceding month.
- (3) Within 4 days after the date of the writ for an election —
- (a) the chief executive officer, prisons must forward to the Electoral Commissioner —

- (i) a list containing the required information for each person who became a prisoner during the period since a list was last forwarded under subsection (2)(a)(i); and
 - (ii) a list containing the required information for each person who ceased to be a prisoner during the period since a list was last forwarded under subsection (2)(a)(ii);
- and
- (b) the registrar, MIARB must forward to the Electoral Commissioner —
 - (i) a list containing the required information for each person who became a mentally impaired accused during the period since a list was last forwarded under subsection (2)(b)(i); and
 - (ii) a list containing the required information for each person who ceased to be a mentally impaired accused during the period since a list was last forwarded under subsection (2)(b)(ii).
- (4) If required information is forwarded to the Electoral Commissioner under subsection (2)(a)(i) or (3)(a)(i) in relation to a person referred to in section 18(1)(c), the chief executive officer, prisons must include in the list containing the required information the length of the term of detention or imprisonment of the person.

[Section 59 inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 25; amended: No. 7 of 2009 s. 10; No. 17 of 2014 s. 11.]

60. Changes to rolls required due to information given under s. 56 and 59

- (1) Upon receipt of a list under section 56, the Electoral Commissioner shall cause the names of such persons enumerated in such lists, as are enrolled as electors for the

Council and Assembly, to be ascertained and removed from the rolls.

- (2) Upon receipt of a list under section 59(2)(a)(i), (2)(b)(i), (3)(a)(i) or (3)(b)(i), the Electoral Commissioner shall cause the names of the persons on the list who are enrolled as electors to be ascertained and cause the roll to be annotated in a manner that will enable those persons to be identified for the purposes of section 18(1).
- (3) Upon receipt of a list under section 59(2)(a)(ii), (2)(b)(ii), (3)(a)(ii) or (3)(b)(ii), the Electoral Commissioner shall cause the names of the persons who are on the list, and in respect of whom there is an annotation under subsection (2), to be ascertained and cause that annotation to be removed from the roll.

[Section 60 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 21; No. 33 of 1964 s. 22; No. 68 of 1964 s. 12; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 24 of 1990 s. 123; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1); No. 64 of 2006 s. 26.]

[61. Deleted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 53.]

[62. Deleted: No. 7 of 2009 s. 11.]

62A. Enrolment information may be recorded etc. on computer etc.

- (1) Where, but for this subsection, the Electoral Commissioner or an enrolment officer is required or permitted under this Act to record particulars in a written form on a roll, the Electoral Commissioner or enrolment officer may do so by recording or storing those particulars, or causing those particulars to be recorded or stored, on a mechanical, electrical or other device approved by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (2) Where the Electoral Commissioner or an enrolment officer is required or permitted under this Act to vary or remove particulars which, but for this section, would be on a roll but which have been recorded or stored in accordance with this section, the Electoral Commissioner or enrolment officer shall

do so by varying or removing the particulars so recorded or stored, or causing the particulars so recorded or stored to be varied or removed, as the case may be.

[(3) deleted]

- (4) Where the Electoral Commissioner or an enrolment officer who is required under this Act to enter particulars on, vary particulars on, or remove particulars from, a roll complies with the requirement by taking action in accordance with this section, the Electoral Commissioner or enrolment officer shall, for the purposes of this Act, including any provisions imposing obligations on the Electoral Commissioner or enrolment officer, be taken to have entered those particulars on the roll, varied those particulars or removed those particulars, as the case may be.
- (5) Sections 54 and 55 do not apply to alterations of a roll made pursuant to this section.
- (6) A reference in this section to the entering or recording of particulars on a roll includes a reference to the making of annotations on a roll.

[Section 62A inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 18; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1) and (2).]

Part IIIA — Registration of political parties

[Heading inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63.]

62B. Scope of Part

This Part sets out the way in which certain political parties may become registered for various purposes under this Act.

[Section 62B inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63.]

62C. Terms used

(1) In this Part —

election period, in relation to an election, means the period commencing on the day of issue of the writ for the election and ending on the last day for the return of the writ;

eligible political party means a political party that has at least 500 members who are electors and that has a constitution that specifies as one of its objects or activities the promotion of the election to the Parliament of the State of a candidate or candidates endorsed by it;

parliamentary party means a political party of which at least one member is a member of the Assembly or the Council;

register of political parties means the register kept under section 62D;

registered political party means a political party that is registered in the register of political parties.

[(2) deleted]

(3) For the purposes of this Part, if the Assembly has expired or been dissolved, a reference to a member of the Assembly is a reference to a person who was a member of it immediately before it expired or was dissolved.

(4) If a political party (the *State party*) is the branch or division for this State of a political party (the *parent body*) that is organised on a basis that includes this State and another State or Territory

s. 62CA

or other States or Territories, the reference to the constitution of the State party in the definition of *eligible political party* in subsection (1) includes a reference to the constitution of the parent body.

[Section 62C inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 33.]

62CA. Membership requirements for qualification as eligible political party

- (1) For the purposes of this Part, 2 or more political parties cannot rely on the same person as a member for the purpose of qualifying or continuing to qualify as an eligible political party.
- (2) If 2 or more political parties purport to rely on the same person as a member for the purpose described in subsection (1), the following provisions apply —
 - (a) the Electoral Commissioner must, in accordance with the regulations, give the person an opportunity to nominate the political party entitled to rely on the person;
 - (b) if the person does not nominate a political party, the person cannot be relied on by any of those political parties.
- (3) The registration of a political party must not be cancelled because of the operation of this section unless the political party is given an opportunity by the Electoral Commissioner, in accordance with the regulations, to change the person or persons on whom it relies.

[Section 62CA inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 34.]

62D. Register of political parties, Electoral Commissioner to keep etc.

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to keep a register containing the names of, and other information and documents related to, political parties registered under this Part.
- (2) Subject to this Part, the register is to be kept in the form and way that the Electoral Commissioner considers appropriate.
- (3) The register is called the register of political parties.

[Section 62D inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63.]

62E. Applications for registration

- (1) An application for registration of a political party is to be made in accordance with this section.
- (2) The application can only be made for the registration of an eligible political party.
- (3) The application is to be made by the secretary of the party.
- (4) The application is to be made to the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form and is to —
 - (a) state a name for the political party; and
 - (b) if the political party wishes to use an abbreviation or acronym of its name on ballot papers for elections — set out the abbreviation or acronym; and
 - (c) set out the name and address of the secretary of the political party; and
 - (d) set out the names and addresses of at least 500 members of the party who are electors and on whom the party relies for the purpose of qualifying as an eligible political party; and
 - (da) be accompanied by declarations as to membership of the party, in an approved form, completed and signed by the

s. 62F

- members on whom the party relies for the purpose of qualifying as an eligible political party; and
- (e) be accompanied by a copy of the party's constitution; and
 - (f) set out any other prescribed information and be accompanied by a copy of any other prescribed document; and
 - (g) be accompanied by a fee of \$2 000 or any greater amount that is prescribed.
- (5) Applications for registration of political parties are to be determined in the order in which they are received by the Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 62E inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63; amended: No. 35 of 2012 s. 7; No. 20 of 2021 s. 35.]

62F. Variation of application, Electoral Commissioner may advise etc.

- (1) Where, after initial consideration of an application for the registration of a political party, the Electoral Commissioner is of the opinion that the application has to be refused but that the applicant might be prepared to vary the application in such a way that it would not have to be refused, the Electoral Commissioner is to give the applicant written notice of that opinion, setting out the reasons for that opinion and the terms of subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) Where notice is given under subsection (1) in relation to an application, the Electoral Commissioner is not required to give further consideration to the application unless and until notice is lodged under subsection (3).
- (3) Within one month after notice is given under subsection (1) in relation to an application for the registration of a political party, the applicant may lodge with the Electoral Commissioner a written request, signed by the applicant, to —

- (a) vary the application in a manner specified in the request;
or
- (b) proceed with the application in the form in which it was lodged,

and the Electoral Commissioner is to comply with the request.

- (4) If a request is made under subsection (3) to vary an application, the application as varied is to be treated as if it were a new application but, for the purposes of section 62E(5), it is to be regarded as having been received when the original application was received.

[Section 62F inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63.]

62G. Public notice of application to be given etc.

- (1) As soon as practicable after an application is made to the Electoral Commissioner, the Electoral Commissioner is to publish a notice in relation to the application in —
 - (a) the *Gazette*; and
 - (b) a newspaper circulating generally in the State.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the Electoral Commissioner gives a notice under section 62F(1) unless and until a request is made under section 62F(3)(b).
- (3) The notice has to —
 - (a) set out any information included in the application under section 62E(4)(a) to (c); and
 - (b) invite any elector who believes that the application —
 - (i) is not in accordance with section 62E; or
 - (ii) should be refused under section 62J,to submit to the Electoral Commissioner, within one month after the day of publication of the *Gazette* notice, a statement under subsection (4).

s. 62H

- (4) The statement has to —
 - (a) set out in detail the grounds for the elector’s belief under subsection (3)(b); and
 - (b) set out the elector’s residential address and postal address; and
 - (c) be signed by the elector.
- (5) The Electoral Commissioner is to make the statement available at the office of the Electoral Commissioner and allow public inspection of the statement without fee.
- (6) Unless the Electoral Commissioner considers the statement to be frivolous the Electoral Commissioner is to give the applicant —
 - (a) a copy of the statement; and
 - (b) a notice inviting the applicant to give the Electoral Commissioner a reply to the statement within such reasonable period as is specified in the notice.
- (7) If the applicant gives the Electoral Commissioner a reply within the period, the Electoral Commissioner is to make the reply available at the office of the Electoral Commissioner as soon as practicable and allow public inspection of the reply without fee.
[Section 62G inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63.]

62H. Registration of political party

- (1) If the Electoral Commissioner, after considering all statements and replies to the statements under section 62G, is satisfied that the application complies with the requirements of section 62E, then, subject to subsection (3) and section 62J, the Electoral Commissioner is to register the political party.
- (2) Registration is effected by entering or otherwise including in the register of political parties —
 - (a) the information set out in the application (other than under section 62E(4)(d)); and

- (b) any document accompanying the application (other than under section 62E(4)(da)).
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner is not to register the political party or take any other action in relation to the application during the election period in relation to an election.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner is not to register a political party other than in accordance with this section.
- (5) As soon as possible after registering the political party, the Electoral Commissioner is to —
 - (a) give written notice of the registration to the applicant; and
 - (b) if any elector made a statement to the Electoral Commissioner under section 62G in relation to the application — give written notice to the elector stating that the party has been registered and setting out why the reasons in the elector’s statement were rejected; and
 - (c) notify the party’s registration by notice in the *Gazette*.

[Section 62H inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 36.]

62HA. Political party taken not to be registered for certain purposes

Despite the registration of a political party under this Part, the party is taken not to be a registered political party for the purposes of Part IV Division 2, Part VI Division 2A and section 113C, in relation to a general election, if the party’s application for registration was made in the period of 12 months ending on the day of issue of the writ for the general election.

[Section 62HA inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 37.]

s. 62I

62I. Parliamentary party existing at 21 Oct 2000, registration of as political party

- (1) Despite anything in sections 62E to 62H, on the commencement of section 63 of the *Electoral Amendment Act 2000* any political party that is at that time a parliamentary party becomes a registered political party by operation of this subsection.
- (2) Subsection (1) only applies to a political party if the party was in existence on 14 June 2000 and at least one member of the party was a member of the Assembly or the Council on that day.
- (3) The registration of a political party under subsection (1) ceases to have effect at the end of the period of 3 months from the day on which section 63 of the *Electoral Amendment Act 2000* commences unless, within that period, the secretary of the political party provides the Electoral Commissioner with the information and documents referred to in section 62E(4)(a), (b), (c), (e) and (f).

[Section 62I inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 53.]

62J. Refusal of registration, grounds for etc.

- (1) In this section —

application name means a name for a political party, or the abbreviation or acronym of the name for a political party, set out in the party's application for registration;

existing party means another party —

- (a) that is a parliamentary party; or
- (b) that is a registered political party; or
- (c) at least one member of which is a member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth;

public body name means the name, or an abbreviation or acronym of the name, of a prominent public body.

- (1A) The Electoral Commissioner must refuse to register a political party if it is not an eligible political party.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may refuse to register a political party if the Electoral Commissioner believes on reasonable grounds that information set out in, or documents required to accompany, the application are incorrect.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner is to refuse to register a political party if the party's application name —
 - (a) has more than 4 words; or
 - (b) is obscene or offensive; or
 - (c) is the name, or an abbreviation or acronym of the name, of an existing party; or
 - (d) so nearly resembles the name, or an abbreviation or acronym of the name, of an existing party that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for the name, abbreviation or acronym; or
 - (e) includes the word “royal” or the word “independent”; or
 - (ea) includes a word of which a letter, other than the first letter, is a capital letter; or
 - (f) would otherwise be likely to cause confusion if registered.
- (4) Subsection (3)(c) or (d) does not apply if the existing party is related to the party in respect of which the application is made.
- (4A) For the purposes of subsection (4), the existing party is related to the party in respect of which the application is made if —
 - (a) one is a part of the other party; or
 - (b) both are parts of the same political party.
- (4B) Subsection (3)(ea) does not apply if the word is an acronym.

s. 62K

- (5) The Electoral Commissioner may refuse to register a political party if the party's application name —
- (a) is a public body name; or
 - (b) so nearly resembles a public body name that it is likely to be confused with or mistaken for the public body name.

[(6) deleted]

- (7) If the Electoral Commissioner decides to refuse an application, the Electoral Commissioner is to give the applicant written notice of —
- (a) the refusal; and
 - (b) the reasons for the refusal.

[Section 62J inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 38.]

62K. Amendment of register

- (1) An application may be made under this section to the Electoral Commissioner for the amendment of the information, or the replacement of documents, in the register of political parties in relation to a registered political party.
- (2) The application has to be made in an approved form and in a way approved by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (3) The application is to be made by the secretary of the party.
- (4) If the application is to amend the register by —
- (a) changing the name of the party to a name set out in the application; or
 - (b) if an abbreviation of the name of the party is entered in the register, changing that abbreviation to an abbreviation set out in the application; or

- (c) if an abbreviation of the name of the party is not entered in the register, entering in the register an abbreviation set out in the application,

sections 62F, 62G, 62H and 62J apply to the application under this section, subject to any necessary changes, as if it were an application for registration of a political party.

[Section 62K inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63; amended: No. 35 of 2012 s. 7.]

62KA. Annual returns in relation to continued registration

- (1) The secretary of a registered political party must, in the period beginning on 1 June and ending on 30 June each year, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in relation to its continued eligibility for registration under this Part.
- (2) The return must be —
 - (a) in an approved form; and
 - (b) accompanied by any documents specified in the approved form.
- (3) However, the secretary of a registered political party is not required to lodge a return if, at the beginning of the period referred to in subsection (1), the party has been registered for less than 6 months.

[Section 62KA inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 39.]

62L. Cancellation of registration

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may cancel the registration of a political party at the written request of the secretary of the party.
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner must cancel the registration of a political party if the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied on reasonable grounds that —
 - (a) the party no longer exists; or

s. 62L

- (b) the party (not being a parliamentary party) is no longer an eligible political party; or
 - (c) the candidates at a conjoint election held after the registration of the party did not include at least one candidate endorsed by the party; or
 - (d) the registration was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation; or
 - (e) a return required to be lodged under Part VI by the agent of that political party has been outstanding for more than 12 months.
- (2A) The Electoral Commissioner must cancel the registration of a political party if the secretary of the party fails to comply with section 62KA.
- (3) If the Electoral Commissioner proposes to cancel the registration of a political party, other than because of subsection (2)(d), the Electoral Commissioner is to —
- (a) give written notice of the proposed cancellation to the secretary of the party at the address shown in the register; and
 - (b) give notice of the proposed cancellation in —
 - (i) the *Gazette*; and
 - (ii) a newspaper circulating generally in the State;and
 - (c) include in the notice under paragraph (b) a statement that persons may, within 14 days after the *Gazette* notice is given, object to the Electoral Commissioner in writing against the proposed cancellation.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner is to consider any objection made under subsection (3) before taking any further action in relation to the cancellation.

- (5) If the Electoral Commissioner decides to cancel the registration of a political party, the Electoral Commissioner is to —
- (a) give notice of the cancellation and the reasons for it to the secretary of the party; and
 - (b) give notice of the cancellation in the *Gazette*; and
 - (c) cancel the information in, and remove the documents from, the register of political parties relating to the political party; and
 - (d) retain the documents.
- (6) During the election period in relation to an election, the Electoral Commissioner is not to cancel the registration of a political party other than because of subsection (2)(d).

[Section 62L inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 40.]

62M. Public inspection and notice of register etc.

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to make the register of political parties available at the office of the Electoral Commissioner and allow public inspection of the register without fee.
- (2) As soon as practicable after the issue of a writ for an election, the Electoral Commissioner is to publish in the *Gazette* —
- (a) a list of the names of all political parties included in the register; and
 - (b) a list of the names of the secretaries of the political parties.

[Section 62M inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63.]

62N. Review of decision under s. 62H, 62J or 62L

- (1) Any person affected by —
- (a) a decision under section 62H to register a political party;
or

s. 62N

- (b) a decision under section 62J to refuse to register a political party; or
- (c) a decision under section 62L to cancel the registration of a political party; or
- (d) a decision to grant or refuse an application under section 62K,

may apply for review of the decision.

- (2) An application for review of a decision has to —
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) be made to the Supreme Court; and
 - (c) be made within one month after the decision comes to the notice of the applicant or such further period as the Supreme Court allows; and
 - (d) set out the grounds on which review is sought.
- (3) The Supreme Court is to review the decision and make an order —
 - (a) confirming the decision; or
 - (b) directing the Electoral Commissioner to vary the decision; or
 - (c) directing the Electoral Commissioner to set aside the decision and make a decision in substitution as directed in the order.
- (4) An order under subsection (3)(b) or (c) has effect subject to the operation of sections 62H(3) and 62L(6).
- (5) The Supreme Court is to be constituted by a single judge for the purposes of this section.

[Section 62N inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 53.]

62O. False representation as to registration, offence

Any person who, knowing that a political party is not registered —

- (a) makes any representation to the effect that the party is registered; or
- (b) publishes any document that indicates or implies that the party is registered,

commits an offence.

Penalty: \$1 500.

[Section 62O inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63.]

62P. Information, Electoral Commissioner may request from party etc.

The Electoral Commissioner may request the secretary of a political party, or a person who purports to be the secretary of a political party, to provide the Electoral Commissioner with information of such nature, and in such form, as the Electoral Commissioner considers necessary for the performance of the functions conferred by this Part.

[Section 62P inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63.]

62Q. Offences relating to information

- (1) A person must not in an application under section 62E or 62K, in a return under section 62KA, or in response to a request under section 62P, make a statement or provide information that the person knows to be false or misleading.

Penalty: \$1 500.

- (2) A person to whom a request is made under section 62P must comply with the request.

Penalty: \$1 500.

[Section 62Q inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 41.]

s. 62R

62R. Certificate of Electoral Commissioner is evidence

A certificate of the Electoral Commissioner as to —

- (a) the nature or content of information or a document in the register of political parties; or
- (b) whether or not information or a document is in the register of political parties,

is evidence of the matter stated.

[Section 62R inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 63.]

Part IV — Elections

Division 1 — Writs

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

[63. Deleted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 7.]

64. General elections, issue of writs for

- (1) If an Assembly is dissolved before 1 November last preceding its expiry year, the Governor shall cause a writ for elections in all the districts to be issued not later than 10 days after the dissolution.
- (2) If an Assembly is not dissolved before 1 November last preceding its expiry year, the Governor shall cause a writ for elections in all the districts to be issued on the first Wednesday of February in the expiry year.
- (3) In order to fill seats in the Council that are to be vacated by effluxion of time at the end of 21 May in a year, the Governor shall cause a writ for an election in the whole of State electorate to be issued on the first Wednesday of February last preceding that 21 May.

[Section 64 inserted: No. 49 of 2011 s. 5; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 42.]

65. Writ issued under s. 64, 67 or 156E, notice of to be gazetted etc.

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to publish notice of the issue of a writ under section 64, 67 or 156E in the *Gazette*.
- (2) The notice is to state the day of issue of the writ.

[Section 65 inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 9.]

[66. Deleted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 20.]

[66A. Deleted: No. 47 of 1940 s. 2.]

67. Vacancy in Assembly, issue of writ for etc.

- (1) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Assembly from any cause, the Speaker, upon a resolution by the House declaring such vacancy and the cause thereof, shall cause a writ to be issued to supply the vacancy.
- (2) Subject to section 39(4) of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*, in the case of any such vacancy when Parliament is not in session, or when the vacancy occurs during any adjournment for a longer period than 7 days of the Assembly, the Speaker may, without such preceding resolution, cause a writ to be issued to supply the vacancy.
- (3) Subject to section 39(4) of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*, if at the occurrence of any such vacancy there is no Speaker, and Parliament is not in session, or if the Speaker is absent from the State, the Governor shall, if satisfied of the existence of such vacancy, cause a writ to be issued for the election of a member for the seat so vacated.
- (4) In the case of a vacancy caused by death, the Speaker or the Governor, as the case may require, is to cause the writ to be issued on receiving notice of the death in the prescribed form signed by 2 members of the Assembly of which the deceased was a member.
- (4a) However, subject to section 39(4) of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*, if the Speaker or Governor, as the case may be, is satisfied of the existence of the vacancy, the writ can be issued whether or not notice has been received under subsection (4).
- (5) Whenever a vacancy occurs by reason of any of the disqualifications mentioned in section 32(1)(a), and section 38(d), of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*, it shall be the duty of the Registrar in Bankruptcy forthwith to give notice thereof in writing to the Speaker, if within the State, and otherwise to the Governor, and on receipt of such notice the

Speaker, if within the State, or otherwise the Governor, shall forthwith, cause a writ to be issued for the election of a member to supply the vacancy.

[Section 67 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 24 and 43; No. 78 of 1984 s. 16; No. 40 of 1987 s. 39; No. 36 of 2000 s. 10; No. 64 of 2006 s. 53.]

68. Writ deemed to be issued at 6 p.m. on day of issue

[(1) deleted]

- (2) Every writ shall be deemed to have been issued at the hour of 6 p.m. of the day on which it was issued.

[Section 68 amended: No. 9 of 1983 s. 15; No. 40 of 1987 s. 40.]

69. Writ, form and content of

A writ is to be in the prescribed form and is to fix —

- (a) the last day for the nomination of candidates; and
- (b) the day for the polling (*polling day*); and
- (c) the last day for the return of the writ.

[Section 69 inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 11.]

69A. Rolls, when closed after issue of writ

The time of the close of the rolls is 6 p.m. on the day 8 days after the date of the writ.

[Section 69A inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 21.]

70. Last day for nomination, rules for fixing

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the date fixed as the last day for the nomination of candidates shall be not less than 7 nor more than 45 days after the date of the writ.

- (2) In the case of a periodic election the date fixed as the last day for the nomination of candidates shall be the second Friday next following the date of the writ.

[Section 70 inserted: No. 49 of 2011 s. 6.]

71. Polling day, rules for fixing

- (1) In this section —

available day means any day that is not an excluded day;

excluded day means —

- (a) a day appointed as polling day for an election of the Senate or a general election of the House of Representatives or as the voting day for a referendum as defined in the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984* (Commonwealth); or
- (b) Easter Saturday or the Saturday immediately preceding or succeeding Easter Saturday.
- (2) Subsection (3) applies to any election other than an election that is, or is held as part of, a periodic election.
- (3) The date fixed for the polling in an election to which this subsection applies shall be a Saturday that —
- (a) is not less than 21 nor more than 45 days after the date of nomination; and
- (b) is an available day.
- (4) The same date shall be fixed under subsection (3) for the polling in each election in a district held as part of a general election for the Assembly for which the writ is issued under section 64(1).
- (5) The date fixed for the polling in a general election for the Council and, in the case of a periodic election for the Assembly, the date fixed for the polling in each election in a district, must be —
- (a) the second Saturday of March in the election year; or

- (b) if the second Saturday of March in the election year is an excluded day, the first succeeding Saturday that is an available day.
- (6) If the Premier, with the agreement of the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, recommends to the Governor that the date to be fixed under subsection (5) for the polling be postponed because of exceptional circumstances, the date fixed for the polling shall be the first Saturday after the second Saturday of March that is an available day on which polling is practicable.
- (7) In the case of a general election for the Council, the date fixed for the polling shall not be postponed to such an extent as would prevent the return of the writ on or before 21 May in the year in which seats in the Council are to be vacated by effluxion of time.

[Section 71 inserted: No. 49 of 2011 s. 7; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 43.]

72. Last day for return of writ, rules for fixing

- (1) The date fixed as the last day for the return of the writ shall not be more than 90 days after the date of the writ.
- (2) In the case of a general election for the Council, the date fixed as the last day for the return of a writ in the election shall be not later than 21 May in the year in which seats in the Council are to be vacated by effluxion of time.

[Section 72 amended: No. 63 of 1948 s. 15; No. 9 of 1983 s. 17; No. 79 of 1987 s. 24; No. 36 of 2000 s. 12; No. 49 of 2011 s. 8.]

[73. Deleted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 13.]

74. Writ to be addressed to Electoral Commissioner who is to forward copy to returning officer etc.

A writ is to be addressed to the Electoral Commissioner and the Electoral Commissioner is to forward a copy of the writ —

(a) in the case of a Council election, to the returning officer and deputy returning officers for the whole of State electorate;

[(b) deleted]

(c) in the case of a general election for the Assembly, to the returning officer for each district;

(d) in the case of any other election in a district, to the returning officer for the district.

[Section 74 inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 14; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 44.]

75. Advertisement of writ and other matters relating to election

(1) In this section —

advertise means advertise on the Commission website and in any other way the Electoral Commissioner considers appropriate.

(2) Having received a writ for an election the Electoral Commissioner must —

(a) advertise the day of issue of the writ and the writ's particulars; and

(b) as soon as practicable after receiving the writ, advertise the place of declaration of nominations appointed under section 85(1) for the election; and

(c) publish whatever information the Electoral Commissioner considers necessary to adequately inform electors about polling places at which the poll will be taken and polling areas declared under section 100(1)(i) in relation to polling places.

- (3) The advertisement under subsection (2)(a) must give at least 10 clear days' public notice of polling day.

[Section 75 inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 45.]

76. Time fixed in writ, extending

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) the Governor may extend the time appointed for the nomination of candidates, the taking of the poll, or the return of the writ for any election.
- (2) No extension of the time for taking the poll shall be made under this section at any time later than 7 days before the time originally appointed.
- (3) In the case of a general election for the Council —
- (a) the time appointed for the nomination of candidates or the taking of the poll shall not be extended to such an extent as would prevent the return of the writ on or before 21 May; and
 - (b) the time appointed for the return of the writ shall not be extended beyond 21 May,

in the year in which seats in the Council are to be vacated by effluxion of time.

- (4) If the time for taking the poll is extended under this section, the Electoral Commissioner must publish notice of the extension —
- (a) on the Commission website; and
 - (b) in any other way the Electoral Commissioner considers appropriate.

[Section 76 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 41; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 16; No. 49 of 2011 s. 9; No. 20 of 2021 s. 46.]

Division 2 — Nominations

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

76A. Who is qualified to be elected as member of Parliament

- (1) Unless this Act or another enactment provides otherwise, a person who —
- (a) has reached the age of 18; and
 - (b) is not subject to any legal incapacity; and
 - (c) is an Australian citizen; and
 - (d) has resided in the State for one year; and
 - (e) is an elector entitled to vote at an election in a district,

is qualified to be elected as a member of the Council or the Assembly.

- (2) The reference in subsection (1)(e) to an elector entitled to vote at an election in a district includes a reference to a person if —
- (a) the person is qualified to be an elector entitled to vote at an election in a district; and
 - (b) the person's name appeared on a roll or the person has made a claim for enrolment; and
 - (c) by mistake, the Electoral Commissioner or an enrolment officer has omitted or removed the person's name from a roll or has not included the person's name on a roll.

[Section 76A inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 27(1).]

76B. Who is not qualified to be elected as member of Parliament

- (1) A person to whom the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* section 32 or 34(1) applies is disqualified from being elected as a member of the Council or the Assembly.

- (2) A person to whom the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* section 34(2) applies is disqualified from being elected as a member of the House of which the person is not a member.

[Section 76B inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 27(1).]

77. Nomination: candidates to nominate and invalid nominations etc.

- (1) A person shall not be capable of being elected at an election unless he —
- (a) duly nominates himself; and
 - (b) is qualified to be elected and is not disqualified from being elected as, or from being, a member of the House for which the election is being held.
- (2) Where —
- (a) a day is fixed as the polling day for 2 or more elections; and
 - (b) at the hour of nomination there exist nominations of a person for 2 or more of those elections,
- each of those nominations is invalid.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) where a person has nominated himself in relation to an election and the person withdraws that nomination under section 82 before the hour of nomination, the nomination of the person for the election shall be taken to have ceased to have effect at the time when the person withdraws that nomination.
- (3a) If a person who is not qualified under section 76A nominates himself as a candidate in an election, the nomination is invalid.
- (4) A person shall not nominate himself as a candidate in an election if, prior to and until the hour of nomination, he is, either by this Act or any other Act, disqualified from being elected at

that election as, or from being, a member of the House for which the election is being held.

Penalty: \$1 000.

- (5) A nomination made in contravention of subsection (4) is invalid.

[Section 77 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 42; amended: No. 50 of 2003 s. 56(2); No. 64 of 2006 s. 28 and 53.]

78. Nomination: form and content of etc.

- (1) A nomination must be in an approved form and must —
- (a) be signed by the candidate; and
 - (b) state the surname and each christian or given name, the place of residence and occupation of the candidate and the form in which the candidate's name is to be printed on the ballot papers for the election; and
 - (c) in the case of a Council election, unless the nomination is a party nomination as defined in section 81A(1), be accompanied by declarations in support of the nomination, in an approved form, completed and signed by at least 250 electors entitled to vote at the election.
- (2A) Despite subsection (1)(b), the place of residence of a candidate is not required to be stated on the nomination form if the candidate's residence is not shown on the roll because a request under section 51B has been granted.
- (2) The statement of the form of the candidate's name to be printed on the ballot papers shall include the candidate's surname and may include each, or one or more, of the candidate's given names.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) a given name may be stated by specifying —
- (a) the name; or
 - (b) an initial standing for the name; or

- (c) a commonly accepted variation of the name (including an abbreviation or truncation of the name or an alternative form of the name).
- (4) If the nomination forms for 2 or more candidates are accompanied by a declaration completed and signed by the same elector, the elector cannot be relied on by any of those candidates for the purposes of subsection (1)(c).

[Section 78 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 43; No. 51 of 1962 s. 5; No. 79 of 1987 s. 25; No. 36 of 2000 s. 34; No. 35 of 2012 s. 7 and 12; No. 20 of 2021 s. 47.]

79. Nomination: when receivable by returning officer

Nominations may be received by the returning officer at any time after the issue of the writ and before the hour of nomination.

80. Grouping of candidates

- (1) Two or more candidates nominated for a Council election where the relevant number is more than one may, in an approved form and before the hour of nomination, make a claim (a **group claim**) to the returning officer —
 - (a) to have their names included in a group in the ballot papers to be used in that election; and
 - (b) to have their names included in that group in the order specified in that claim.
- (2A) A group claim may be made on behalf of a group —
 - (a) where all the candidates in the group are the subject of a party nomination, under section 81A, by a particular registered political party — by the secretary of the party; or
 - (b) where the candidates in the group have been endorsed by different registered political parties — jointly by the secretaries of all of those parties.

- (2) Subject to subsections (3), (4), (5) and (6), the names of candidates nominated for a Council election who have made a group claim must, for the purposes of that election, be included in a group in the order specified in the claim.
- (3) All of the candidates, or a secretary of a political party, or the secretaries of political parties, by whom a group claim has been made, may, in an approved form and before the hour of nomination, withdraw that claim.
- (4) A group claim is of no force or effect if —
 - (a) the name of any candidate included in the claim is included in any other group claim; or
 - (b) the nomination of any candidate whose name is included in the claim is withdrawn under section 82.
- (5) Where a group claim is made in respect of an election and any of the persons who made the claim is, before polling day for that election, declared by any court to be incapable of being elected at that election, then, after the making of the declaration —
 - (a) where there are 2 or more other persons who made that claim, the group shall consist of the remainder of those persons only; or
 - (b) where there is only one other person who made that claim, the claim shall be of no force or effect.
- (6) Where a group claim is made and any of the persons who made the claim is a person whose nomination is invalid under section 77 —
 - (a) where there are 2 or more other persons who made that claim, the group shall consist of the remainder of those persons only; or
 - (b) where there is only one other person who made that claim, the claim shall be of no force or effect.

[Section 80 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 43; amended: No. 35 of 2012 s. 7 and 13; No. 20 of 2021 s. 48 and 94.]

81. Nomination paper and deposit required for valid nomination

- (1) No nomination shall be valid unless —
- (a) the nomination paper is received by the returning officer after the issue of the writ and before the hour of nomination; and
 - (b) at or before the hour of nomination, the required deposit is lodged with the returning officer by or on behalf of the candidate in money, by a cheque drawn by a financial institution upon itself and payable to the Electoral Commissioner or in such other manner as may be prescribed.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), the required deposit is —
- (a) in the case of an election in a district — \$250 or any greater amount that is prescribed; or
 - (b) in the case of a Council election — \$2 000 or any greater amount that is prescribed.
- (3) Despite subsection (2)(b), if the candidate is included in a group consisting of more than 5 candidates the required deposit is the amount obtained by dividing \$10 000, or any greater amount that is prescribed, by the number of candidates included in the group.

[Section 81 inserted: No. 43 of 1996 s. 9; amended: No. 24 of 2000 s. 50; No. 35 of 2012 s. 14; No. 20 of 2021 s. 49.]

81A. Party nomination, making and effect of

- (1) In this section —
- party nomination*** means the nomination for an election of a candidate publicly recognised by a particular registered political party as being an endorsed candidate of that party.

- (2) A party nomination is to be regarded as having been made in accordance with sections 79 and 81 if —
- (a) it contains a declaration by the secretary of the registered political party that the candidate is publicly recognised by the party as being an endorsed candidate of the party; and
 - (b) it is received by the Electoral Commissioner after the issue of the writ and not later than 24 hours before the hour of nomination; and
 - (c) not later than 24 hours before the hour of nomination, the required deposit (or an amount that includes that deposit) for the purposes of section 81(1)(b) is lodged with the Electoral Commissioner on behalf of the candidate in money, by a cheque drawn by a financial institution on itself and payable to the Electoral Commissioner or in such other manner as may be prescribed under that section.
- (3) Nothing in this section prevents a party nomination from being made in accordance with sections 79 and 81.
- (4) If 2 or more party nominations for a Council election are made in accordance with subsection (2), a claim under section 80(1) may be made to the Electoral Commissioner together with the nominations.
- (5) If a party nomination has been made in accordance with subsection (2), the Electoral Commissioner is to —
- (a) give the secretary of the registered political party a notice acknowledging receipt by the Electoral Commissioner of the candidate's nomination and the deposit lodged on behalf of the candidate; and
 - (b) give the returning officer, as soon as practicable before the hour of nomination —
 - (i) a copy of the nomination paper; and

- (ii) advice that the required deposit for the purposes of section 81(1)(b) has been lodged with the Electoral Commissioner on behalf of the candidate; and
 - (iii) details of any claim under section 80(1) made under subsection (4).
- (6) The reference in subsection (5)(b)(i) to a copy of the nomination paper includes a reference to a copy generated by way of transmission by facsimile or other electronic means under section 210(2).

[Section 81A inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 35; amended: No. 74 of 2003 s. 47(2); No. 35 of 2012 s. 15; No. 20 of 2021 s. 94.]

82. Nomination, withdrawal of

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), a candidate may withdraw his nomination by lodging with the returning officer notice in writing of withdrawal of his nomination at any time before the hour of nomination, and thereupon the nomination shall be cancelled and the deposit lodged with the nomination shall be forfeited to the Crown.
- (2) The withdrawal of the nomination of a candidate included in a group has no effect unless each other candidate included in the group has consented in writing to the withdrawal.

[Section 82 inserted: No. 33 of 1967 s. 10; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 44; No. 20 of 2021 s. 50.]

83. Nomination paper, effect of defects etc. in

No nomination paper shall be rejected by reason of any defect or error therein, if the returning officer or Electoral Commissioner receiving it is satisfied that the provisions of this Act have been substantially complied with.

[Section 83 amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 36.]

84. Deposit by candidate, return or forfeiture of

(1) The deposit made by or on behalf of a person nominated shall be retained pending the election, and after the election shall be returned in accordance with subsection (3) or (4) if he is elected or —

- (a) in the case of a Council election where the relevant number is more than one, if the total number of first preference votes polled in his favour or in favour of the members of the group in which he is included is more than 4% of the total number of first preference votes polled by all the candidates in the election;
- (b) in the case of a single member election where there are more than 2 candidates, if the total number of first preference votes polled in his favour is more than 4% of the total number of first preference votes polled by all the candidates in the election;
- (c) in the case of a single member election where there are only 2 candidates, if the number of votes polled in his favour is more than 4% of the total number of votes polled by both the candidates in the election,

otherwise it shall be forfeited to the Crown.

(2) If a candidate dies before polling day or on polling day before the close of the poll —

- (a) the deposit made by or on behalf of the candidate must be returned in accordance with subsection (3) or (4); and
- (b) if the election wholly fails because of the death, the deposits made by or on behalf of the other candidates must be returned in accordance with subsection (3) or (4).

(3) If a candidate was nominated under subsection 81A(2) the deposit (or an amount that includes the deposit) shall be returned to the person who paid it, or to a person authorised in writing by the person who paid it.

- (4) In all other cases, the deposit shall be returned to the candidate, or to a person authorised in writing by the candidate or, if the candidate is dead, to the candidate's legal representative.

[Section 84 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 45; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 37; No. 55 of 2006 s. 4; No. 20 of 2021 s. 51 and 94.]

85. Place of declaration of nominations; hour of nomination is noon on last day

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner is to appoint a place as the place of declaration of nominations for an election for the purposes of section 86 or 87, as the case may be.
- (2) The hour of nomination for an election is 12 noon on the last day for the nomination of candidates.

[Section 85 inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 38; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 53.]

86. Close of nominations procedure for single member election

- (1) This section applies to a single member election.
- (1a) The returning officer shall attend at the place of declaration of nominations for the period of one hour immediately prior to the hour of nomination.
- (2) At the hour of nomination the returning officer shall publicly produce all nomination papers received by him under section 81 or 81A(5)(b) between the issue of the writ and the hour of nomination, and declare the names, occupations, and residences of all candidates nominated.
- (2AAA) Despite subsection (2), the returning officer must not declare a candidate's residence if the candidate's residence is not shown on the roll because a request under section 51B has been granted.
- (2aa) If there is only one candidate for election the returning officer shall declare that candidate duly elected.

- (2a) If there are 2 or more candidates for election the order of the names of the candidates as they shall be placed on the ballot papers shall be determined as follows —
- (a) the returning officer shall, at the place of declaration of nominations immediately after the close of nominations and before all persons then present, make out in respect of each candidate, a slip bearing his name, and deal with the slips in accordance with Schedule 2;
 - (b) the candidate whose name appears on the first slip obtained by the returning officer in accordance with Schedule 2 shall be placed first on the ballot papers, the candidate whose name appears on the second slip so obtained shall be placed second on the ballot papers, and so on, until the placing of all the names of those candidates on the ballot papers has been determined.
- (2b) The returning officer shall forthwith after the order of the placing of the names of the candidates has been determined in accordance with subsection (2a), forward to the Electoral Commissioner at Perth, by telegraph or other expeditious means, the names and other particulars of the several candidates in such order and also advertise those names and particulars in such order on the Commission website and in any other way the returning officer considers appropriate.
- (3) Subject to section 88(2) the proceedings shall then stand adjourned to polling day.

[Section 86 amended: No. 68 of 1964 s. 17; No. 28 of 1970 s. 12; No. 40 of 1987 s. 47 and 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 39 and 40; No. 35 of 2012 s. 16; No. 20 of 2021 s. 52.]

87. Close of nominations procedure for Council election where relevant number more than one

- (1) This section applies to a Council election where the relevant number is more than one.

- (2) The returning officer shall attend at the place of declaration of nominations for the period of one hour immediately prior to the hour of nomination.
- (3) At the hour of nomination the returning officer shall publicly produce all nomination papers received by him under section 81 or 81A(5)(b) between the issue of the writ and the hour of nomination, and declare the names, occupations, and residences of all candidates nominated.
- (4A) Despite subsection (3), the returning officer must not declare a candidate's residence if the candidate's residence is not shown on the roll because a request under section 51B has been granted.
- (4) If the candidates are not greater in number than the candidates required to be elected, the returning officer must declare the candidates duly elected.
- (5) If there are more candidates for election than the relevant number and they comprise or include 2 or more groups the order of the groups as they shall be placed on the ballot papers shall be determined as follows —
 - (a) the returning officer must, at the place of declaration of nominations, immediately after the close of nominations and before all persons then present —
 - (i) make out in respect of each group in which each candidate is endorsed by a registered political party, a slip bearing the names of the candidates in the group, and deal with the slips in accordance with Schedule 2; and
 - (ii) make out in respect of each other group, a slip bearing the names of the candidates in the group, and deal with the slips in accordance with Schedule 2;
 - (b) the group whose names appear on the first slip obtained by the returning officer in accordance with clause 5 of

Schedule 2 shall be placed first on the ballot papers, the group whose names appear on the second slip so obtained shall be placed second on the ballot papers, and so on, until the placing of all the groups on the ballot papers has been determined.

- (6) If there are more candidates for election than the relevant number and 2 or more of them are not included in a group, the order of the names of the candidates not included in a group as they shall be placed on the ballot papers shall be determined as follows —
- (a) the returning officer shall, at the place of declaration of nominations, immediately after the close of nominations and before all persons then present, make out in respect of each of those candidates, a slip bearing his name, and proceed to deal with the slips in accordance with Schedule 2;
 - (b) the candidate whose name appears on the first slip obtained by the returning officer in accordance with clause 5 of Schedule 2 shall, of those candidates, be placed first on the ballot papers, the candidate whose name appears on the second slip so obtained shall, of those candidates, be placed second on the ballot papers, and so on, until the placing of all the names of the candidates on the ballot papers has been determined.
- (7) As soon as is practicable the returning officer shall advertise the names and other particulars of the several candidates, in the order prescribed by section 113B, on the Commission website and in any other way the returning officer considers appropriate.
- (8) Subject to section 88(1) the proceedings shall then stand adjourned to polling day.

[Section 87 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 48; amended: No. 79 of 1987 s. 27; No. 36 of 2000 s. 39 and 41; No. 64 of 2006 s. 53; No. 35 of 2012 s. 17; No. 20 of 2021 s. 53.]

87A. Close of nominations, returning officer's other duties as to

- (1) Before attending the place of declaration of nominations as required by section 86(1a) or 87(2) the returning officer shall ascertain the correct time; and in any dispute that may arise as regards time his decision shall be final.
- (2) The returning officer shall give a receipt in the prescribed form to any candidate who has duly nominated, or to his agent, acknowledging that candidate's nomination and deposit received by the returning officer pursuant to section 81.

[Section 87A inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 49; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 39.]

88. Death of candidate after nomination

- (1) If, in a Council election where the relevant number is more than one, a candidate dies during the relevant period and the candidates remaining are not greater in number than the candidates required to be elected, the returning officer must declare the remaining candidates duly elected.
- (1A) In subsection (1) —
relevant period means the period beginning when nominations have been declared and ending before the hour of closing the poll.
- (2) If, after the nominations have been declared and before or on polling day before the hour of closing the poll, any candidate in a single member election dies, such election shall, by reason of such death, be deemed to have wholly failed, and in such case the following provisions shall apply:
 - (a) Where the candidate dies before polling day the returning officer shall, upon being satisfied of the fact of the death of the candidate —
 - (i) countermand the notice of the poll; and

- (ii) report the fact of the death and the date of the countermand of the notice of the poll to the Electoral Commissioner.
- (b) Where the candidate dies on polling day, the returning officer shall, upon being satisfied of the fact of the death of the candidate —
 - (i) immediately close the poll for the election for which the deceased candidate had nominated but shall keep the polling place open for receiving early and absent votes for candidates for any other elections then being held; and
 - (ii) report the fact of the death and the time of the closing of the poll to the Electoral Commissioner.
- (ba) On receipt of a report under paragraph (a)(ii) or (b)(ii) in relation to an election in a district the Electoral Commissioner is to send a notice, with a copy of the report, to the Speaker or the Governor, whichever of them caused the writ to be issued.
- (bb) If there is no Speaker, and Parliament is not in session, or if the Speaker is absent from the State, a notice under paragraph (ba) may be sent to the Governor in any case.
- (bc) On receipt of a report under paragraph (a)(ii) or (b)(ii) in relation to a Council election the Electoral Commissioner must send a notice, with a copy of the report, to the President.
- (bd) If there is no President, and Parliament is not in session, or if the President is absent from the State, a notice under paragraph (bc) may be sent to the Governor in any case.

- (c) Where any poll is interrupted, in consequence of the death of a candidate all ballot papers placed in the several ballot boxes in respect of the election for which the deceased candidate had nominated shall be taken out by the several presiding officers, and, being made up into sealed packages, shall be sent by them respectively unopened to the returning officer or deputy returning officer, who shall forthwith, in the presence of a magistrate or justice of the peace, burn or otherwise destroy the sealed packages unopened.
 - (d) When a notice is sent under paragraph (ba) a fresh writ shall be issued forthwith for a new election in the place of the election which has failed as aforesaid, and save and except as in this subsection otherwise provided, all proceedings in connection with such new election shall be had and taken anew.
 - (e) The roll which was in force and required to be used at the election which has failed shall, without any amendment thereof or addition thereto, be used at the new election.
 - [(f) deleted]*
 - (g) The appointment of officials and of polling places as made for and in connection with the election which has failed, shall not merely by reason of the failure of such election, be void or in any way affected, and may continue and apply for and in connection with the new election:

Provided that nothing in this paragraph shall operate so as to prevent the cancellation of any of the appointments aforesaid or the making of new appointments of officials or of polling places for and in connection with the new election.
- (3) If, after the close of the poll for a single member election and before the counting of the votes in the election has been completed, a candidate dies, and on the completion of the count

of the votes it is found that such candidate, if still living, would have been entitled to be declared and to be returned as elected, no candidate shall be returned as elected at the election, and section 89 shall apply.

- (4) If, after the close of the poll for a Council election where the relevant number is more than one and before the counting of the votes in the election has been completed, a candidate dies, and during the count of the votes or the continuation of the count of the votes after his death, as the case may be, that candidate is elected, he, shall be deemed for the purposes of section 10 of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* and Part IVA of this Act to have vacated a seat in the Council immediately after he was elected.

[Section 88 inserted: No. 18 of 1940 s. 3; amended: No. 58 of 1951 s. 7; No. 33 of 1967 s. 11; No. 40 of 1987 s. 50 and 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 17 and 48(1); No. 20 of 2021 s. 54.]

89. Failure and partial failure of election, when occurs and consequences of

- (1) If no candidate is nominated for an election, or if no candidate is returned as elected at an election, the election shall be deemed to have wholly failed, and a new writ shall forthwith be issued for a supplementary election.
- (2) If an insufficient number of candidates is nominated for a Council election where the relevant number is more than one, or if an insufficient number of candidates is returned as elected at such an election, the election shall be deemed to have partially failed, and a new writ shall forthwith be issued for a supplementary election to fill the remaining vacancy or vacancies, as the case may be.

[Section 89 inserted: No. 18 of 1940 s. 4; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 51; No. 20 of 2021 s. 94.]

Division 3 — Voting

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

Subdivision 1 — Early and absent voting

[Heading inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(4).]

90. Early ballot paper, application for and issue of etc.

- (1) An elector may, at any time after the polling day has been publicly announced by the Government, make an application for an early ballot paper.
- (1a) An elector may make an application for an early ballot paper to —
 - (a) the Electoral Commissioner; or
 - (b) the Deputy Electoral Commissioner; or
 - (c) a returning officer; or
 - (d) an officer of the Western Australian Electoral Commission appointed by the Electoral Commissioner to issue early ballot papers; or
 - (e) a registrar as defined in the *Magistrates Court Act 2004* section 3, other than a deputy registrar appointed under section 26(5) of that Act; or
 - (f) a person appointed in writing by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (2) Each of the persons referred to in subsection (1a)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) is in this Part called an *issuing officer*.
- (3) An application for an early ballot paper may be made orally or in writing and, if made in writing, may be made whether the elector is within or outside the State at the time of applying.

- (3a) A written application for an early ballot paper may be in the prescribed form for the election or elections, as the case may be, and shall —
- (a) contain a statement by the applicant to the effect that the applicant is an elector; and
 - (b) be signed by the applicant; and
 - (c) be sent to an issuing officer by post.
- (3B) If an elector who wishes to make a written application for an early ballot paper is unable to sign the application because the elector is sight impaired, physically incapacitated or illiterate, then on satisfying an authorised witness of that inability to sign, the elector may make a distinguishing mark on the application which must be witnessed by the authorised witness.
- (3c) Where an elector who makes a written application for an early ballot paper expects to be absent from the address for which he is enrolled at the time that the early ballot paper will be forwarded by the issuing officer the elector may in the application state an address to which the ballot paper is to be forwarded.
- (3d) Any ballot paper, declaration, envelope or notice that is required by this section to be posted to an elector who has made a written application for an early ballot paper shall be posted to the address for which the elector is enrolled unless the elector has stated another address under subsection (3c) in which case it shall be posted to that other address.
- (3e) An oral application for an early ballot paper shall be made in person before an issuing officer and —
- (a) shall include the following statements —
 - [(i) deleted]*
 - (ii) a statement specifying the district for which the applicant is enrolled;

- (iii) a statement of such other particulars (if any) as are prescribed;
 - (b) shall not be made earlier than 24 hours after the hour of nomination.
- (4) On receipt of a written application made under this section, the issuing officer —
 - (a) shall enter on the application form the date of its receipt and sign the endorsement; and
 - (b) shall number it in the manner prescribed by the regulations, if it is properly signed and, in the case of an elector making his mark, it is witnessed and the application is otherwise in order; and
 - (c) shall after the close of nominations, issue to the elector by post —
 - (i) an early ballot paper printed under the authority of the Electoral Commissioner in the form prescribed by the regulations and initialled by the issuing officer and a declaration in the form so prescribed; and
 - (ii) an envelope marked “ballot paper”; and
 - (iii) a further envelope addressed to the Electoral Commissioner for the purpose of returning therein to him the declaration which was completed by the elector and authorised witness together with the envelope containing the ballot paper.
- (4aa) A ballot paper printed on official paper does not have to be initialled by the issuing officer under subsection (4)(c)(i) or (4b)(a).

- (4a) The Electoral Commissioner may direct any issuing officer to forward all or any written applications made under this section to the office of the Electoral Commissioner so that any such applications can be dealt with in terms of subsection (4) by an issuing officer designated by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (4b) Where an oral application for an early ballot paper is made to an issuing officer and the issuing officer is satisfied that the application is properly made, the issuing officer shall issue to the elector —
- (a) an early ballot paper printed under the authority of the Electoral Commissioner in the form prescribed by the regulations and initialled by the issuing officer; and
 - (b) an envelope marked “ballot paper”,
- and make a record of the name of the elector and of such other particulars as are prescribed.
- (4c) Immediately on issuing the ballot paper and envelope to the elector under subsection (4b), the issuing officer shall —
- (a) if a copy of the electoral roll is available, make a record of the elector’s name on a copy of the roll in the manner prescribed for the purposes of section 126(1); or
 - (b) if a copy of the electoral roll is not available —
 - (i) issue the elector with a declaration in the prescribed form; and
 - (ii) make a record of the name of the elector and of such other particulars as are prescribed.
- (5) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (1), (4) or (4b), an issuing officer shall not issue an early ballot paper —
- (a) in respect of a written application for an early ballot paper unless the application is received before 6 p.m. on the Wednesday next preceding polling day;

- (b) in respect of an oral application for an early ballot paper unless the application is made before 6 p.m. on the day immediately preceding polling day.
- (6) When a written application for an early ballot paper has been dealt with by an issuing officer, the issuing officer shall forthwith send the application to the Electoral Commissioner.
- (7) If the issuing officer dealing with a written application for an early ballot paper is not satisfied that the application is in order, the issuing officer must give the applicant written notice.
- (7a) When a written application for an early ballot paper is properly signed by the applicant, the application shall not be deemed insufficient or invalid by reason only that in the application there is an omission or incorrect description or misdescription in respect of any of the particulars required by law to be contained therein.

[(8)(a), (b) deleted]

- (9) Where an issuing officer issues an early ballot paper to an elector under this section and the elector satisfies the issuing officer that the ballot paper has not been delivered to the elector or has been lost or destroyed the issuing officer shall issue a further ballot paper together with the necessary envelopes and declaration to the elector and shall advise the Electoral Commissioner of that fact.
- (10) A person who obtains an early ballot paper by impersonating another person or making a false statement either in a written application or in an oral application commits an offence.
Penalty: 12 months imprisonment.
- (11) Where a person wishes to vote at 2 elections that are held on the same day only one application for an early ballot paper is necessary in respect of the elections and the issuing officer shall, subject to this Act, provide an applicant for an early ballot

paper with such ballot papers and ballot paper envelopes as are necessary in respect of each election.

[(12) deleted]

- (13) Notwithstanding anything in this section, the issuing officer is not —
- (a) authorised to issue early ballot papers before the expiration of 24 hours after the hour of nomination; or
 - (b) required to issue an early ballot paper before the expiration of 48 hours after the hour of nomination.

[Section 90 inserted: No. 59 of 1959 s. 5; amended: No. 51 of 1962 s. 6; No. 33 of 1964 s. 28; No. 68 of 1964 s. 18; No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 28 of 1970 s. 13; No. 94 of 1972 s. 4; No. 39 of 1979 s. 12; No. 9 of 1983 s. 18; No. 40 of 1987 s. 52 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 28; No. 78 of 1995 s. 147; No. 43 of 1996 s. 10; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1), 44, 48(1), (2), (3) and (4) and 82; No. 59 of 2004 s. 141; No. 64 of 2006 s. 29; No. 7 of 2009 s. 12; No. 35 of 2012 s. 18; No. 14 of 2016 s. 10; No. 20 of 2021 s. 55.]

91. Visiting an eligible elector to take vote

- (1) In this section —
- eligible elector*** means an elector who will be precluded from attending to vote during the hours of polling at any polling place open in the State because of the elector's serious illness or infirmity or approaching maternity.
- (2) A request may be made orally or in writing to an issuing officer by or on behalf of an eligible elector requesting that an issuing officer visit the eligible elector for the purpose of taking the eligible elector's vote.
- (3) If a request under subsection (2) is made at any time within 7 days before 6 pm on the day immediately preceding polling day, the issuing officer may visit the eligible elector for the purpose of taking the eligible elector's vote.

- (4) On visiting the eligible elector the issuing officer must obtain from the eligible elector an oral application for an early ballot paper under section 90(3e).
- (5) When the issuing officer receives the oral application the issuing officer must issue the eligible elector with an early ballot paper under section 90(4b) and the vote of the eligible elector must be taken in accordance with sections 90 and 92(3).
- (6) Except as provided in this section, an issuing officer must not visit any elector for the purpose of taking the elector's vote.

[Section 91 inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 11.]

92. Early ballot paper, how to vote by means of

- (1) The directions prescribed by this section for regulating voting by means of early ballot papers, whether within or outside the State, shall be complied with.
 - (1a) Subsection (2) applies if an elector is issued with an early ballot paper under section 90(4)(c).
- (2)(a) The elector shall complete the declaration and exhibit his early ballot paper, unmarked, to an authorised witness.
 - (b) The authorised witness shall sign his name in his own handwriting on the declaration in the space provided for the purpose and shall add the date he so signs and his address as at that date.
 - (c) The elector shall in the presence of the authorised witness indicate his vote on the early ballot paper in the manner prescribed by section 128, but so that the witness shall not see the vote.
 - (d) The elector shall fold the ballot paper and in the presence of the authorised witness put it in the envelope marked "ballot paper", and fasten the envelope.

- (e) The elector shall enclose the declaration duly completed and the envelope marked “ballot paper” and its contents in the envelope addressed to the Electoral Commissioner and fasten the envelope.
- (f) The elector shall, before the close of the poll, post or deliver the envelope, or cause it to be posted or delivered, to the Electoral Commissioner.
- (3) If an elector is issued with an early ballot paper under section 90(4b) —
 - (a) the elector shall, if issued with a declaration under section 90(4c)(b), complete the declaration before the issuing officer and return it to the officer; and
 - (b) the elector shall indicate the elector’s vote on the early ballot paper in the manner prescribed by section 128, but so that neither the issuing officer nor any other person can see the vote; and
 - (c) the elector shall fold the ballot paper, put it in the envelope marked “ballot paper”, fasten the envelope and return it to the issuing officer.
- (4) An issuing officer who receives a declaration under subsection (3)(a) shall sign the declaration as the authorised witness and add the date he signs and his address at that date.
- (4aa) An issuing officer shall send any declaration signed under subsection (4) and any envelope received under subsection (3)(c) to the Electoral Commissioner forthwith.
- (4a) If an elector who votes as directed under subsection (2) believes on reasonable grounds that the envelope —
 - (a) if posted under subsection (2)(f), would not reach the Electoral Commissioner before 9 a.m. on the Thursday next succeeding polling day; or
 - (b) if delivered under subsection (2)(f), would not reach the Electoral Commissioner before the close of the poll,

the envelope and its contents may be posted or delivered unopened to a returning officer, or delivered unopened to a presiding officer in charge of any polling place open on polling day, so as to reach the returning officer or presiding officer before the close of the poll, and the returning officer or presiding officer shall, in accordance with the regulations, send the envelope and its contents unopened to the Electoral Commissioner.

- (4b) A returning officer or presiding officer shall not accept an early ballot paper after the close of the poll.
- (4C) For the purpose of subsection (2)(f), an envelope addressed to the Electoral Commissioner containing a ballot paper is to be taken to have been posted before the close of the poll if —
- (a) the postmark on the envelope is dated any day on or before polling day; or
 - (b) the postmark on the envelope is dated with the date of the Sunday immediately after polling day and the declaration is witnessed on or before polling day; or
 - (c) in the case of no postmark being legible, the declaration is witnessed on or before polling day,

and the envelope reaches the Electoral Commissioner before 9 a.m. on the Thursday next succeeding polling day.

- (5)(a) If an elector cannot vote without assistance because the elector is sight impaired, physically incapacitated or illiterate, the elector may nominate a person (other than a candidate at the election) to assist the elector, and the nominated person must, in accordance with the directions of the elector, do any act required or authorised by subsection (2), (3) or (4a).
- (b) If the elector has been issued with a declaration under section 90(4)(c) or 90(4c)(b), the person appointed under paragraph (a) is to state in the declaration his full name and address and the fact that he has been appointed by the elector to mark the ballot paper for the elector.

- (baa) If the elector's name has been recorded under section 90(4c)(a), a person appointed under paragraph (a) must give the issuing officer his full name and address and satisfy the issuing officer that he has been appointed by the elector to mark the ballot paper for the elector.
- (ba) Without limiting paragraph (a), if the elector completes the declaration but is so disabled as to be unable to vote without assistance the authorised witness may, according to the directions of the elector, mark the ballot for the elector and do for the elector any other act required or authorised by subsection (2)(d) or (e), (3)(c) or (4a).
- (c) Subject to paragraph (a), a person who, not being the declarant named in a declaration made under this section, —
- (i) signs as the declarant; or
 - (ii) makes a distinguishing mark as the declarant,
- on the declaration with or without the authority of the declarant so named commits an offence.
- Penalty: \$1 000.
- (d) An authorised witness shall not witness the signature or mark of any elector on a declaration made under this section unless —
- (i) he has satisfied himself as to the identity of the declarant named therein; and
 - (ii) he has seen the declarant —
 - (I) sign the declaration in his, the declarant's own hand writing; or
 - (II) make his mark thereon;and
 - (iii) he knows the statements contained in the declaration are true, or has satisfied himself, by inquiry from the

declarant or otherwise, that the statements contained in the declaration are true.

Penalty: \$1 000.

- (6) An elector to whom an early ballot paper has been issued under section 90(4)(c) is not entitled to vote at any polling place unless the early ballot paper has been delivered to the presiding officer for cancellation, but if the elector claims not to have received the early ballot paper, the elector may be permitted to vote after making a declaration in the prescribed form before the presiding officer at the polling place.
- (7) The Electoral Commissioner shall retain at his office in a sealed ballot box all envelopes containing early ballot papers received by him after the close of nominations and up to the time when he commences scrutiny of the declarations relating to the early ballot papers enclosed in those envelopes as provided in subsection (8).
- (8) At any time not earlier than 72 hours before the commencement of the poll, the Electoral Commissioner or an assistant returning officer appointed under section 142A, or that section as applied by section 146B(1), together with such other assistant presiding officers appointed by the Electoral Commissioner or the assistant returning officer as may be necessary, shall commence the scrutiny of declarations relating to early ballot papers in the prescribed manner.
- (9) Where a declaration relating to an early ballot paper —
 - (a) is not signed by the elector to whom it was issued or a person appointed under subsection (5)(a); or
 - (b) is not witnessed by an authorised witness in accordance with this Act; or
 - (c) does not bear the date the authorised witness signed the declaration; or

- (d) does not bear the address of the authorised witness as at the date he signed the declaration as required by subsection (2)(b) or (3)(a),
the early ballot paper shall be rejected.
- (9a) A determination of an entitlement to vote at an election being held on any day applies to any other election being held on that day and only one declaration is required under this section.
- (10)(a) An early ballot paper shall not be rejected for the reason only that a declaration relating to it has been enclosed with the early ballot paper in the envelope marked “ballot paper”.
- (b) Where the Electoral Commissioner has reason to believe that a declaration relating to an early ballot paper is so enclosed, he may open the envelope marked “ballot paper” and, without permitting any person to see the ballot paper enclosed therein, and if a declaration is so enclosed, extract the declaration and in any case refasten the envelope containing the early ballot paper and deal with the early ballot paper in the prescribed manner.
- (11) The decision of the Electoral Commissioner as to the rejection or admission of any early ballot paper is subject to review only by the Court of Disputed Returns.
- (12) At any time after an envelope containing an early ballot paper has been dealt with in accordance with —
- (a) the regulations made for the purposes of subsection (8);
or
- (b) subsection (10),

an officer or officers referred to in subsection (8) may, in the prescribed manner, open the envelope and deal with the ballot paper in it.

[Section 92 inserted: No. 53 of 1957 s. 5; amended: No. 59 of 1959 s. 6; No. 51 of 1962 s. 7; No. 33 of 1964 s. 29; No. 68 of 1964 s. 19; No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 33 of 1967 s. 12; No. 70 of 1973 s. 6; No. 40 of 1987 s. 53 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 29;

No. 66 of 1990 s. 5; No. 78 of 1995 s. 147; No. 36 of 2000 s. 45 and 48(1) to (3); No. 64 of 2006 s. 30 and 53; No. 35 of 2012 s. 19.]

93. General early voter, registration of etc.

- (1) Any person —
- (a) whose place of living is not within 20 kilometres, by the nearest practicable route, of a polling place; or
 - (aa) who is, by reason of caring for a person who is permanently disabled, seriously ill or infirm, precluded from attending at a polling place; or
 - (ab) whose residence is not shown on the roll because a request under section 51B has been granted; or
 - (b) who is, by reason of membership of a religious order or religious beliefs —
 - (i) precluded from attending at a polling place; or
 - (ii) precluded from voting throughout the hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday or throughout the greater part of those hours;
- or
- (c) who is permanently disabled; or
 - (d) who is entitled to vote under section 17A(2); or
 - (e) who has reached the age of 70 years; or
 - (f) who is seriously ill or infirm,

may, at any time, lodge an application in writing with the Electoral Commissioner to be registered as a general early voter.

- (2) If it appears to the Electoral Commissioner that the application is validly made and that the elector is entitled to be registered as a general early voter, he shall register the elector and notify him to that effect, but if the Electoral Commissioner is not satisfied that the elector is entitled to be registered as a general early

voter, he shall reject the application and notify the elector of his decision.

- (3) Any registration under this section may at any time other than between the issue of the writ for an election at which the elector is entitled to vote or for a referendum and the return of the writ, be cancelled by the Electoral Commissioner who shall send notice of the cancellation to the elector.
- (4) As soon as is practicable after nominations have been declared, the Electoral Commissioner shall send an early ballot paper to each elector registered under this section and the provisions of section 92 apply in respect of the ballot paper as if repeated in this section.

[Section 93 inserted: No. 53 of 1957 s. 6; amended: No. 33 of 1967 s. 13; No. 54 of 1983 s. 9; No. 40 of 1987 s. 54 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 30; No. 36 of 2000 s. 46, 48(1) and (2); No. 7 of 2009 s. 13; No. 35 of 2012 s. 20.]

94. Authorised witnesses for this Division

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) any person who has attained the age of 18 years is an authorised witness for the purposes of this Division.
- (2) No person who is a candidate at any election shall be, or act as, an authorised witness in connection with that election.

[Section 94 inserted: No. 53 of 1957 s. 7; amended: No. 59 of 1959 s. 7; No. 51 of 1962 s. 8; No. 70 of 1973 s. 7.]

95. Early ballot papers etc., offences as to

- (1) A person shall not persuade or induce, or associate with any other person in persuading or inducing, an elector to make application for an early ballot paper.
- (1a) An elector shall not make, and a person shall not induce an elector to make, any false statement in an application for an early ballot paper.

- (2) A person other than the elector to whom the early ballot paper has been issued, or other than a person appointed by the elector in pursuance of section 92(5), shall not mark a vote on any ballot paper.
- (3) A person shall not open any envelope which is addressed to the Electoral Commissioner, and in which an early ballot paper has been enclosed, unless authorised to do so by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (4) A person shall not persuade or induce an elector to hand over to him an early ballot paper upon which a vote has been recorded.
- (5) An authorised witness shall not influence or attempt to influence in any way the vote of an elector voting by early vote before him.
- (6) An authorised witness shall not disclose any knowledge of the vote of any elector voting by early vote before him.
- (6a) A person appointed by an elector to mark the vote of an elector on the ballot paper under the provisions of section 92(5) shall not disclose any knowledge of the vote of the elector on whose behalf he marked the vote on the ballot paper.
- (7) Any person present when an elector is before an authorised witness for the purpose of voting —
 - (a) shall obey all directions of the authorised witness; and
 - (b) shall not, except as provided in section 92(5) —
 - (i) make any communication whatever to the elector in relation to his vote; and
 - (ii) assist the elector, or in any way interfere with him in relation to his vote; and
 - (iii) look at, or do anything else whereby he may become acquainted with the elector's vote.
- (8) Where an elector is an inmate in an institution, which institution is prescribed by the regulations as one to which the provisions

of this section apply, or is an inmate in an institution or is a patient in a hospital at which a polling place has been appointed under the provisions of section 100, then notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a person shall not —

- (a) give to the elector an early ballot paper; or
- (b) be present when the elector indicates his vote on the early ballot paper; or
- (c) sign his name on the declaration accompanying the early ballot paper; or
- (d) take custody of or transmit to the Electoral Commissioner the envelope containing the early ballot paper; or
- (e) visit the elector in connection with or relative to his voting by early vote, if such visit is forbidden by or on behalf of a legally qualified medical practitioner,

unless, except in the case referred to in paragraph (e), he is authorised in writing by the Electoral Commissioner to do so.

- (9) A person to whom an application for an early ballot paper or an envelope containing or purporting to contain an early ballot paper is entrusted by a voter for the purpose of posting it or delivering it to the Electoral Commissioner or a returning officer or delivering it to a presiding officer, shall forthwith post or deliver the application or envelope.
- (10) A person guilty of any contravention of any of the provisions of this section is liable to a penalty not exceeding \$1 000.

[Section 95 inserted: No. 53 of 1957 s. 8; amended: No. 59 of 1959 s. 8; No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 39 of 1979 s. 13; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 78; No. 78 of 1995 s. 147; No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(1), (2), (4), (6) to (8).]

[96. Deleted: No. 57 of 1952 s. 5.]

97. Spelling mistakes on early ballot papers, effect of

Without limiting the generality of section 140 or 146E an early ballot paper shall not be rejected as informal by reason only of any mistake in spelling.

[Section 97 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 55; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(2); No. 20 of 2021 s. 56.]

98. Officer's decision to allow etc. early ballot paper, status of

Subject to sections 144(2b), 146, 146I(1), and 146J, the decision of the officer conducting the count of the votes as to the allowance or disallowance of any early ballot paper is final unless reversed under Part V.

[Section 98 inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 31; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(1).]

[99. Deleted: No. 53 of 1957 s. 9.]

99A. Absent vote, who may make etc.

- (1) Where, on polling day for an election, an elector is absent from the district for which he is enrolled and has not applied for or obtained a ballot paper under and in accordance with the provisions of section 90, such elector shall, subject to the regulations relating to absent voting, be permitted to vote in person in the prescribed manner as an absent voter at any polling place open outside the district for which he is enrolled.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, the Electoral Commissioner may make all arrangements for the taking of absent votes at any one or more of the polling places appointed under the provisions of section 100 in any district for which a candidate shall have been declared elected before the polling day under section 86(2aa).

- (3) This section does not apply to a person who claims to vote at a polling place that is appointed under section 100 for the district for which the person is enrolled.

[Section 99A inserted: No. 63 of 1948 s. 18; amended: No. 58 of 1951 s. 10; No. 57 of 1952 s. 7; No. 33 of 1964 s. 30; No. 33 of 1967 s. 14; No. 40 of 1987 s. 56 and 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 74; No. 20 of 2021 s. 57.]

99B. Regulations about early, absent and provisional voting

- (1) In this section, **ballot papers** means early ballot papers mentioned in section 90, ballot papers for absent voting under section 99A, and ballot papers for provisional voting under section 119(4a), 122(2) or 122A.
- (2) The regulations relating to early voting, absent voting under section 99A, and provisional voting under section 119(4a), 122(2) or 122A may prescribe all matters, not inconsistent with this Act, necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying the provisions of this Act relating to those methods of voting into effect, and in particular may provide for —
- (a) the forms of ballot papers; and
 - (b) the manner in which votes are to be marked on ballot papers; and
 - (c) the method of dealing with ballot papers, including the scrutiny thereof and the counting of votes thereon; and
 - (d) the grounds upon which ballot papers are to be rejected as informal; and
 - (e) the retention and preservation of documents likely to be required in case of a disputed election including envelopes, rejected votes and ballot papers until validity of the election in respect of which they are used is no longer liable to be disputed.
- (3) Ballot papers containing votes and enclosed in any prescribed envelope may, if so provided by the regulations, be placed in

any ballot box in use at the polling place at which the votes were cast and in the case of early ballot papers, in any ballot box in use at the place at which they were received but subject to sections 144(2b), 146, 146I(1), and 146J a prescribed envelope containing a ballot paper shall, unless the regulations provide otherwise, only be opened and the ballot paper dealt with, as regards the scrutiny thereof and the counting of the votes thereon by the Electoral Commissioner or an assistant returning officer appointed pursuant to section 142A or pursuant to that section as applied by section 146B(1).

- (4) The returning officer or assistant returning officer who is authorised by the provisions of this Act to open the ballot box, shall, without opening the envelope containing any ballot paper, transmit it in the manner prescribed to the Electoral Commissioner.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall authorise any elector to vote more than once at any election.

[Section 99B inserted: No. 58 of 1951 s. 11; amended: No. 57 of 1952 s. 8; No. 53 of 1957 s. 10; No. 40 of 1987 s. 57 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 32; No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(1) and (9).]

Subdivision 2 — Technology assisted voting

[Heading inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99C. Terms used

In this Subdivision —

approved procedures means the procedures approved under section 99D;

eligible elector means an elector who cannot vote without assistance because the elector has insufficient literacy skills or is sight impaired or otherwise incapacitated, but does not include an elector of a class that is excluded from this definition under the regulations;

technology assisted voting means a method of voting where an eligible elector votes by means of an electronic device, such as by a telephone or by a computer linked to the internet.

[Section 99C inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99D. Electoral Commissioner may approve procedures for technology assisted voting

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may approve procedures to facilitate voting by eligible electors at an election by means of technology assisted voting.
- (2) The approved procedures must provide for the following —
 - (a) for the registration of an eligible elector before the eligible elector votes by means of technology assisted voting;
 - (b) for the making of a record of each eligible elector who has voted by means of technology assisted voting;
 - (c) for the authentication of the eligible elector's vote;
 - (d) for the secrecy of the eligible elector's vote;
 - (e) the means of ensuring that any vote cast in accordance with the approved procedures is securely transmitted to the Electoral Commissioner and securely stored by the Electoral Commissioner;
 - (f) for the scrutiny and counting of votes cast in accordance with the approved procedures.
- (3) The validity of a vote cast in accordance with the approved procedures cannot be disputed on the ground that the elector could have voted without assistance.

[Section 99D inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99E. Record of vote

- (1) The regulations may provide, in relation to each vote cast by a person using technology assisted voting, for the production of a record (a *vote record*) of the vote the person has cast.
- (2) The vote record must not contain any means of identifying the person who cast the vote.
- (3) A vote record must be in a form that enables the vote cast by an eligible elector to be accurately determined.

[Section 99E inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99F. Independent auditing of technology assisted voting

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner must engage an independent person (the *independent auditor*) to conduct audits of the information technology used under the approved procedures.
- (2) Without limiting the content of the audit, the independent auditor must determine whether test votes cast in accordance with the approved procedures were accurately reflected in the corresponding test vote record produced under those procedures.
- (3) The independent auditor may make recommendations to the Electoral Commissioner to reduce or eliminate any risks that could affect the security, accuracy or secrecy of voting in accordance with the approved procedures.
- (4) The results of any audit of the information technology used under subsection (2) shall be published on the website of the Western Australian Electoral Commission as soon as practicable and no later than 30 days following the close of polling.

[Section 99F inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99G. Scrutineers

- (1) A candidate or the candidate's agent may appoint scrutineers to represent the candidate in observing —
 - (a) any production of the vote record; and
 - (b) any other element of the technology assisted voting process that is approved by the Electoral Commissioner for the purposes of this section.
- (2) At a single member election not more than one scrutineer at a time is allowed to each candidate at the place where the vote record is produced or an element approved under subsection (1)(b) occurs.
- (3) At a Council election where the relevant number is more than one —
 - (a) not more than one scrutineer at a time is allowed to each group; and
 - (b) not more than one scrutineer at a time is allowed to each candidate who is not included in any group,

at the place where the vote record is produced or an element approved under subsection (1)(b) occurs.
- (4) The appointment must be —
 - (a) made by written notice given to the Electoral Commissioner; and
 - (b) signed by the candidate or the candidate's official agent.
- (5) Section 137 does not apply to the scrutiny of votes cast under this Subdivision.

[Section 99G inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 94.]

99H. Counting of technology assisted votes

A vote cast in an election by an eligible elector and transmitted to the Electoral Commissioner in accordance with the approved procedures is to be counted as if it were a vote cast by a person voting by early vote.

[Section 99H inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99I. Secrecy relating to technology assisted voting

- (1) A person who becomes aware of how an eligible elector, voting in accordance with the approved procedures, voted must not disclose that information to any other person except in accordance with the approved procedures.

Penalty for this subsection: imprisonment for 2 years.

Summary conviction penalty: a fine of \$6 000.

- (2) A person must not disclose to any other person any source code or other computer software that relates to technology assisted voting under the approved procedures, except in accordance with the approved procedures or in accordance with any arrangement entered into by the person with the Electoral Commissioner.

Penalty for this subsection: imprisonment for 5 years.

Summary conviction penalty: imprisonment for 2 years and a fine of \$24 000.

[Section 99I inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99J. False or misleading statements in relation to technology assisted voting

A person must not make a statement (whether orally, in writing or by means of electronic communication) that the person knows to be false or misleading in a material particular for the purposes of or in connection with —

- (a) making an application for registration for technology assisted voting; or
- (b) casting a vote by means of technology assisted voting.

Penalty: a fine of \$1 000.

[Section 99J inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99K. Protection of computer hardware and software

A person must not, without reasonable excuse, destroy or interfere with any computer program, data file or electronic device used, or intended to be used, by the Electoral Commissioner for or in connection with technology assisted voting.

Penalty: imprisonment for 5 years.

Summary conviction penalty: imprisonment for 2 years and a fine of \$24 000.

[Section 99K inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99L. Approvals must be published on the internet

An approval by the Electoral Commissioner for the purposes of this Subdivision must be —

- (a) in writing; and
- (b) published on the Commission website.

[Section 99L inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99M. Regulations relating to technology assisted voting

- (1) The regulations may make provision for or with respect to voting by eligible electors by means of technology assisted voting.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the regulations may make provision for or with respect to the period during which voting by eligible electors using technology assisted voting is permitted (including a period before polling day).

- (3) The regulations may provide that technology assisted voting is not to be used at a specified election.
- (4) Neither this section nor any regulations made under this section prevent approved procedures dealing with matters referred to in this section.
- (5) If a regulation made under this section is inconsistent with an approved procedure, the regulation prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

[Section 99M inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99N. How this Act applies in relation to technology assisted voting

- (1) If an elector casts a vote in accordance with the approved procedures —
 - (a) the requirements of this Act relating to the elector’s right to receive a ballot paper are to be taken to have been satisfied; and
 - (b) the requirements of this Act relating to the elector’s duties on receiving a ballot paper are to be taken to have been satisfied; and
 - (c) the requirements of this Act relating to the marking of the ballot paper are to be taken to have been satisfied.
- (2) The regulations may make provision for additional matters relating to how this Act applies in relation to votes cast using technology assisted voting.

[Section 99N inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

99O. Electoral Commissioner may determine that technology assisted voting is not to be used

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may determine that technology assisted voting is not to be used at a specified election.
- (2) A determination under this section must be in writing and published on the Commission website.

[Section 99O inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 12.]

Subdivision 3 — At the poll

[Heading inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(5).]

100. Polling places etc., appointing etc.

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may, by notice in the *Government Gazette* —
- (a) appoint such polling places for the whole of State electorate and districts as the Electoral Commissioner considers necessary;
 - [(b) deleted]*
 - (c) appoint such other polling places as he thinks fit in any institution or hospital, or both;
 - (d) declare any institution or hospital, or both, so appointed to be a special institution or hospital, or both, for the purposes of this Act;
 - (e) declare any area of the State in which he considers attendance of electors at a polling place under usual conditions is difficult by reason of remoteness, to be a remote area for the purposes of this Act;
 - (f) abolish any polling place;
 - (g) cancel or amend a declaration made under paragraph (d) or (e);
 - (h) establish sub-districts and fix the boundaries thereof, and abolish sub-districts;
 - (i) declare, and fix the boundaries of, a polling area for the purposes of section 193 in relation to each polling place appointed under paragraph (a);
 - (j) cancel a declaration under paragraph (i) or amend boundaries fixed under that paragraph.
- (2) When a sub-district is established or abolished the Electoral Commissioner may, by notification in the *Government Gazette*,

give such directions as are thereby rendered necessary or expedient for the change of electors from one roll to another roll and effect shall be given forthwith to such directions in the manner prescribed by such notice.

- (3) If a polling place is appointed under subsection (1) for the whole of State electorate, or all districts, for the purposes of a general election, that polling place is referred to as a ***general polling place***.
- (3a) The Electoral Commissioner may, in relation to a general polling place, perform the functions of the returning officers for the whole of State electorate, or districts, under the provisions listed in the Table to this subsection.

Table of provisions

section 102	section 112(3)
section 105(1)	section 115(1a)
section 106(2)	section 116
section 107(1)	section 132
section 110	section 141(4)

- (3b) References in this Act to the returning officer may be read as references to the Electoral Commissioner where necessary for the purposes of subsection (3a).
- (4) A polling area declared under subsection (1)(i) in relation to a polling place shall be adjacent to the entrance to the polling place and no part of the boundaries fixed under subsection (1)(i) or (j) shall be more than 100 metres from that entrance.

[Section 100 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 29; No. 26 of 1949 s. 4; No. 59 of 1959 s. 9; No. 39 of 1979 s. 14; No. 40 of 1987 s. 58 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 33; No. 58 of 1988 s. 5; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4; No. 36 of 2000 s. 50; No. 20 of 2021 s. 58.]

100A. Mobile portable ballot boxes at certain institutions and hospitals, provision of etc.

- (1) Where a polling place has been appointed under the provisions of section 100, at any institution or hospital, the presiding officer appointed under section 102(5), notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, shall with another officer attend at the polling place, at such times or during such hours as are provided by subsection (2) with such number of mobile portable ballot boxes as the Electoral Commissioner thinks fit and approved by him for the purpose of affording an opportunity to vote to every elector who —
 - (a) is for the time being resident in the institution or hospital wherein the polling place is appointed to be; and
 - (b) by reason of illness or infirmity or in the case of a woman, by reason of approaching maternity, is unable to attend at another polling place to record his vote.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the attendance of the presiding officer and another officer at any institution or hospital, to which that section applies, shall be —
 - (a) where the institution or hospital is a special one for the purposes of this Act by virtue of a declaration under section 100(1)(d), at such times in the period of 14 days up to and including polling day as the Electoral Commissioner thinks fit; or
 - (b) where the institution or hospital is not such a special one, during polling hours as provided by section 117(2).
- (3) On a visit to an elector by the officer in charge of the mobile portable ballot box the vote of the elector shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, be taken in all respects as if the vote were recorded at a polling place under usual conditions.
- (4) The presiding officer and another officer shall together be in attendance with the mobile portable ballot box when an elector records his vote thereat and shall be accompanied by such of the

scrutineers appointed by candidates or candidates' official agents to represent the candidates at the polling place during the polling, as choose to accompany them.

- (5) The Electoral Commissioner or the returning officer, as the case requires, must give not less than 48 hours' notice in writing to each candidate in an election of the time or times at which the presiding officer and another officer will be in attendance at an institution or hospital under subsection (1) for the purposes of the election.

[Section 100A inserted: No. 59 of 1959 s. 10; amended: No. 33 of 1964 s. 31; No. 39 of 1979 s. 15; No. 9 of 1983 s. 19; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 14 of 2016 s. 13; No. 20 of 2021 s. 59.]

100B. Mobile portable ballot boxes in declared remote areas, provision of etc.

- (1) Where any area of the State is a remote area of the State for the purposes of this Act by virtue of a declaration under section 100(1)(e), the presiding officer and other officer appointed under section 102(5), notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, shall attend at such places in the remote area, and at such times in the period of 14 days up to and including polling day, as the Electoral Commissioner thinks fit, with such number of mobile portable ballot boxes as the Electoral Commissioner thinks fit and approved by him for the purpose of affording an opportunity to vote to every elector who may have difficulty in attending at a polling place under usual conditions.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, subsections (3) and (4) of section 100A apply with such modifications as are necessary.
- (2A) The Electoral Commissioner or the returning officer, as the case requires, must give not less than 48 hours' notice in writing to each candidate in an election of the time or times at which the presiding officer and another officer will be in attendance at a place under subsection (1) for the purposes of the election.

- (3) Where, for reasonable cause, there is a failure to attend a place in a remote area as required by subsection (1) or to give the notice required by subsection (2A), the election and the result thereof shall be deemed not to be affected thereby.

[Section 100B inserted: No. 39 of 1979 s. 16; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 34; No. 64 of 2006 s. 53; No. 20 of 2021 s. 60.]

101. Taking the poll, returning officer's duties as to arranging

If the proceedings on the day of nomination stand adjourned to polling day, the returning officer shall immediately make all necessary arrangements for taking the poll.

102. Taking the poll, returning officer's particular duties as to arranging

In particular the returning officer shall —

- (1) appoint a presiding officer to preside at each polling place at which he will not be continuously present;
- (2) appoint all necessary assistant presiding officers, poll clerks and doorkeepers;
- (3) furnish polling places and provide ballot boxes;
- (4) provide ballot papers and copies of the roll for use at each polling place;
- (5) appoint a presiding officer and another officer to be in attendance with and operate each mobile portable ballot box at each polling place appointed at an institution or hospital, and at each place in a remote area where a presiding officer and another officer are required to attend pursuant to section 100B.

[Section 102 amended: No. 59 of 1959 s. 11; No. 68 of 1964 s. 22; No. 39 of 1979 s. 17.]

102A. Conjoint elections, appointments and directions for

- (1) In the case of a conjoint election, every person appointed as a presiding officer, an assistant presiding officer, a poll clerk or a

doorkeeper for any polling place in a district shall, without any further appointment or authority than this subsection, be the presiding officer, the assistant presiding officer, poll clerk or doorkeeper, as the case may be, for that polling place in respect of the general election for the Council.

- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may give such directions as he may consider necessary or expedient to implement the provisions of this Act, for the proper and efficient conduct of any election.
- (3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (2), the Electoral Commissioner may, for the purpose of assisting an elector on request as provided by section 129, give such directions as he may consider necessary or expedient on and in relation to methods of —
 - (a) conveying details on the ballot paper to the elector without conveying political information other than names or words printed in accordance with section 113C; and
 - (b) translating the voter's instructions; and
 - (c) eliciting the exact direction of the voter's preferences.

[Section 102A inserted: No. 33 of 1964 s. 32; amended: No. 39 of 1979 s. 18; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 35; No. 20 of 2021 s. 61.]

[103.] *Deleted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 75.]*

104. Polling place, appointment of officers for

- (1) The appointment of presiding officers, assistant presiding officers, poll clerks, and doorkeepers shall be made in writing in the prescribed form.

[(2) deleted]

[Section 104 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 43; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 43 of 1996 s. 11.]

105. Substitute and assistant presiding officers, appointment and powers of

- (1) Any presiding officer may appoint a substitute to perform his duties during his temporary absence, and may, if authorised by the returning officer so to do, appoint in writing one or more assistant presiding officers to assist him in presiding at any polling place.
- (2) Any assistant presiding officer may, subject to the direction of the presiding officer, exercise all or any of his powers, and shall, in respect of those powers, be deemed to be the presiding officer.

106. Absence of returning officer or presiding officer due to illness etc., consequences of

- (1) In case any returning officer or presiding officer is prevented from attendance by illness or other sufficient cause, and time does not permit of a substitute being appointed under the provisions of section 7, he may appoint by writing under his hand, a substitute to act for him, who shall have full power and authority to do all things required by this Act to be done by his principal.
- (2) If, by reason of the absence of the presiding officer, the poll is not taken at any polling place, the election shall not therefore be void, but the returning officer may appoint another day not later than 21 days from the day fixed for the election, for taking the poll at such polling place, of which appointment public notice shall be given, and the poll shall be taken accordingly and be deemed to have been taken on the day previously appointed.

107. Polling place, subdivision of into sections

- (1) When a large number of electors is likely to vote at a polling place, the returning officer may subdivide a polling place into sections, and shall, in such case, appoint presiding officers to

take the poll at each section at which he does not himself preside.

- (2) If a polling place is divided into sections there shall be fixed over each such section, a notice indicating the letters of the alphabet for the section of such polling place at which each elector, according to the initial letter of his surname, is to vote; and no elector shall be permitted to vote in any section thereof save that which is so denoted by the initial letter of his surname.
- (3) All the provisions of this Act relating to presiding officers shall apply to presiding officers at each section of a polling place.

108. Licensed premises not to be used for polling place

No part of any premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be used for the purposes of any polling place.

109. Certain buildings to be used free

All buildings under the control of the Government, or the property of a local government and all Agricultural Halls, Mechanics' and Miners' Institutes, and other buildings which have been or may hereafter be subsidised in their erection by the Government, may be used free of charge, for the purposes of any nomination proceedings or poll.

[Section 109 amended: No. 33 of 1964 s. 33; No. 14 of 1996 s. 4.]

110. Separate voting compartments etc. at polling place required

Polling places shall have separate voting compartments, constructed so as to screen the electors from observation while they are marking their ballot papers, and each compartment shall be furnished by the returning officer with a pen or pencil for the use of electors.

[Section 110 amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 14.]

111. Ballot boxes required at polling places

Each polling place or section of a polling place shall be provided with a ballot box, with a lock and key or other sealing device, and with a cleft for receiving the ballot papers.

[Section 111 amended: No. 59 of 1919 s. 5; No. 79 of 1987 s. 36.]

112. Rolls for use in election, provision of

- (1) As soon as is practicable after the close of the roll for an election the Electoral Commissioner shall cause a roll to be provided for use in the election.
- (2) The roll so supplied shall contain any marks required by section 47(3)(g).
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner shall cause a sufficient number of copies of the roll to be delivered to the returning officer and, before the hour of opening of the poll, the returning officer shall cause a sufficient number of copies of the roll to be delivered to each presiding officer.
- (4) The Electoral Commissioner shall cause copies of the rolls to be delivered to the presiding officer at each general polling place.

[Section 112 inserted: No. 43 of 1996 s. 12; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1) and 51.]

113. Ballot papers, form and content of

- (1) Ballot papers shall be in the appropriate approved form.
 - (1a) Ballot papers shall contain the names of all the persons nominated as candidates.
- (2) Where similarity in the names of 2 or more candidates is likely to cause confusion, the names of those candidates may be arranged with such description or addition as will distinguish them from one another.

- (3) The printing in a ballot paper shall be in characters of such size or sizes as the Electoral Commissioner determines.
- (4) The official paper for use in the printing of ballot papers is paper that either —
 - (a) has a water mark in it as prescribed; or
 - (b) incorporates such security features or devices as the Electoral Commissioner approves.

[Section 113 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 43; No. 28 of 1970 s. 14; No. 40 of 1987 s. 59; No. 79 of 1987 s. 37; No. 43 of 1996 s. 13; No. 36 of 2000 s. 81(1); No. 20 of 2021 s. 62.]

[113A. Deleted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 63.]

113B. Printing of Council ballot papers

- (1) In printing the ballot papers for a Council election where the relevant number is one —
 - (a) the names of the candidates must be printed in the order determined under section 87(6); and
 - (b) a square must be printed opposite the name of each candidate.
- (2) Subsections (3) to (6) apply to a Council election where the relevant number is more than one.
- (3) In printing the ballot papers for a Council election for which there is a group —
 - (a) if there is only one group, the names of candidates included in that group must be printed in a group before the names of candidates, if any, not included in that group; and
 - (b) if there are 2 or more groups —
 - (i) in the case of groups in which each candidate is endorsed by a registered political party — the names of candidates included in the groups must

be printed in groups in columns sequentially from the left across the ballot papers in the order determined under section 87(5), before the names of candidates, if any, included in any other group; and

- (ii) the names of candidates included in other groups must be printed in groups in columns sequentially from the left across the ballot papers in the order determined under section 87(5), before the names of candidates, if any, not included in a group;

and

- (c) the order, within a group, in which the names of candidates in that group are printed must be the order specified in the claim made by them in accordance with section 80(1); and
 - (d) the names of candidates, if any, not included in a group must be printed —
 - (i) in a column or, if there are too many names to print in one column, 2 or more columns; and
 - (ii) in the order determined under section 87(6).
- (4) In printing the ballot papers for a Council election for which there are no groups, the names of the candidates must be printed in the order determined under section 87(6).
- (5) In printing the ballot papers for a Council election —
- (a) a square must be printed opposite the name of each candidate; and
 - (b) if the names of 5 or more candidates have been included in a group —
 - (i) a dividing line must be printed above the squares printed opposite those names; and

- (ii) a square must be printed above the dividing line and above the squares printed opposite those names.

- (6) If before polling day in a Council election a candidate is declared by a court to be incapable of being elected at that election, the returning officer may take any action in relation to the printing of the ballot papers the returning officer considers necessary as a consequence of the declaration, including the following —
 - (a) causing the ballot papers to be reprinted;
 - (b) causing notations or marks to be made on the ballot papers;
 - (c) again applying the provisions of section 87(6).

[Section 113B inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 63.]

113BA. Assembly ballot papers, printing of

In printing the ballot papers for an election in a district —

- (a) the names of the candidates shall be printed in order determined under section 86(2a); and
- (b) a square shall be printed opposite the name of each candidate.

[Section 113BA inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 40; amended: No. 20 of 1988 s. 5.]

113C. Political party names or “independent”, printing of on ballot papers

- (1) Subject to this section, where a candidate in an election applies to have a name specified in the application being —
 - (a) a name of a registered political party; or
 - (b) a composite name of 2 registered political parties comprising a name of one registered political party and a name of the other registered political party,

printed adjacent to the applicant's name on the ballot papers for use in the election, the name so specified shall be so printed on those ballot papers.

- (2) If each candidate in a group applies to have the same name printed under subsection (1), the following requirements apply to the printing of the ballot papers —
 - (a) the name must be printed on the ballot papers adjacent to the name of each candidate in that group;
 - (b) the name must be printed on the ballot papers adjacent to the square, if any, printed above the line for that group.
- (3) An application under subsection (1) —
 - (a) must be in an approved form; and
 - (b) must be signed by the candidate; and
 - (c) must contain a declaration signed by the secretary of the registered political party or, if the application is for the printing of a composite name, by the secretary of each registered political party concerned, stating that the party supports the application; and
 - (d) where the name of the applicant is to be included in a group, must be in the form of a joint application by all the candidates to be included in the group for the printing of the same name, adjacent to the name of each of those candidates; and
 - (e) must be received by the returning officer not later than the hour of nomination.

[(4) deleted]

- (5) Subject to this section, where a candidate in an election who is not endorsed as a candidate in the election by a registered political party applies to have the word "Independent" printed adjacent to the applicant's name on the ballot papers for use in the election that word shall be so printed on those ballot papers.

- (6) If each candidate in a group applies under subsection (5), the following requirements apply to the printing of the ballot papers —
- (a) the word “Independent” must be printed on the ballot papers adjacent to the name of each candidate in that group;
 - (b) the word “Independent” must be printed on the ballot papers adjacent to the square, if any, printed above the line for that group.
- (7) An application under subsection (5) —
- (a) must be in an approved form; and
 - (b) must be signed by the candidate; and
 - (c) where the name of the applicant is to be included in a group, must be in the form of a joint application by all the candidates to be included in the group for the printing of the word “Independent” adjacent to the name of each of those candidates; and
 - (d) must be received by the returning officer not later than the hour of nomination.

[(8), (9) deleted]

- (10) In this section —

name includes an abbreviation or acronym of a name.

[Section 113C inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 60; amended: No. 79 of 1987 s. 41; No. 66 of 1990 s. 5; No. 36 of 2000 s. 65; No. 35 of 2012 s. 7; No. 20 of 2021 s. 64.]

113D. Claims etc. may be lodged with Electoral Commissioner

- (1) Where a claim, notice or application under section 80 or 113C is lodged with the Electoral Commissioner it shall be deemed to have been made to, lodged with or received by the returning officer and to have been so made, lodged or received at the time at which it was lodged with the Electoral Commissioner.

- (2) This section does not affect the operation of section 81A.

[Section 113D inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 60; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 42; No. 20 of 2021 s. 65.]

[113E. Deleted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 42.]

114. Scrutineers, appointment of etc.

- (1) Scrutineers may be appointed by candidates or candidates' official agents to represent the candidates at polling places during the polling but —
- (a) at a single member election, not more than one scrutineer at a time shall be allowed to each candidate at each polling place, or section of a polling place, if divided;
 - (b) at a Council election where the relevant number is more than one —
 - (i) not more than one scrutineer at a time shall be allowed to each group; and
 - (ii) not more than one scrutineer at a time shall be allowed to each candidate who is not included in any group,at each polling place, or section of a polling place, if divided.
- (2) The appointment of scrutineers shall be made by written notice to the returning officer or presiding officer giving the names and addresses of the scrutineers, or without such notice by permission of the returning officer or presiding officer.
- (2A) A notice under subsection (2) shall be signed by —
- (a) the candidate or the candidate's official agent; or
 - (b) in the case of an appointment under subsection (1)(b)(i) —
 - (i) any candidate included in the group; or

(ii) the group's official agent.

- (3) Every scrutineer shall, upon his appointment, make and subscribe a declaration in the presence of the returning officer or presiding officer in the prescribed form.

[Section 114 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 43; No. 40 of 1987 s. 61; No. 79 of 1987 s. 43; No. 14 of 2016 s. 15; No. 20 of 2021 s. 94.]

115. Candidates not to conduct election; who can be in polling place etc.

- (1) No candidate shall in any way take part in the conduct of an election; and no one, other than the Electoral Commissioner or an officer deputed by him, presiding officer, assistant presiding officer, the poll clerks, doorkeepers, scrutineers, and any member of the Police Force on duty at a polling place, and the electors voting or about to vote, and any person nominated under section 129(1) to mark an elector's ballot paper according to the directions of the elector, shall be permitted to enter or remain in the polling place during the polling.
- (1a) A presiding officer, assistant presiding officer, poll clerk, doorkeeper or scrutineer in a polling place shall wear or display such identification as is provided or required by the returning officer.
- (2) Where an election is conducted on the same day as a referendum the reference in subsection (1) to scrutineers shall be deemed to include a reference to scrutineers (if any) appointed under any Act for the purposes of the referendum.

[Section 115 amended: No. 68 of 1964 s. 23; No. 54 of 1983 s. 10; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 44; No. 35 of 2012 s. 22.]

116. Police may be summoned to keep order etc.

- (1) The returning officer or presiding officer may summon to his assistance in such polling place any member of the Police Force for the purpose of —
 - (a) preserving the public peace or preventing any breach thereof, and for removing out of such polling place any person who, in his opinion, is wilfully and unnecessarily obstructing the polling, or wilfully violating any of the provisions of this Act; or
 - (b) causing to be removed any person who obstructs the approaches to a polling place; or
 - (c) causing to be arrested and taken before a justice of the peace, without any other warrant than this Act, any person reasonably suspected by the returning officer or presiding officer of committing or attempting to commit at a polling place any of the offences mentioned in this Act.
- (2) All members of the Police Force shall aid and assist the returning officer or presiding officer in the performance of his duty.

117. Polling, rules for conduct of

The polling shall be conducted as follows:

- (1) Before any vote is taken the presiding officer shall exhibit the ballot box empty, and shall then securely fasten and seal it so that nothing can be removed without breaking the seal.
- (2) Subject to sections 100A and 100B, the poll shall be open at 8 a.m., and shall not close until all the electors present in the polling place at 6 p.m., and desiring to vote, have voted; and in any dispute as regards the time the decision of the presiding officer shall be final.
- (3) At the close of the poll the presiding officer shall publicly close, fasten, seal, and take charge of the ballot box, and with the least possible delay forward it to the

counting place for the purposes of scrutiny; and it shall on no account be opened except as allowed by this Act. The cleft shall also be closed and sealed unless the ballot box is provided with an outer cover without a cleft.

- (4) The presiding officer shall also forward to the counting place the marked roll or rolls used at the poll, and any other documents received before or during the poll, having first endorsed and signed such rolls to identify them.
- (5) Any scrutineer present may affix his seal to the cover of the ballot box.

[Section 117 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 30; No. 59 of 1919 s. 5; No. 10 of 1936 s. 2; No. 57 of 1952 s. 9; No. 68 of 1964 s. 24; No. 39 of 1979 s. 19; No. 79 of 1987 s. 45.]

[118. Deleted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 31.]

119. Person claiming to vote, questions for and declarations by etc.

- (1) The presiding officer shall put to any person claiming to vote at any election the following questions —
 - (a) Have you already cast a vote for this election (or these elections, as the case requires)?
 - (b) What is your full name?
 - (c) Where do you live?

and may then put any other question the presiding officer considers necessary to determine whether the person is enrolled to vote.

[(2), (3) deleted]

- (4) The presiding officer may and shall, when requested by a scrutineer, require any person claiming to vote to make a declaration in the prescribed form before the person is permitted to vote.

- (4a) A person who makes a declaration as required under subsection (4) shall be permitted to vote as a provisional voter in the prescribed manner.
- (5) Subject to the provisions of section 122A, the electoral roll in force at the time of the election shall be conclusive evidence of the right of each person enrolled thereon to vote as an elector, unless he refuses to answer fully any such question put to him by the presiding officer, or to make the declaration requested of him, or fails by his answers to satisfy the presiding officer that he is entitled to vote.
- (6) A determination of an entitlement to vote at an election being held on any day applies to any other election being held on that day and only one declaration is required under subsection (4).
- (7) Where it appears to the presiding officer that an elector does not understand any question he is asked pursuant to subsection (1) —
 - (a) the presiding officer shall ask the elector the question in less formal language than the language provided in the subsection but in words to the like effect; and
 - (b) if the elector then finds difficulty with the question, the presiding officer may assist him in answering it.

[Section 119 inserted: No. 44 of 1911 s. 31; amended: No. 63 of 1948 s. 19; No. 26 of 1949 s. 5; No. 53 of 1957 s. 11; No. 33 of 1964 s. 35; No. 33 of 1967 s. 15; No. 94 of 1970 s. 7; No. 39 of 1979 s. 20; No. 9 of 1983 s. 20 and 31; No. 104 of 1985 s. 5; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 47; No. 36 of 2000 s. 32(2); No. 64 of 2006 s. 32 and 53; No. 14 of 2016 s. 16.]

120. Answers by person claiming to vote, consequences of

- (1) If any person refuses to answer fully any such question put to him by the presiding officer, or to make the declaration requested of him, or fails by his answer to satisfy the presiding officer that he is entitled to vote, his claim to vote shall be rejected.

- (2) If by virtue of section 51B information relating to an elector is not shown on the roll, subsection (1) does not apply to a refusal to answer the question put to the elector under section 119(1)(c).

[Section 120 amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 33.]

121. Elector's answers are conclusive

The elector's answers to the questions shall be conclusive, and the matter shall not be further inquired into during the polling.

122. Elector objected to with name marked under s. 47, voting by etc.

- (1) No person whose name on the roll has been objected to and is marked in accordance with the provisions of section 47 shall have a right to vote until he has made a declaration in the prescribed form.
- (2) A person who makes a declaration as required by subsection (1) shall be permitted to vote as a provisional voter in the prescribed manner.
- (3) Every elector who has voted by early vote and made a declaration as required under section 92, shall be deemed to have made a declaration under this section.
- (4) Every elector who has voted by means of technology assisted voting in accordance with the approved procedures under Subdivision 2 is to be taken to have made a declaration under this section.

[Section 122 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 43; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 48; No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(8); No. 64 of 2006 s. 34; No. 14 of 2016 s. 17.]

122A. Person not on roll or struck off roll or on roll and cannot be found or struck out under s. 126, voting by etc.

- (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, where a person who is entitled to be enrolled on the roll for the whole of State electorate or a district claims to vote at any election in respect

thereof at a polling place at which there is a copy of the roll and his name has been omitted from or struck off the roll owing to an error of an officer or a mistake of fact, or where any person who is so enrolled so claims to vote at such a polling place and his name cannot be found on the roll by the presiding officer or a record has been made in respect of his name on the copy of the roll under the provisions of section 126, he may subject to this Act and the regulations, be permitted to vote as a provisional voter if —

- (a) in the case of a person whose name has been omitted from the roll —
 - (i) a duly completed claim for the enrolment of the person in respect of the whole of State electorate or the district, as the case may be, was received under section 42 before the close of the roll for the election; and
 - (ii) no circumstances occurred after sending or delivering the claim as would have compelled or authorised an enrolment officer to reject the claim under the provisions of section 47 or to strike the name off the roll under the provisions of section 48;

or

- (b) in the case of a person whose name has been struck off the roll —
 - (i) his name was not, to the best of his knowledge, struck off the roll for the whole of State electorate or the district, as the case may be, owing to objection, or duplication of enrolment or disqualification; and
 - (ii) he had from the time of his enrolment for the whole of State electorate or the district, as the case may be, to the time of the close of the roll for the election continuously retained his right to

enrolment for the whole of State electorate or the district;

or

- (c) in the case of a person whose name is on the roll for the whole of State electorate or a district, as the case may be, but cannot be found by the presiding officer, he claims that his name appears or should appear on the roll; or
- (d) in the case of a person in respect of whose name a record has been made on a copy of the roll under the provisions of section 126, he denies that he has been previously handed a ballot paper or has voted at that election,

and if, in every such case, such person makes a declaration in the prescribed form before the presiding officer at the polling place.

- (2) A determination of an entitlement to vote at an election being held on any day applies to any other election being held on that day and only one declaration is required under subsection (1).

[Section 122A inserted: No. 63 of 1948 s. 20; amended: No. 58 of 1951 s. 12; No. 33 of 1964 s. 36; No. 9 of 1983 s. 21; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 49; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1) and (3), 76 and 77(3); No. 20 of 2021 s. 66.]

123. No other answer or declaration required from elector; who can be excluded from voting

- (1) No elector shall at any election be required to answer any question or to make any declaration, except as herein provided.
- (2) No person claiming to vote at any election shall be excluded from voting thereat except by reason of —
 - (a) it appearing to the presiding officer, upon putting the questions hereinbefore prescribed, or any of them —

- (i) that he is not the person whose name appears on the roll; or
- (ii) that he has previously voted for the whole of State electorate or the district, as the case may be, at the same election; or
- (iii) that he is otherwise not entitled to vote under this Act;

or

- (b) such person refusing to answer any of such questions, or to make the declaration required under sections 119 and 122.

[Section 123 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 20 of 2021 s. 67.]

124. Right to vote despite error in roll or change of name on marriage

- (1) No omission from the roll of any name other than the surname, or entry of a wrong name other than the surname, and no misspelling of any name, shall warrant the rejection at any polling of any claim to vote, if the elector is sufficiently identified in the opinion of the presiding officer.
- (2) No elector shall be disqualified from voting under the surname appearing on the roll by reason of having become entitled to use another surname.

[Section 124 amended: No. 79 of 1987 s. 50.]

125. Ballot paper, procedure when delivering to elector

- (1) If the name under which the elector claims to vote is upon the copy of the roll, and his right to vote is not challenged, or, if challenged, he makes the necessary declaration, or answers the prescribed questions satisfactorily, the presiding officer shall deliver to him a ballot paper.

- (2) Before the delivery of the ballot paper to the elector, it shall be marked on the back by the presiding officer with his initials.
- (2a) A ballot paper printed on official paper does not have to be initialled by the presiding officer.
- (3) The initials of the presiding officer shall be placed on the back of the ballot paper in such a position as to be easily seen when the ballot paper is folded to conceal the vote.
- (3a) Where an election is held on the same day as a referendum a ballot paper shall not be issued to a person for the election (other than by way of replacement for a spoilt ballot paper) unless a ballot paper is issued to the person for the referendum.
- (4) Every presiding officer who fails faithfully to perform any duty imposed on him by this section by reason whereof any of the requirements of this section are not effectively fulfilled, is liable to a fine not exceeding \$20.

[Section 125 amended: No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 54 of 1983 s. 11; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 51; No. 43 of 1996 s. 14.]

126. Roll to be marked on ballot paper being delivered

- (1) Immediately upon handing the ballot paper to the person claiming to vote, the officer shall make a record, in a prescribed manner, in respect of the person's name on the copy of the roll.
- (2) The record so made on the copy of the roll shall be prima facie evidence of the identity of the person to whom the ballot paper is delivered, with the elector in respect of whose name a record is so made on the roll, and of the fact that such elector voted at the election.

[Section 126 amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 77(1) and (2).]

127. Elector's duties on receiving ballot paper

Upon receipt of the ballot paper the elector shall, subject to the provisions of section 129, without delay —

- (a) retire alone to some unoccupied voting compartment and there, in private, mark his vote on the ballot paper in the manner hereinafter described;
- (b) fold the ballot paper so as to conceal the names of the candidates and then forthwith, without unfolding it, deposit it in the ballot box;
- (c) quit the polling place.

[Section 127 amended: No. 58 of 1951 s. 13; No. 43 of 1996 s. 15.]

128. How ballot paper to be marked by elector

- (1) For the purposes of this section —
 - (a) a square is ***above the line*** on a ballot paper if the square is printed on the ballot paper under section 113B(5)(b);
 - (b) a square is ***below the line*** on a ballot paper if the square is printed on the ballot paper under section 113B(5)(a).
- (2) In a single member election where there are only 2 candidates on the ballot paper an elector must mark the elector's vote on the ballot paper by placing the numeral 1 in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom the elector votes.
- (3) In a single member election where there are more than 2 candidates on the ballot paper an elector must mark the elector's vote on the ballot paper by placing the numeral 1 in the square opposite the name of the candidate for whom the elector votes as the elector's first preference and consecutive numerals from 2 in the squares opposite the names of the remaining candidates so as to indicate the elector's order of preference for all candidates.

- (4) In a Council election where the relevant number is more than one and there are no squares printed on the ballot papers under section 113B(5)(b), the elector's vote must be marked on the ballot paper as follows —
- (a) if there are more than 20 squares on the ballot paper —
 - (i) the numeral 1 must be placed in the square on the ballot paper opposite the name of a candidate so as to indicate the candidate for whom the elector votes as a first preference; and
 - (ii) at least the consecutive numerals 2 to 20 must be placed in the squares on the ballot paper opposite the names of other candidates so as to indicate the elector's order of preference for other candidates;
 - (b) if there are 20 or fewer squares on the ballot paper —
 - (i) the numeral 1 must be placed in the square on the ballot paper opposite the name of a candidate so as to indicate the candidate for whom the elector votes as a first preference; and
 - (ii) consecutive numerals from 2 must be placed in the squares on the ballot paper opposite the names of the other candidates so as to indicate the elector's order of preference for all candidates.
- (5) Except where an elector follows the procedure set out in subsection (6), in a Council election where the relevant number is more than one and there is at least one square printed on the ballot papers under section 113B(5)(b), the elector's vote must be marked on the ballot paper as follows —
- (a) if there are more than 20 squares on the ballot paper below the line —
 - (i) the numeral 1 must be placed in the square on the ballot paper below the line opposite the name of

- a candidate so as to indicate the candidate for whom the elector votes as a first preference; and
- (ii) at least the consecutive numerals 2 to 20 must be placed in the squares on the ballot paper below the line opposite the names of other candidates so as to indicate the elector's order of preference for other candidates;
- (b) if there are 20 or fewer squares on the ballot paper below the line —
- (i) the numeral 1 must be placed in the square on the ballot paper below the line opposite the name of a candidate so as to indicate the candidate for whom the elector votes as a first preference; and
 - (ii) consecutive numerals from 2 must be placed in the squares on the ballot paper below the line opposite the names of the other candidates so as to indicate the elector's order of preference for all candidates.
- (6) In a Council election where the relevant number is more than one, and there is at least one square printed on the ballot papers under section 113B(5)(b), the elector's vote may be marked on a ballot paper by the elector by placing the numeral 1 in a square on the ballot paper above the line so as to indicate the group for whom the elector votes as a first preference and —
- (a) if there are 2 squares on the ballot paper above the line and the elector wishes to vote for the group to which the other square relates — by placing the numeral 2 in the other square on the ballot paper above the line so as to indicate the elector's order of preference; or
 - (b) if there are 3 or more squares on the ballot paper above the line and the elector wishes to vote for any of the groups to which the other squares relate —

- (i) by placing the numeral 2 in one of the other squares on the ballot paper above the line so as to indicate the elector's second preference; or
- (ii) by placing consecutive numerals from 2 in 2 or more of the other squares on the ballot paper above the line in the elector's order of preference.

[Section 128 inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 68.]

[128A. Deleted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 53.]

129. Elector with disability etc., assistance for to vote

- (1) If an elector cannot vote without assistance because the elector is sight impaired, physically incapacitated or illiterate, the elector may nominate a person (other than a candidate at the election or a scrutineer for a candidate) to assist the elector, and the nominated person must mark the elector's ballot paper according to the directions of the elector and fold and deposit the ballot paper in the ballot box.
- (1a) Dealings with a ballot paper under subsection (1) are to be conducted in the presence of such scrutineers as are present, or, if there are no scrutineers present, then in the presence of an electoral officer who is not the person nominated to assist the elector.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), an elector to whom that subsection applies may indicate the manner in which the elector wishes the ballot paper to be marked by presenting to the person marking the ballot paper a statement in writing (which may be, or include, a "how-to-vote" card) that specifies the manner in which the ballot paper is to be marked.
- (3) Where an elector is at a place that is in close proximity to a polling place but is unable to enter the polling place because of physical disability, sections 118 to 126 shall apply, or may be

applied, to the person at the first-mentioned place and, at that place —

(a) the elector —

- (i) may mark his vote on the ballot paper in the presence of the presiding officer, an assistant presiding officer or a poll clerk, and of such scrutineers as are present; and
- (ii) fold the ballot paper so as to conceal the names of the candidates, and hand the ballot paper to the electoral officer in whose presence it was marked;

or

(b) the elector's ballot paper may be marked, folded and deposited in a ballot box by a person in accordance with subsection (1).

- (4) The electoral officer who is handed a ballot paper under subsection (3)(a)(ii) shall return to the polling place and deposit the ballot paper in the ballot box.

[Section 129 inserted: No. 39 of 1979 s. 21; amended: No. 79 of 1987 s. 54; No. 64 of 2006 s. 35.]

130. Ballot paper spoiled by elector, replacement of etc.

- (1) If any elector satisfies the presiding officer, before his ballot paper is deposited in the ballot box that he has spoiled it by mistake or accident, he may, on giving it up, receive a new ballot paper from the presiding officer, who shall there and then cancel the spoiled ballot paper by writing "spoilt" on the back of it.
- (2) Having cancelled a spoiled ballot paper the presiding officer is to —
- (a) place the ballot paper in an envelope, seal the envelope and write on the envelope an indication of the type of ballot paper enclosed and that it is spoiled; and

- (b) sign the envelope.
- (3) The envelopes containing spoilt ballot papers cancelled at a polling place are to be sealed up in a packet that is to be given to the returning officer after the close of the poll.

[Section 130 amended: No. 59 of 1919 s. 5; No. 36 of 2000 s. 78.]

131. Adjourning polling due to riot etc.

The presiding officer may adjourn the polling from day to day in any case where polling is interrupted or obstructed by riot or open violence.

132. Adjourning polling for other reasons

- (1) If from any cause any polling place is not opened on polling day, or, if opened, the poll cannot be proceeded with, the returning officer or the presiding officer may adjourn the polling for a period not to exceed 21 days, and shall forthwith give public notice of the adjournment.
- (2) If from any cause polling cannot be commenced or proceeded with at a special institution or hospital appointed under section 100(1)(c) or (d) or at any place within a remote area declared under section 100(1)(e) the returning officer or the presiding officer may postpone or adjourn the polling for a period not to exceed 21 days, and shall forthwith give public notice of the postponement or adjournment, as the case may be.

[Section 132 amended: No. 79 of 1987 s. 55.]

133. Voting at adjourned polling

Where for any reason the polling is adjourned at any polling place, those electors only who are entitled to vote at such polling place who have not already voted shall be entitled to vote at the adjourned polling at that polling place.

Division 4 — Counting of votes (general)

[Heading amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 63; No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

134. Count of votes, rules for conducting

The result of the polling shall be ascertained by scrutiny of the ballot papers and by count of the votes in accordance with section 99H, Division 4A or 4B, as the case may require, and shall be conducted in the presence of any candidate or scrutineer that may be present in the following manner:

- (1) The scrutiny and count of votes shall commence as soon as practicable after the closing of the poll.
- (2) The candidates, the scrutineers, and officers may be present, but no other person.
- (2a) The scrutineers and officers present shall wear or display such identification as is provided or required by the returning officer.
- (3) Where the count of the votes is not commenced immediately after the close of the poll, the scrutineers shall be informed in writing by the officer conducting the count as regards the time and place when and where such count will be commenced and conducted by him.
- (4) All the proceedings at the count of the votes shall be subject to the inspection of the scrutineers.
- (5) All informal votes shall be rejected and the number recorded.
- (6) The count of the votes may, from time to time, be adjourned as the officer conducting the count may deem necessary, until it has been duly completed.

[Section 134 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 33; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 56; No. 14 of 2016 s. 18.]

135. Adjournment of count etc. to be announced

Each adjournment shall be announced to the scrutineers and officers by the officer conducting the count and the time and place for the continuation of the count shall be in a similar manner made known to them.

[Section 135 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84.]

136. Before adjourning, ballot papers etc., to be sealed in boxes

- (1) Before every adjournment of the count of the votes all ballot papers and other documents connected with such count shall be placed in one or more ballot boxes, and the officer conducting the count shall then, in the presence of such scrutineers and officers as are present, seal such ballot box or boxes with his official seal, if any, or with his private seal, and any scrutineer who shall desire so to do, shall be permitted by the officer conducting the count to place his special seal upon such ballot box or boxes. The cleft shall also be closed and sealed unless the ballot box is provided with an outer cover without a cleft.
- (2) Before recommencing the count such seals shall be exhibited unbroken to the scrutineers and officers.

[Section 136 amended: No. 59 of 1919 s. 5; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84.]

Division 4A — Scrutiny and count (Assembly elections)

[Heading inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 64; amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

136A. Application of Division

Subject to sections 146B(1), 146D, and 146E, this Division applies only in relation to an election in a district and the poll for such an election.

[Section 136A inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 64; amended: No. 79 of 1987 s. 57.]

137. Scrutineers, appointment of

- (1) Each candidate or the candidate's official agent may appoint scrutineers to represent the candidate at the scrutiny and count of votes at each place where such scrutiny and count are conducted.
- (2) An appointment under subsection (1) shall be made in writing and addressed to the returning officer, or assistant returning officer, as the case may be.
- (3) For each place where the scrutiny and count of votes are conducted, each candidate or the candidate's official agent may appoint not more than —
 - (a) 2 scrutineers; or
 - (b) if counting of votes takes place simultaneously at 2 or more locations in that place, one scrutineer for each of those locations,

unless the returning officer, or assistant returning officer, as the case may be, allows a greater number.

[Section 137 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 64 of 2006 s. 36; No. 14 of 2016 s. 19.]

138. Scrutineers, submissions by etc.

- (1) A scrutineer may make submissions in relation to any ballot paper that the ballot paper is informal or not informal, and the officer conducting the count shall endorse the paper as "rejected" or "admitted" according to his decision to admit or reject the ballot paper.
- (2) Where an officer makes an endorsement referred to in subsection (1) the officer shall initial the endorsement.
- (3) Subject to sections 144(2b) and 146 a decision of an officer on a submission under subsection (1) is final unless reversed under Part V.

- (4) Nothing in this section prevents the officer conducting the count from rejecting any ballot paper as being informal or from admitting a ballot paper to the count in the absence of a submission by a scrutineer.

[Section 138 inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 58.]

139. Informal ballot papers defined

A ballot paper shall be informal —

- (a) if it is not initialled by the presiding officer, or, in the case of an early ballot paper, not initialled by the issuing officer, but where a ballot paper is not initialled by the presiding officer or the issuing officer, if it is printed on official paper the fact that it is not so initialled shall not of itself render the ballot paper informal; or

[(b) deleted]

- (c) if it has upon it any mark or writing not authorised by this Act which, in the opinion of the returning officer, will enable any person to identify the elector; or
- (d) where there are only 2 candidates, if it does not indicate the candidate for whom the elector votes, or, where there are more than 2 candidates, if it does not indicate the order of the elector's preference for all candidates, but the operation of this paragraph is subject to section 140A; or
- (e) if no mark is indicated on it, or the surname of any candidate is omitted from it, or no name of any candidate is written on it.

[Section 139 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 34; No. 53 of 1957 s. 12; No. 59 of 1959 s. 12; No. 68 of 1964 s. 26; No. 40 of 1987 s. 65; No. 79 of 1987 s. 59; No. 43 of 1996 s. 16; No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(2).]

140. Elector’s intention to be given effect

- (1) A ballot paper shall not be informal for any reason other than the reasons enumerated in section 139.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), where the vote of an elector is marked on a ballot paper in a manner other than the prescribed manner but the ballot paper clearly indicates the elector’s intention as necessary under section 139(d) and is not informal under section 139(a), (c) or (e), that ballot paper —
 - (a) shall not be informal; and
 - (b) shall be given effect to according to the elector’s intention.
- (3) In subsection (2) *prescribed manner* means —
 - (a) where there are only 2 candidates on the ballot paper, the manner required by section 128(2);
 - (b) where there are more than 2 candidates on the ballot paper, the manner required by section 128(3).

[Section 140 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 66; amended: No. 79 of 1987 s. 60; No. 20 of 1988 s. 7; No. 43 of 1996 s. 17; No. 20 of 2021 s. 69.]

140A. Some ballot papers with non-consecutive preferences can be formal

- (1) Where a ballot paper in an election in which there are more than 2 candidates —
 - (a) has the numeral “1” in the square opposite the name of a candidate; and
 - (b) has other numerals in the squares opposite the names of the remaining candidates or all but one of the remaining candidates; and
 - (c) but for this subsection, would be informal under section 139(d),

then —

- (d) the ballot paper shall not be informal under section 139(d); and
 - (e) the numeral “1” shall be taken to express the elector’s first preference; and
 - (f) where numerals in squares opposite the names of candidates are in a sequence of consecutive numbers beginning with the numeral “1”, the elector shall be taken to have expressed a preference by the other numeral, or to have expressed preferences by the other numerals, in that sequence; and
 - (g) the elector shall not be taken to have expressed any other preference.
- (2) In considering, for the purposes of subsection (1), whether numerals are in a sequence of consecutive numerals, any numeral that is repeated shall be disregarded.
- (3) If a ballot paper does not have a numeral in the square opposite the name of a candidate but a preference for that candidate is marked on the ballot paper in some other manner that clearly indicates the elector’s intention, the ballot paper shall be regarded, for the purposes of this section, as having the numeral appropriate to that preference marked in the square opposite the name of that candidate.

[Section 140A inserted: No. 43 of 1996 s. 18.]

[140B. Deleted: No. 20 of 1988 s. 8.]

141. Counting places and assistant returning officers

- (1) Subject to subsection (3) each polling place appointed under section 100(1)(a) or (c) shall be a counting place.
- (2) The returning officer may, by notice published in a newspaper circulating in the district, appoint such other counting places as he considers necessary for the district.

- (3) The returning officer may, by notice published in a newspaper circulating in the district, declare that subsection (1) does not apply to a polling place specified in the notice.
- (4) The returning officer shall appoint assistant returning officers to count, at counting places referred to in subsection (1) or appointed under subsection (2), votes cast at one or more polling places.
- (5) This section does not limit section 134(3).

[Section 141 inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 62; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 53; No. 20 of 2021 s. 70.]

142. Count of votes by assistant returning officers, procedure for

The procedure at the count of votes by the assistant returning officers shall be as follows:

- (1) Each assistant returning officer shall open all ballot boxes received at his counting place.
- (2) The assistant returning officer shall count all the votes on the ballot papers found in the boxes opened by himself, rejecting all informal ballot papers, and ascertain —
 - (a) the number of votes for each candidate, if there are only 2 candidates; or
 - (b) if there are more than 2 candidates, the number of first preference votes given for each candidate,and shall make and keep a record of the total number of votes for each candidate counted by him from each of such ballot boxes.
- [(3) deleted]*
- (4) Each assistant returning officer shall certify in writing, addressed to the returning officer, the number of votes or first preference votes, as the case may be, given for each candidate in the ballot papers contained in the ballot boxes counted at his counting place.

- (5) An assistant returning officer may communicate to the returning officer the number of votes or first preference votes, as the case may be, recorded for each candidate at the counting place for which he is appointed, and the returning officer, in ascertaining the result of the poll, may act upon the information so received.
- (6) Each assistant returning officer shall —
- (a) enclose —
 - (i) in one packet, all the used ballot papers in his possession; and
 - (ii) in another packet, all the unused ballot papers in his possession; and
 - (iii) in another packet, all copies of rolls, books, communications from officers, or other papers or documents used or received at or in connection with the election, that are in his possession;
 - and
 - (b) seal up the several packets and endorse the same with a description and the number of the contents thereof respectively, and the name of the counting place and the date of the polling, and sign the endorsement, and forthwith forward the said packets to the returning officer.
 - (c) The packet containing the used ballot papers shall be sealed before the scrutineers, if any, present at the count, and any scrutineer who desires so to do shall be permitted by the assistant returning officer to affix his seal upon such packet.

[Section 142 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 35; No. 59 of 1919 s. 5; No. 58 of 1961 s. 17; No. 68 of 1964 s. 28; No. 40 of 1987 s. 68 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 78; No. 36 of 2000 s. 68.]

142A. Early, absent and provisional votes, appointment of assistant returning officers for count of

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner may appoint assistant returning officers for the purpose of counting, under the direction of the Electoral Commissioner, votes cast at general polling places, early and absent votes and provisional votes cast under section 119(4a), 122(2), or 122A.
- (2) Each such assistant returning officer shall certify in writing addressed to the returning officer of the district concerned, the number of votes or first preference votes, as the case may be, given for each candidate on the ballot papers used for voting at general polling places, early and absent voters' ballot papers and ballot papers used for provisional voting under section 119(4a), 122(2), or 122A counted by him.
- (3) Any such assistant returning officer may communicate to the returning officer of the district concerned, the number of votes or first preference votes, as the case may be, given for each candidate on the ballot papers used for voting at general polling places, early and absent voters' ballot papers and ballot papers used for provisional voting under section 119(4a), 122(2) or 122A counted by him, and the returning officer in ascertaining the result of the poll may act upon the information so received.
- (4) Each such assistant returning officer shall, as soon as possible after completing the count of the votes on such ballot papers used for voting at general polling places, early and absent voters' ballot papers and ballot papers used for provisional voting under section 119(4a), 122(2), or 122A, transmit the same in the prescribed manner to the returning officer of the district concerned.

[Section 142A inserted: No. 63 of 1948 s. 21; amended: No. 58 of 1951 s. 18; No. 57 of 1952 s. 11; No. 40 of 1987 s. 69 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 63; No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(1), 52 and 68.]

143. Returning officer to ascertain number of votes for each candidate

- (1) The returning officer for the district shall, in manner hereinafter provided, ascertain the total number of votes given for each candidate.

[(2) deleted]

[Section 143 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 70 and 84.]

144. Count of votes by returning officer, procedure for

- (1) The procedure at the count of the votes by the returning officer for each district shall, if there are only 2 candidates, be as follows:

- (a) The returning officer shall —
- (i) open all ballot boxes not opened by assistant returning officers; and
 - (ii) count all the votes on the ballot papers found in such ballot boxes, rejecting all informal ballot papers, and ascertain the number of votes given for each candidate; and
 - (iii) make and keep a record of the number of votes counted from each ballot box.
- (b) The returning officer shall then —
- (i) ascertain from the communications received from assistant returning officers the number of votes given for each candidate at polling places where the ballot boxes have been opened by assistant returning officers and by persons voting at general polling places, absent voters and persons voting provisionally under section 119(4a), 122(2), or 122A and persons voting by early vote; and

- (ia) ascertain and keep a record of the number of votes given for each candidate under Division 3 Subdivision 2; and
 - (ii) add the votes so given for each candidate to the votes counted by himself in favour of each such candidate, so as to ascertain, for the whole district, the number of votes given for each candidate respectively.
 - (c) The candidate who has received the largest number of votes shall be declared by the returning officer duly elected.
 - (d) If the candidates have an equal number of votes section 145 applies.
- (2) The procedure at the count of the votes by the returning officer for each district, if there are more candidates than 2, shall be as follows:
- (a) The returning officer shall —
 - (i) open all ballot boxes not opened by assistant returning officers; and
 - (ii) arrange the ballot papers under the names of the respective candidates and place in a separate parcel all those on which a first preference is indicated for the same candidate, rejecting informal ballot papers; and
 - (iii) count all the first preference votes given for each candidate respectively; and
 - (iv) make and keep a record of the number of votes counted by him from each ballot box.
 - (b) The returning officer shall then —
 - (i) ascertain from the communications received from assistant returning officers the number of first preference votes given for each candidate at polling places where the ballot boxes have been opened by such assistant returning officers and

- by persons voting at general polling places, absent voters and persons voting provisionally under section 119(4a), 122(2), or 122A and persons voting by early vote; and
- (ia) ascertain and keep a record of the number of first preference votes given for each candidate under Division 3 Subdivision 2; and
 - (ii) add the first preference votes so given for each candidate to the votes counted by himself in favour of each such candidate, so as to ascertain, for the whole district, the number of first preference votes polled by each candidate respectively.
- (c) The candidate who has received the largest number of first preference votes shall, if such number constitutes an absolute majority of votes, be declared by the returning officer duly elected.
- (d) If no candidate has an absolute majority of votes the returning officer —
- (i) shall open the packets of ballot papers received from the assistant returning officers, including ballot papers used for voting at general polling places, absent voters' ballot papers and ballot papers used for provisional voting under section 119(4a), 122(2), or 122A and early ballot papers and deal with the ballot papers contained therein as prescribed by paragraph (a)(ii), adding such ballot papers to those previously counted by himself for each candidate; and
 - (ia) shall ascertain and keep a record of the number of first preference votes given for each candidate under Division 3 Subdivision 2, adding the votes to those previously counted by the returning officer for each candidate; and

- (ii) shall then declare the candidate who has obtained the fewest first preference votes to be a defeated candidate, and each ballot paper or vote record counted to the defeated candidate shall be distributed among the non-defeated candidates next in order of the elector's preference.
- (e) After such distribution the number of votes given to each non-defeated candidate shall again be ascertained.
- (ea) The candidate who then has obtained the largest number of votes shall, if such number constitutes an absolute majority of votes, be declared duly elected.
- (f) If no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes the process of declaring the candidate who has the fewest votes to be defeated, and distributing each of his ballot papers and vote records amongst the non-defeated candidates next in order of the voter's preference shall be repeated, and the votes re-counted after every such redistribution until one candidate has obtained an absolute majority of votes, and such candidate shall then be declared duly elected.
- (fa) A ballot paper or vote record shall be set aside as exhausted where on a count it is found that the ballot paper or vote record expresses no preference for any non-defeated candidate.
- (g) If, after any count, the candidate with the fewest votes has to be declared to be defeated under paragraph (d) or (f), and 2 or more candidates (in this paragraph called the *tied candidates*) have an equal number of votes (each other candidate having a larger number of votes) —
 - (i) the returning officer shall make out in respect of each of the tied candidates a slip bearing the name of the candidate, and deal with the slips in accordance with Schedule 2; and

- (ii) the candidate whose name is on the slip obtained by the returning officer in accordance with clause 5 of Schedule 2 shall be declared to be defeated.
 - (h) If after any count 2 or more candidates have an equal number of votes and they are the only candidates, or the only non-defeated candidates, section 145 applies.
- (2a) Where there are more candidates than 2 then, notwithstanding that a candidate has been declared duly elected, the process of excluding the candidate who has the fewest votes and distributing that candidate's preferences to the candidate next in order of the elector's preference shall be continued until there are only 2 unexcluded candidates.
- (2b) At any time before a candidate has been declared duly elected the returning officer may, if he thinks fit, make a fresh scrutiny of all the ballot papers and vote records or any parcel of them and for that purpose has the same power in relation to the counting of the votes as on the first scrutiny and may reverse any decision given by an assistant returning officer on the original scrutiny and if after such scrutiny one of the candidates is found to have obtained an absolute majority of votes shall declare that candidate duly elected.
- (3) In this section ***absolute majority of votes*** means a greater number than one-half of the whole number of ballot papers and vote records other than informal ballot papers and vote records.
- (3A) For the purposes of subsection (3), if at any stage of the count, ballot papers or vote records have been set aside under subsection (2)(fa), the whole number of ballot papers and vote records, at that stage, are to be taken to be reduced by the number of those ballot papers and vote records set aside.
- (4) Where the returning officer is satisfied that the votes —

- (a) on any ballot papers issued at some remote polling place in connection with the election, which have not been received by him; and
- (b) on any ballot papers used for voting at general polling places or absent voters' ballot papers or ballot papers used for provisional voting under section 119(4a), 122(2), or 122A or ballot papers used for voting by early vote which have not been received by him,

cannot, having regard to the number of those ballot papers, possibly affect the result of the election, he may subject to the concurrence of the Electoral Commissioner —

- (c) if there are only 2 candidates, declare the candidate who has received the largest number of votes on the ballot papers then received and counted to be duly elected; or
- (d) if there are more than 2 candidates and one candidate has received an absolute majority of the votes on the ballot papers then received and counted, declare such candidate duly elected; or
- (e) if no candidate has an absolute majority of the votes, then received and counted, proceed with the scrutiny;

without awaiting the receipt of the ballot papers which have not been received by him.

[Section 144 amended: No. 59 of 1919 s. 5; No. 63 of 1948 s. 22; No. 57 of 1952 s. 12; No. 40 of 1987 s. 71 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 64; No. 43 of 1996 s. 19; No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(8) and (9), 53, 69 and 82; No. 14 of 2016 s. 20.]

145. Equal votes, procedure in case of etc.

- (1) If after any count 2 or more candidates have an equal number of votes and they are the only candidates, or the only non-defeated candidates, the returning officer shall re-count the votes and, where appropriate, declare one of the candidates duly elected under section 144(1)(c), (2)(ea) or (2)(f).

- (2) The returning officer conducting the re-count shall have the same powers as if the re-count were the scrutiny, and may reverse any decision in relation to the scrutiny as to the allowance or admission or disallowance or rejection of any ballot paper.
- (3) If after the re-count 2 or more candidates (in this section called the *tied candidates*) have an equal number of votes and they are the only candidates, or the only non-defeated candidates, the returning officer shall notify the Electoral Commissioner of the result of the re-count.
- (4) On receipt of notification under subsection (3) the Electoral Commissioner shall file a petition addressed to the Court of Disputed Returns constituted under Part V —
 - (a) setting out the results of the scrutiny and count and the re-count; and
 - (b) requesting the Court to determine whether any of the candidates was duly elected and, if so, to declare that candidate duly elected.
- (5) Part V applies in respect of the petition as if it were a petition duly filed under sections 158 to 160 and, for the purposes of that application, the tied candidates shall be regarded as parties to the petition.
- (6) The Court shall endeavour to make its determination as soon as practicable after the petition is filed.
- (7) The Court may order that a new election be held in place of the election to which the petition relates if —
 - (a) the tied candidates both or all jointly request the Court to do so; or
 - (b) the Court is unable to declare any of the candidates duly elected,

and, notwithstanding anything in this Act, except where the Court otherwise orders, the same roll as was used for that election shall be used for the new election.

[Section 145 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 72; amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 21.]

146. Re-count, when may be conducted etc.

- (1) At any time before the declaration of the poll the returning officer may, if he thinks fit, at the request of any scrutineer, or of his own motion, re-count the votes.
- (2) The returning officer conducting the re-count shall have the same powers as if the re-count were the scrutiny, and may reverse any decision in relation to the scrutiny as to the allowance or admission or disallowance or rejection of any ballot paper or vote record.

[Section 146 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 36; No. 14 of 2016 s. 22.]

Division 4B — Scrutiny and count (Council elections)

[Heading inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 73 amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

146A. Application and construction of Division

- (1) This Division applies only in relation to a Council election and the poll taken for such an election.
- (2) Where in relation to a Council election the relevant number is one and there are only 2 candidates, a reference in this Division and Schedule 1 to —
 - (a) the indication of an elector's first preference for a candidate, shall be read and construed as a reference to the indication of the candidate for whom the elector votes;

- (b) first preference votes given for a candidate, shall be read and construed as a reference to votes given for the candidate.

[Section 146A inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 73; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 94.]

146B. Assistant returning officers, counting places etc.

- (1) Sections 141 and 142A apply to and in relation to a Council election as if references in those sections to a district were references to the whole of State electorate.
- (2) In the case of a conjoint election appointments of assistant returning officers and counting places under section 141, and of assistant returning officers under section 142A, for the purposes of an election for the Assembly have effect for the purposes of the corresponding election for the Council.

[Section 146B inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 73; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 71 and 94.]

146C. Scrutineers, appointment of

- (1) Where the relevant number is more than one —
- (a) each group, or the group's official agent, may appoint not more than 3 scrutineers to represent the candidates included in that group at the scrutiny and count of votes at each place where such scrutiny and count are conducted under section 146G or 146H;
- (b) each group, or the group's official agent, may appoint scrutineers, not exceeding in number such number as the returning officer determines, to represent the candidates included in that group at the scrutiny and count of votes under section 146I;
- (c) each candidate who is not included in any group, or the candidate's official agent, may appoint not more than 2 scrutineers to represent the candidate at the scrutiny and

count of votes at each place where such scrutiny and count are conducted under section 146G or 146H;

- (d) each candidate who is not included in any group, or the candidate's official agent, may appoint scrutineers, not exceeding in number such number as the returning officer determines, to represent the candidate at the scrutiny and count of votes under section 146I.
- (2) Where the relevant number is one —
 - (a) each candidate, or the candidate's official agent, may appoint not more than 2 scrutineers to represent the candidate at the scrutiny and count of votes at each place where such scrutiny and count are conducted under section 146G or 146H;
 - (b) each candidate, or the candidate's official agent, may appoint scrutineers, not exceeding in number such number as the returning officer determines, to represent the candidate at the scrutiny and count of votes under section 146I.
 - (3) An appointment under subsection (1) or (2) shall be made in writing and addressed to the returning officer, deputy returning officer or assistant returning officer, as the case may be.

[Section 146C inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 73; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 37; No. 14 of 2016 s. 23.]

146D. Scrutineers, submissions by etc.

Section 138 applies to and in relation to Council ballot papers as if the references in section 138(3) to sections 144(2b) and 146 were references to sections 146I(1) and 146J.

[Section 146D inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 65; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 72.]

146E. Informal ballot papers

- (1) Section 139(a), (c) and (e) apply to and in relation to a Council ballot paper.

- (2) A Council ballot paper is informal, where the relevant number in the election is one —
 - (a) where there are only 2 candidates — if it does not indicate the candidate for whom the elector votes; or
 - (b) where there are more than 2 candidates — if it does not indicate the elector’s preference for all candidates.
- (3) A Council ballot paper is informal, where the relevant number is more than one, if —
 - (a) in the case of a ballot paper described in section 128(4)(a) or (5)(a) — it does not indicate the elector’s preference for at least 20 candidates; or
 - (b) in the case of a ballot paper described in section 128(4)(b) or (5)(b) — it does not indicate the elector’s preference for all candidates.
- (4) The operation of subsection (2) is subject to section 146EA and the operation of subsection (3) is subject to sections 146EA and 146EB.
- (5) A Council ballot paper is not informal for any reason other than the reasons enumerated in section 139(a), (c) and (e) and subsections (2) and (3) of this section.
- (6) A Council ballot paper is not informal under subsection (3) if it is marked in accordance with section 128(6).
- (7) Without limiting the generality of subsection (5), if, after the nominations have been declared and before or on polling day before the hour of closing the poll in an election where the relevant number is more than one, a candidate dies and the number of candidates remaining is greater than the number of candidates to be elected, a Council ballot paper is not informal by reason only —
 - (a) of the inclusion on the ballot paper of the name of the deceased candidate; or

- (b) of the marking of any consecutive number opposite that name; or
 - (c) of the omission to place a number opposite that name, or of any resultant failure to indicate in consecutive order the voter's preference.
- (8) Without limiting the generality of subsection (5), where the vote of an elector is marked on a ballot paper in a manner other than the prescribed manner but the ballot paper clearly indicates the elector's intention as necessary under subsection (2)(a) or (b) or (3)(a) or (b) and is not informal under section 139(a), (c) or (e), that ballot paper —
- (a) is not informal; and
 - (b) is to be given effect according to the elector's intention.
- (9) In subsection (8) —
- prescribed manner*** means —
- (a) where the relevant number in the election is one and there are only 2 candidates on the ballot paper, the manner required by section 128(2);
 - (b) where the relevant number in the election is one and there are more than 2 candidates on the ballot paper, the manner required by section 128(3);
 - (c) where the relevant number in the election is more than one, the manner authorised by section 128(4)(a) or (b) or (5)(a) or (b), whichever is applicable.

[Section 146E inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 73.]

146EA. Formal votes for individual candidates

- (1) In a Council election where the relevant number is one and there are more than 2 candidates, or where the relevant number is more than one and there are no squares printed on the ballot papers under section 113B(5)(b), the following numerals placed in a square printed on a ballot paper must be disregarded —

- (a) numerals that are repeated and any numerals that are higher than a repeated numeral;
 - (b) if a numeral is missed — any numerals that are higher than the missing numeral.
- (2) In a Council election where the relevant number is more than one and there are one or more squares printed on the ballot papers under section 113B(5)(b), the following numerals placed in a square printed on a ballot paper below the line must be disregarded —
- (a) numerals that are repeated and any numerals that are higher than a repeated numeral;
 - (b) if a numeral is missed — any numerals that are higher than the missing numeral.

[Section 146EA inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 73.]

146EB. Formal votes for groups

- (1) In a Council election an elector who, in a square printed on a ballot paper above the line, places only a single tick or cross is taken to have written the numeral 1 in the square in accordance with section 128(6).
- (2) In a Council election the following numerals placed in a square printed on a ballot paper above the line must be disregarded —
 - (a) numerals that are repeated and any numerals that are higher than a repeated numeral;
 - (b) if a numeral is missed — any numerals that are higher than the missing numeral.
- (3) If a ballot paper is marked above the line in accordance with section 128(6) and is marked below the line but not in accordance with section 128(5), then, for the purposes of sections 146EC, 146G and 146H, the only squares that are taken to have been marked on the ballot paper are the squares that are marked above the line.

- (4) If a ballot paper is marked above the line, whether in accordance with section 128(6) or not, and is marked below the line in accordance with section 128(5), then, for the purposes of sections 146EC, 146G and 146H, the only squares that are taken to have been marked on the ballot paper are the squares that are marked below the line.

[Section 146EB inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 73.]

146EC. Treatment of ballot papers of electors who have voted above the line

- (1) This section applies if —
- (a) a ballot paper is marked in accordance with section 128(6); and
 - (b) one or more numerals are placed in squares printed on the ballot paper above the line in relation to groups of candidates (each group being a *preferred group*).
- (2) The ballot paper is taken to have been marked as if, instead of the numerals referred to in subsection (1)(b) —
- (a) each candidate in a preferred group was given a different numeral starting from 1; and
 - (b) candidates in a preferred group were given numerals consecutively, starting with the candidate whose name on the ballot paper is at the top of the group and ending with the candidate whose name is at the bottom of the group; and
 - (c) the order in which candidates in different preferred groups are given numerals is worked out by reference to the order in which the groups were given numerals on the ballot paper, starting with the group marked 1; and
 - (d) when all the candidates in a preferred group have been given numerals, the candidate whose name is at the top of the next preferred group is given the next consecutive numeral.

[Section 146EC inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 73.]

[146F. Deleted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 73.]

146G. Count of votes by assistant returning officers, procedure for

- (1) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll each assistant returning officer must —
- (a) open all ballot boxes received at the assistant returning officer's counting place and reject all informal ballot papers; and
 - (b) on the other ballot papers —
 - (i) if there are one or more squares above the line, count the number of first preference votes marked in that square or each of those squares; or
 - (ii) in a single member election or if there are no squares printed on the ballot papers under section 113B(5)(b), count the number of first preference votes given for each candidate;
- and
- (c) enclose —
 - (i) in one packet (the ***ballot paper packet***), all the used ballot papers in the assistant returning officer's possession; and
 - (ii) in another packet, all the unused ballot papers in the assistant returning officer's possession; and
 - (iii) in another packet, all copies of rolls, books, communications from officers, or other papers or documents used or received at or in connection with the election, that are in the assistant returning officer's possession;
- and

- (d) seal up those packets, endorse each with a description of its contents and with the name of the counting place and the date of the polling, sign the endorsement, and forward the packets to the deputy returning officer for the district together with —
 - (i) if paragraph (b)(i) applies, a list of the total number of first preference votes marked in the square, or each of the squares, above the line on the ballot papers contained in the ballot paper packet; or
 - (ii) if paragraph (b)(ii) applies, a list of the total number of first preference votes given for each candidate on the ballot papers contained in the ballot paper packet.
- (2) The ballot paper packet must be sealed before the scrutineers, if any, present and any scrutineer who desires to do so shall be permitted by the assistant returning officer to affix his seal on the packet.
- (3) The list made out under subsection (1)(d)(i) or (ii) must be verified by the signature of the assistant returning officer and also by the signatures of such of the scrutineers, if any, as are present and consent to sign it.
- (4) In the case of a conjoint election subsection (1)(c)(iii) does not apply to papers or documents that apply to both the election for the Assembly and the election for the Council.

[Section 146G inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 73; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 74.]

146H. Count of votes by deputy returning officer, procedure for

- (1) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll the deputy returning officer for each district (the **DRO**) must —
 - (a) open all ballot boxes received from polling places within the district that have not been opened by an assistant

returning officer and reject all informal ballot papers;
and

(aa) on the other ballot papers —

- (i) if there are one or more squares above the line, count the number of first preference votes marked in that square or each of those squares; or
- (ii) in a single member election or if there are no squares printed on the ballot papers under section 113B(5)(b), count the number of first preference votes given for each candidate;

and

(b) enclose —

- (i) in one packet, all the used ballot papers in the DRO's possession; and
- (ii) in another packet, all the unused ballot papers in the DRO's possession; and
- (iii) in another packet all copies of rolls, books, communications from officers, or other papers or documents used or received at or in connection with the election, that are in the DRO's possession,

other than those that have been forwarded to the DRO under section 146G(1)(d); and

(c) seal up those packets, endorse each with a description of its contents and with the name of the district and the date of the polling, and sign the endorsement; and

(d) make out —

- (i) if paragraph (aa)(i) applies, a list of the total number of first preference votes marked in the square, or each of the squares, above the line on the ballot papers contained in the packet mentioned in paragraph (b)(i); or

- (ii) if paragraph (aa)(ii) applies, a list of the total number of first preference votes given for each candidate on the ballot papers contained in the packet mentioned in paragraph (b)(i);
 - and
 - (e) enclose —
 - (i) in one packet, all the packets made up under section 146G(1)(c)(i) and forwarded to the DRO under section 146G(1)(d), the lists forwarded to the DRO with those packets, the packet made up by the DRO under paragraph (b)(i) and the list made out by the DRO under paragraph (d)(i) or (ii); and
 - (ii) in another packet, all the packets made up under section 146G(1)(c)(ii) and forwarded to the DRO under section 146G(1)(d) and the packet made up by the DRO under paragraph (b)(ii); and
 - (iii) in another packet, all the packets made up under section 146G(1)(c)(iii) and forwarded to the DRO under section 146G(1)(d) and the packet made up by the DRO under paragraph (b)(iii);
 - and
 - (f) seal up those packets, endorse each with a description of its contents and with the name of the district and the date of the polling, sign the endorsement, and forward the packets to the returning officer.
- (2) The packets mentioned in subsection (1)(b)(i) and (e)(i), respectively, shall be sealed before the scrutineers, if any, present and any scrutineer who desires to do so shall be permitted by the deputy returning officer to affix his seal on any such packet.
- (3) The list made out under subsection (1)(d)(i) or (ii) must be verified by the signature of the deputy returning officer and also

by the signatures of such of the scrutineers, if any, as are present and consent to sign it.

- (4) In the case of a conjoint election subsection (1)(b)(iii) and subsection (1)(e)(iii) do not apply to papers or documents that relate to both the election for the Assembly and the election for the Council.

[Section 146H inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 73; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 75.]

146I. Count of votes by returning officer, procedure for

- (1) The returning officer shall open the sealed packets of ballot papers made up under sections 146G(1)(c)(i) and 146H(1)(b)(i) and forwarded to him under section 146H(1)(f), and shall make a fresh scrutiny of the ballot papers contained in the packets and the ballot papers transmitted to him under section 142A(4), and for this purpose he shall have the same powers as if the fresh scrutiny were the original scrutiny, and may reverse any decision given by an assistant returning officer or deputy returning officer in relation to the original scrutiny as to the admission or rejection of any ballot paper.
- (2) The returning officer shall ascertain the result of the polling using the method provided in Schedule 1.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) the returning officer may, if the returning officer thinks fit —
- (a) cause the preferences indicated on ballot papers to be recorded in an automated form; and
 - (b) on the basis of the information so recorded, use automated means to carry out the procedures set out in Schedule 1 other than the procedures referred to in clauses 12, 15 and 17 of that Schedule for resolving equalities of votes or surpluses under those clauses.

- (4) For proceedings under subsection (3) the requirements of section 134(4) are met if —
- (a) the recording of preferences in an automated form is subject to the inspection of the scrutineers; and
 - (b) the scrutineers have access to the information so recorded and information as to the results obtained by using automated means to carry out the various procedures set out in Schedule 1.
- (5) If the result of the election is ascertained in accordance with subsection (3) —
- (a) when transmitting documents to the Electoral Commissioner under section 151(d), the returning officer shall transmit to the Electoral Commissioner a copy, in an automated form, of the information recorded under subsection (3)(a); and
 - (b) despite section 152(1)(b), ballot papers do not have to be preserved or held in custody after the election can no longer be questioned if the preferences on them have been recorded in an automated form; and
 - (c) section 155 extends to information recorded in an automated form; and
 - (d) on any recount, under section 156D, of the votes on the ballot papers used in the counting of votes at the election, the Electoral Commissioner shall, on the basis of the information recorded under subsection (3)(a), use automated means to carry out the procedures set out in Schedule 1 (as modified to give effect to section 156D(5) to (7)) other than the procedures referred to in clauses 12, 15 and 17 of that Schedule for resolving equalities of votes or surpluses under those clauses.

- (6) In this section *automated* means involving the use of a computer.

[Section 146I inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 73; amended: No. 79 of 1987 s. 68 and 78; No. 43 of 1996 s. 21; No. 20 of 2021 s. 76.]

146J. Re-count, when may be conducted etc.

- (1) At any time before the declaration of the result of the election the returning officer may, if he thinks fit, on the written request of any candidate setting forth the reasons for the request, or of his own motion, re-count the votes on the ballot papers from any district or portion of a district, or on the ballot papers contained in any parcel or on the ballot papers of any particular class.
- (2) In conducting the re-count the returning officer shall have the same powers as if the re-count were the scrutiny, and may reverse any decision in relation to the scrutiny as to the allowance or admission or disallowance or rejection of any ballot paper.
- (3) Section 146I(3) to (5) apply in relation to the re-count.

[Section 146J inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 73; amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 22.]

Division 5 — Declaration of poll and return of the writ

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

147. Declaration of poll and certification and return of writ

- (1) As soon as practicable after the result of the election has been ascertained, the returning officer is to —
- (a) declare the result of the election and the name of the candidate, or names of the candidates, elected; and

- (b) send to the Electoral Commissioner a written statement setting out —
 - (i) the result of the election; and
 - (ii) the day on which the result was declared; and
 - (iii) the name of the candidate, or names of the candidates, elected.
- (1a) A declaration under subsection (1) is to be made —
 - (a) in the case of an election in a district, within the district at a place appointed by the returning officer, unless the Electoral Commissioner decides that the declaration is to be made at a place outside the district; or
 - (b) in the case of a Council election, at a place appointed by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (2) A statement under subsection (1)(b) is not required if the election has wholly failed or the returning officer has given the Electoral Commissioner a notification under section 145(3).
- [(3) deleted]*
- (4) In the case of a Council election, when the statement required under subsection (1)(b) has been received the Electoral Commissioner is to certify on the writ —
 - (a) the name of the candidate, or names of the candidates, elected; and
 - (b) the day on which the result of the election was declared.
- (5) In the case of a general election for the Assembly, when all, or all except not more than 5, of the statements required under subsection (1)(b) have been received the Electoral Commissioner is to certify on the writ, in respect of each district for which a statement has been received —
 - (a) the name of the candidate elected; and
 - (b) the day on which the result of the election was declared.

- (6) In the case of any other election in a district, when the statement required under subsection (1)(b) has been received the Electoral Commissioner is to certify on the writ —
- (a) the name of the candidate elected; and
 - (b) the day on which the result of the election was declared.
- (7) A certificate under subsection (4), (5) or (6) is to be signed and dated by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (8) The writ is to be regarded as having been returned on the date of the certificate.
- (9) As soon as practicable after the return of the writ the Electoral Commissioner is to forward to the Clerk of the Council or the Clerk of the Assembly, as the case may require, the name of the member, or names of the members, elected together with a copy of the certified writ.
- (10) If in the case of a general election for the Assembly a statement required under subsection (1)(b) is received after the writ has been certified under subsection (5), the Electoral Commissioner is to —
- (a) comply with subsections (5) and (7) in respect of the district for which the statement was received; and
 - (b) forward to the Clerk of the Assembly the name of the member elected together with a copy of the writ as further certified,

but the writ is still regarded as having been returned on the date of the original certificate.

[Section 147 inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 18; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 38; No. 20 of 2021 s. 77 and 94.]

148. Election not to be questioned on certain grounds

No election shall be liable to be questioned by reason of any defect in the title or any want of title of any person by or before whom such election is held, if such person really acted at such

election, nor by reason of any formal error or defect in any declaration or other instrument, or in any publication made under this Act or intended to be so made, nor by reason of any such publication being out of time.

149. Informality in election, Governor's powers as to

No election shall be void in consequence solely of any delay in holding the election at the time appointed, or in taking the poll, or in the return of the writ, or in consequence of any impediment of a merely formal nature; and the Governor may adopt such measures as may be necessary for removing any obstacle of a merely formal nature by which the due course of any election might be impeded:

Provided that the validity of the election and the measures so taken shall be forthwith declared by the Governor by proclamation.

149A. Election of unqualified or disqualified person void

- (1) If a person not qualified under section 76A is elected as a member of the Council or the Assembly, the election of that person is void.
- (2) If a person disqualified under section 76B(1) is elected as a member of the Council or the Assembly, the election of that person is void.
- (3) If a person disqualified under section 76B(2) from being elected as a member of a House is elected as a member of that House, the election of that person is void.

[Section 149A inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 39.]

Division 6 — After the poll

[Heading amended: No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

149B. Term used: document

In this Division —

document includes a document in digital or electronic form.

[Section 149B inserted: No. 14 of 2016 s. 24.]

150. Statistical return and rolls, returning officer to send to Electoral Commissioner

- (1) The returning officer shall forthwith, after the day of polling at any election, complete and forward to the Electoral Commissioner a statistical return in the prescribed form.
- (2) The returning officer must also forward to the Electoral Commissioner all the certified copies of the marked and signed rolls used at the election by the returning officer and the presiding officers, upon which rolls records have been made under section 126 in respect of the names of electors who voted at the election.

[Section 150 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 77(4); No. 20 of 2021 s. 78.]

151. Other election papers, returning officer to send to Electoral Commissioner

The returning officer shall also, as soon as practicable after the day of polling at any election —

- (a) enclose —
 - (i) in a packet or packets, as the case may require, all the used ballot papers; and
 - (ii) in another packet or other packets, as the case may require, all books, communications from officers, or other papers or documents used or

received at or in connection with the election, that are in his possession (with the exception of the signed rolls);

- (b) seal up the said several packets and endorse the same with a description and the number of the contents thereof respectively, and the date of the polling, and, in the case of an election for a district, the name of the district, and shall sign the endorsement, and forthwith forward the said packets to the Electoral Commissioner;
- (c) seal up, endorse, and transmit in a similar manner to the Electoral Commissioner a packet or packets, as the case may require, containing all ballot papers printed for the said election and not used by him or by deputy or assistant returning officers or presiding officers;
- (d) seal up, endorse, and transmit to the Electoral Commissioner the marked rolls used at the election and all declarations in the prescribed form, excluding declarations relating to early votes, absent votes and provisional votes cast under section 119(4a), 122(2), or 122A, received by himself and the presiding officers;
- (e) the Electoral Commissioner shall forthwith give or send to the returning officer a receipt under his hand for the said packets.

[Section 151 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 43; No. 58 of 1951 s. 19; No. 68 of 1964 s. 29; No. 40 of 1987 s. 74 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 70; No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(1); No. 35 of 2012 s. 23; No. 20 of 2021 s. 79.]

152. Election papers, how long to be kept for

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner shall preserve and hold in custody all such ballot papers and other documents forwarded by the returning officers under the provisions of this Part until —

- (a) in the case of a Council election other than a general election for the Council, the election concerned can be no longer questioned; or
- (b) in the case of a general election for the Council, the members elected at the next succeeding general election for the Council become entitled to sit and vote,

when such ballot papers and other documents shall be destroyed.

- (2) If the Electoral Commissioner has consented to the use, for the purposes of research or analysis, of any ballot papers or other documents that are liable to be destroyed under subsection (1), then the Electoral Commissioner may defer their destruction until the conclusion of that research or analysis.

[Section 152 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 75; No. 35 of 2012 s. 24; No. 20 of 2021 s. 80.]

153. Rolls used at election, candidate may require production of

- (1) Any candidate on payment of a fee of \$100 may give notice to the returning officer requiring production of the rolls used by him and any assistant returning officers at any election, and if the notice is so given after the day of the election and before the day when the election can no longer be questioned such returning officer or assistant returning officers shall produce such roll or rolls in the presence of the other candidates (if they wish to be present) within 35 days of the date of service of the notice.
- (2) If the returning officer is satisfied that the application was made for a bona fide purpose he may direct repayment of the sum deposited.

[Section 153 amended: No. 28 of 1970 s. 15; No. 64 of 2006 s. 40.]

154. Election papers, production of to Court of Disputed Returns; purposes for which they can be used restricted

- (1) Such ballot papers and other documents as may be required by the Court of Disputed Returns shall, upon an order of the Court, be produced by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (2) Ballot papers or other documents held by the Electoral Commissioner under section 152 shall not be used or made available for any purpose other than —
 - (a) a purpose mentioned in subsection (1); or
 - (b) for the purposes of the election of a member of the Council under sections 156C and 156D; or
 - (c) a purpose mentioned in section 152.

[Section 154 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 76; No. 35 of 2012 s. 25.]

155. Election papers, destruction of

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), all books, documents, and papers used for or in connection with any election may, when the election can be no longer questioned, be destroyed by the Electoral Commissioner, or with his approval, by any returning officer.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to books, documents or papers used for or in connection with a general election for the Council that may be required for the purposes of the election of members of the Council under sections 156C and 156D.

[Section 155 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 77 and 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 78; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1); No. 20 of 2021 s. 81.]

155AA. Election papers used for referendum etc., use of and destruction of afterwards

Notwithstanding sections 152, 154 and 155, where books, documents or papers used in connection with an election were

also used in connection with a referendum or another election —

- (a) they shall be available for purposes connected with that referendum or other election; and
- (b) they shall not be destroyed while that referendum or other election can be questioned.

[Section 155AA inserted: No. 54 of 1983 s. 12.]

[155A. Deleted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 78.]

Division 7 — Voting to be compulsory

[Heading amended: No. 33 of 1964 s. 37; No. 14 of 2016 s. 28(6).]

155AB. Terms used

In this Division —

infringement notice means a notice under section 156(13A);

penalty notice means a notice under section 156(4);

prepared means produced or generated and recorded or stored, whether mechanically, magnetically, electronically or otherwise;

response date, in relation to —

- (a) a penalty notice, means the date referred to in section 156(6)(c) and set out in the notice;
- (b) an infringement notice, means the date referred to in section 156(13A)(b) and set out in the notice.

[Section 155AB inserted: No. 35 of 2012 s. 27.]

156. Elector's duty to vote; penalty and infringement notices, offences etc. for not voting

- (1) An elector must vote at any election for the whole of State electorate, and at any election for the district for which the elector is enrolled, unless prevented from doing so by absence

from the State, or by illness or infirmity, or any physical incapacity on the day of the election.

- (2) As soon as practicable after the election the Electoral Commissioner must ensure that there is prepared a list of the names and addresses of the electors who were enrolled on the roll for the whole of State electorate or the roll for the district, as the case requires, and did not vote at the election.
- (2a) A list prepared under subsection (2) shall be certified by statutory declaration of the Electoral Commissioner, or a person authorised by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (3) A list prepared and certified under subsections (2) and (2a) shall in all proceedings be prima facie evidence of the contents thereof and of the fact that the electors whose names appear therein did not vote at the election.
- (4) Subject to subsection (5), within the prescribed period after the close of each election, the Electoral Commissioner shall send a penalty notice to each elector whose name appears on the list prepared under subsection (2).
- (5) The Electoral Commissioner does not have to send a penalty notice to an elector if the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that the elector —
 - (a) is dead; or
 - (b) was outside the State on polling day; or
 - (c) was ineligible to vote at the election; or
 - (d) had a valid and sufficient reason for failing to vote.
- (6) A penalty notice is a notice in a prescribed form notifying the elector —
 - (a) that the elector appears to have failed to vote at the election; and
 - (b) that it is an offence to fail to vote at an election without a valid and sufficient reason for the failure; and

- (c) that if the elector does not wish to have the apparent failure to vote dealt with by a court, the elector may on or before the response date set out in the notice —
 - (i) if the elector did vote as required by this Act — give the Electoral Commissioner particulars of the circumstances of the elector’s voting; or
 - (ii) if the elector failed to vote — give the Electoral Commissioner a valid and sufficient reason for the failure; or
 - (iii) pay to the Electoral Commissioner the penalty set out in the notice (the *modified penalty*).
- (7) The response date set out in a penalty notice shall not be less than 21 days after the day on which the notice is sent.
- (8) The modified penalty set out in a penalty notice shall be an amount not exceeding \$20, unless the elector has previously paid a modified penalty under this section or been convicted of an offence against this section, in which case it shall be an amount not exceeding \$50.

[(9), (10) *deleted*]

- (11) If, on or before the response date —
 - (a) an elector responds to a penalty notice in the manner indicated in subsection (6)(c)(i) or (ii) and the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied —
 - (i) in the case of a response under subsection (6)(c)(i) — that the elector did vote as required by this Act; or
 - (ii) in the case of a response under subsection (6)(c)(ii) — that the reason for the failure to vote is a valid and sufficient reason;
 - or
 - (b) an elector responds to a penalty notice by paying the modified penalty,

proceedings are not to be taken against the elector for a contravention of subsection (16)(a).

(12) Subsection (13A) applies to an elector if a penalty notice is sent to the elector and —

- (a) the elector does not respond to the penalty notice on or before the response date; or
- (b) the elector responds to the penalty notice on or before the response date in the manner indicated in subsection (6)(c)(i) or (ii) but the Electoral Commissioner is not satisfied —
 - (i) in the case of a response under subsection (6)(c)(i) — that the elector voted as required by this Act; or
 - (ii) in the case of a response under subsection (6)(c)(ii) — that the reason for the failure to vote is a valid and sufficient reason.

(13A) If this subsection applies to an elector the Electoral Commissioner may send to the elector an infringement notice in a prescribed form —

- (a) notifying the elector —
 - (i) that the elector has not responded to a penalty notice; or
 - (ii) that the elector's response to a penalty notice has not satisfied the Electoral Commissioner,as the case may be; and
- (b) informing the elector that if the elector does not wish to be prosecuted in a court for an alleged offence of failure to vote at an election without a valid and sufficient reason for such failure, the elector may, on or before the response date set out in the infringement notice, pay to the Electoral Commissioner the penalty set out in the infringement notice (the *modified penalty*).

- (13) Subsections (7) and (8) apply, with any necessary modifications, to an infringement notice.
- (14) If in response to an infringement notice the modified penalty is paid to the Electoral Commissioner on or before the response date, proceedings are not to be taken against the elector for a contravention of subsection (16)(a).
- (14a) If an elector is unable, by reason of absence from his place of living or physical incapacity, to respond to a penalty notice or to an infringement notice on or before the response date, any other elector who has a personal knowledge of the facts may, subject to the regulations, respond to the notice within that time, and that response is to be treated as compliance by the first-mentioned elector with the notice.
- (15) At the conclusion of an election, the Electoral Commissioner shall —
- (a) cause to be ascertained whether any person who failed or neglected to respond to a penalty notice or an infringement notice is living at the address shown in the roll; and
 - (b) if he is satisfied that the person is no longer living at that address, cause the name of that person to be removed from the roll,
- and any person whose name has been removed from the roll pursuant to this subsection shall be required to furnish a new claim for enrolment before his name is reinstated on the roll.
- (16) Every elector who —
- (a) fails to vote at an election without a valid and sufficient reason for such failure (in this section the words ***valid and sufficient reason*** shall include an honest belief on the part of an elector that abstention from voting is part of his religious duty); or

- (b) makes a statement in response to a penalty notice or to an infringement notice that is, to the person's knowledge, false or misleading in a material particular,

shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalty: \$50.

- (17) Proceedings for an offence against this section shall not be instituted except by the Electoral Commissioner or an officer thereto authorised in writing by the Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 156 inserted: No. 10 of 1936 s. 3; amended: No. 63 of 1948 s. 23; No. 58 of 1951 s. 20; No. 33 of 1964 s. 38; No. 68 of 1964 s. 30; No. 28 of 1970 s. 16; No. 70 of 1973 s. 8; No. 123 of 1982 s. 2; No. 9 of 1983 s. 22; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 79 of 1987 s. 71 and 77; No. 43 of 1996 s. 23; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1); No. 64 of 2006 s. 41; No. 35 of 2012 s. 28; No. 20 of 2021 s. 82.]

156AA. Evidentiary certificate for s. 156 proceedings

- (1) In proceedings for an offence against section 156, a certificate containing a statement described in subsection (2) and purporting to be signed by the Electoral Commissioner is, without proof of any appointment or signature, evidence of the facts stated in the certificate.
- (2) A certificate may state any or all of the following —
- (a) a specified date is the date that an election was held;
 - (b) a specified person was an elector on a specified date;
 - (c) a specified person did not vote at an election;
 - (d) a specified person —
 - (i) was sent a penalty notice or an infringement notice;
 - (ii) did or did not (as the case may be) respond to a penalty notice or an infringement notice on or by a specified date;

- (iii) responded to a penalty notice or an infringement notice in a specified manner;
- (e) a penalty notice or an infringement notice was sent on a specified date;
- (f) a specified date was the response date for a penalty notice or an infringement notice.

(3) In subsection (2) —

specified means specified in the certificate.

[Section 156AA inserted: No. 35 of 2012 s. 29.]

Part IVA — Filling vacancies in the Council

[Heading inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 79.]

156A. Terms used

In this Part —

original election, in relation to a vacancy, means the general election for the Council in respect of which the vacancy has occurred at which —

- (a) the member in whose seat the vacancy has occurred; or
- (b) in a case where the member in whose seat the vacancy has occurred was elected under sections 156C and 156D or under section 156E, the member who was the predecessor (whether immediate, intermediate, or original) of that member,

was elected;

qualified person, in relation to a vacancy, means a person who —

- (a) was a candidate at the original election; and
- (b) did not withdraw from, and was not elected at, that election; and
- (c) has not become a member of the Council since that election; and
- (d) is qualified to be elected and is not disqualified from being elected as a member of the Council;

vacancy means a vacancy in the Council that occurs otherwise than because of —

- (a) the expiration of the term of service of a member; or
- (b) a Council election failing wholly or partially; or
- (c) the declaration of a Council election to be absolutely void.

[Section 156A inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 79; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 55(1) and (2); No. 64 of 2006 s. 53; No. 20 of 2021 s. 83 and 94.]

156B. Vacancy in Council, Governor to be notified of etc.

- (1) Where a vacancy occurs the President, upon a resolution of the Council declaring the vacancy and the cause thereof, shall, by notice signed by him, inform the Governor of the vacancy.
- (2) Subject to section 39(4) of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*, where a vacancy occurs when Parliament is not in session or during an adjournment for longer than 7 days of the Council the President may, without a resolution of the Council, by notice signed by him, inform the Governor of the vacancy.
- (3) Subject to section 39(4) of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*, where a vacancy occurs when there is no President, or when the President is absent from the State, the Governor may take notice of the vacancy.

[Section 156B inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 79.]

156C. Electoral Commissioner's duties when informed of vacancy; nominations of candidates for vacancy being filled by re-count

- (1) Where the Governor receives or takes notice of a vacancy under section 156B the Governor shall inform the Electoral Commissioner who shall —
 - (a) if satisfied that it is practicable to fill the vacancy under this section and section 156D, publish on the Commission website, and in any other way the Electoral Commissioner considers appropriate, a notice in accordance with the prescribed form to the effect that the vacancy has occurred; or
 - (b) by notice signed by him, inform the Governor that he is not satisfied that it is practicable to fill the vacancy under this section and section 156D.

s. 156C

- (2) Where a vacancy is to be filled and —
- (a) the member in whose seat the vacancy has occurred; or
 - (b) in a case where the member in whose seat the vacancy has occurred was elected under this section and section 156D or under section 156E, the member who was the predecessor (whether immediate, intermediate, or original) of that member,
- was, at the time of being elected at the original election, publicly recognised by a particular political party as being an endorsed candidate of that party and publicly represented himself to be such a candidate at that time then, without limiting the generality of subsection (1), it shall be taken to be impracticable to fill the vacancy under this section and section 156D if the parliamentary leader of that party, by notice signed by him, informs the Electoral Commissioner that there is no available qualified person who is a member of that party.
- (3) Where notice of a vacancy is published under subsection (1)(a) a qualified person may nominate himself as a candidate for the vacancy in accordance with this section.
- (4) A person may make a nomination under subsection (3) —
- (a) by delivering or posting his written consent to act, if elected; or
 - (b) by signifying his consent to act, if elected, by a message sent by telegram, telex, or other electronic means,
- to the Electoral Commissioner so that it is received by the Electoral Commissioner before 12 noon on the tenth day after the day on which the notice of the vacancy was published under subsection (1)(a).
- (5) Where a nomination under subsection (3) is made otherwise than by telegram, telex, or other electronic means, it is not valid unless made in the prescribed form by the nominating candidate and unless his signature is witnessed by an elector.

- (6) Where such a nomination is made by a message by telegram, telex, or other electronic means, it is not valid unless it is verified in the prescribed manner.

[Section 156C inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 79; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 55(2); No. 20 of 2021 s. 84.]

156D. Vacancy being filled by re-count, procedure at close of nominations

- (1) At 12 noon on the tenth day after the day on which notice of a vacancy was published under section 156C(1)(a) the Electoral Commissioner shall declare the names of each person who has made a nomination in accordance with section 156C (in this section referred to as a *consenting candidate*).
- (2) If there is no consenting candidate for the vacancy the Electoral Commissioner shall, by written notice, inform the Governor accordingly.
- (3) If there is only one consenting candidate for the vacancy the Electoral Commissioner shall —
- (a) declare that consenting candidate to be elected as a member of the Council to fill the vacancy; and
 - (b) by written notice, inform the Governor of the election of that consenting candidate.
- (4) If there are 2 or more consenting candidates for the vacancy the Electoral Commissioner, using the method prescribed in Schedule 1, shall re-count the votes on the ballot papers used in the counting of votes at the original election.
- (5) On the re-count under subsection (4) a preference indicated on a ballot paper for a previously elected member whose seat has become vacant shall be disregarded and the ballot paper shall be treated as if the numeral indicating any subsequent preference had been altered accordingly.

s. 156D

- (6) If on the re-count under subsection (4) a non-participating candidate is elected that election has no effect and the Electoral Commissioner shall terminate that re-count and repeat the procedure of re-counting the votes on the ballot papers until a consenting candidate is elected.
- (7) On a re-count under subsection (6) a preference indicated on a ballot paper for —
- (a) a previously elected member whose seat has become vacant; or
 - (b) a non-participating candidate who has been elected on the re-count under subsection (4) or on a previous re-count under subsection (6),

shall be disregarded and the ballot paper shall be treated as if the numeral indicating any subsequent preference had been altered accordingly.

- (8) When on a re-count under this section a consenting candidate is elected the Electoral Commissioner shall —
- (a) in the prescribed manner, declare that consenting candidate to be elected as a member of the Council to fill the vacancy; and
 - (b) by written notice, inform the Governor of the election of that consenting candidate.
- (9) A re-count under this section does not affect the election of a previously elected member and where a previously elected member is elected or excluded during a re-count that election or exclusion has effect for the purposes of the continuation of the re-count and for those purposes only.
- (10) The Electoral Commissioner shall make such arrangements for a re-count under this section as are prescribed.
- (11) A consenting candidate or the consenting candidate's official agent may appoint one scrutineer to represent the candidate at a re-count under this section.

- (12) When a member has been elected under this section the Electoral Commissioner shall not destroy papers and documents relating to the election of the member until the election can be no longer questioned.
- (13) If no re-count under subsection (4) or (6) results in the election of a consenting candidate the Electoral Commissioner shall, by written notice, inform the Governor that the vacancy has not been filled under this section.
- (14) In this section —
- ballot paper** includes a vote record;
- non-participating candidate** means a person who was a candidate at the original election and is neither a consenting candidate nor a previously elected member;
- previously elected member** means a person who —
- (a) was elected as a member of the Council at the original election; or
 - (b) was declared elected as a member of the Council under this section after the original election.

[Section 156D inserted: No. 66 of 1990 s. 3; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 55(2); No. 35 of 2012 s. 26; No. 14 of 2016 s. 25.]

156E. Vacancy being filled by fresh election, writ for

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), where after receiving or taking notice of a vacancy under section 156B the Governor receives a notice under section 156C(1)(b), 156D(2) or 156D(13) in relation to the vacancy the Governor shall cause a writ to be issued for an election in the whole of State electorate to fill the vacancy.
- (2) A writ shall not be issued under subsection (1) on or after 1 January in the year in which the term of service of the member whose seat has been vacated would have expired and, in that case, the vacancy shall be deemed for the purposes of section 64(3) and the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*

s. 156E

section 10 to occur by effluxion of time at the close of 21 May in that year.

[Section 156E inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 79; amended: No. 66 of 1990 s. 4; No. 36 of 2000 s. 19; No. 49 of 2011 s. 10; No. 20 of 2021 s. 85.]

Part V — Disputed returns

157. Validity of election or return, how to dispute

- (1) The validity of any election or return may be disputed by petition addressed to the Court of Disputed Returns, and not otherwise.
- (2) A judge of the Supreme Court sitting in open Court shall constitute the Court of Disputed Returns.

158. Petition to Court of Disputed Returns, content of etc.

Every petition disputing an election or return, in this Part called the petition, shall —

- (1) set out the facts relied on to invalidate the election or return;
- (2) contain a prayer asking for the relief the petitioner claims to be entitled to;
- (3) be signed by a candidate at the election in dispute;
- (4) be attested by 2 witnesses whose occupations and addresses are stated;
- (5) be filed in the Central Office of the Supreme Court within 40 days after the return of the writ.

[Section 158 amended: No. 39 of 1979 s. 22.]

159. Return of writ, presumed date of

For the purpose of the last preceding section the writ shall be deemed not to have been returned earlier than the date thereby appointed as the day on or before which the same is to be returned.

s. 160

160. Security for costs, petitioner to give

At the time of filing the petition the petitioner shall deposit with the Principal Registrar of the Supreme Court the sum of \$100 as security for costs.

[Section 160 amended: No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 67 of 1979 s. 53.]

161. No proceedings on petition unless it complies with law

No proceedings shall be had on the petition unless the requirements of the preceding sections are complied with.

162. Court's powers on petition

- (1) The powers of the Court of Disputed Returns shall include the following:
 - (a) To adjourn.
 - (b) To compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents.
 - (c) To examine witnesses on oath.
 - (ca) To grant to any party to the petition, leave to inspect in the presence of a prescribed officer, the rolls and other documents (except ballot papers) used at or in connection with any elections and to take, in the presence of the prescribed officer, extracts from those rolls and documents.
 - (cb) To permit, at any stage of the proceedings and on such terms as may be just, all such amendments to the petition or other pleadings, as shall appear to the Court to be necessary or convenient.
 - (d) To declare that any person who was returned as elected was not duly elected.
 - (e) To declare any candidate duly elected who was not returned as elected.
 - (f) To declare any election absolutely void.

- (g) To dismiss or uphold any petition, in whole or in part.
 - (h) To award costs.
 - (i) To punish any contempt of its authority by fine or imprisonment.
- (2) The Court may exercise all or any of its powers under this section on such grounds as the Court in its discretion thinks fit and sufficient.
- (3) Without limiting the powers conferred by this section, it is hereby declared that the power of the Court to declare that any person who was returned as elected was not duly elected, or to declare an election absolutely void, may be exercised on the ground that illegal practices were committed in connection with the election.

[Section 162 amended: No. 63 of 1948 s. 24.]

163. Court's duties etc.; roll and electors' qualifications, status of

- (1) The Court shall inquire whether or not the requisites of section 158 have been observed, and, so far as the voting is concerned, may inquire into the identity of persons, and whether their votes were improperly admitted or rejected, and whether the result of the polling was correctly ascertained, but the Court shall deem the roll conclusive evidence that the persons enrolled were, at the date of the completion of the roll, entitled to be enrolled.
- (2) The qualification of any person enrolled shall not be questioned; and no election shall be declared void on the ground that any person whose name appears on the roll for the whole of State electorate or a district, and who has voted as an elector for that electorate or district, was not qualified to be enrolled or to continue enrolled as an elector for that electorate or district.

[Section 163 amended: No. 67 of 1979 s. 53; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 20 of 2021 s. 86.]

s. 164

164. Bribery etc. by candidate or illegal practice, voiding election in case of

- (1) If the Court of Disputed Returns finds that a candidate has committed or has attempted to commit bribery or undue influence, his election, if he is a successful candidate, shall be declared void.
- (2) No finding by the Court of Disputed Returns shall bar or prejudice any prosecution for any illegal practice.
- (3) The Court of Disputed Returns shall not declare that any person returned was not duly elected, or declare any election void —
 - (a) on the ground of any illegal practice committed by any person other than the candidate and without his knowledge or authority; or
 - (b) on the ground of any illegal practice, other than bribery or corruption or attempted bribery or corruption, unless the Court is satisfied that the result of the election was intended to be and was actually affected thereby, and that it is just that the candidate should be declared not to be duly elected, or that the election should be declared void.

165. Illegal practice, Court to report to Electoral Commissioner

When the Court of Disputed Returns finds that any person has committed an illegal practice, the Principal Registrar of the Supreme Court shall forthwith report the finding to the Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 165 amended: No. 67 of 1979 s. 53; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84.]

166. Delays and immaterial errors not to vitiate election

No election shall be voided on account of any delay in the declaration of nominations, the polling, or the return of the writ,

or on account of the absence or error of any officer which shall not be proved to have affected the result of the election.

167. Court's decision is final

All decisions of the Court shall be final and conclusive without appeal, and shall not be questioned in any way.

168. Copies of petition etc. to be sent to House affected

The Principal Registrar of the Supreme Court shall forthwith, after the filing of the petition, forward to the Clerk of the House of Parliament affected by the petition a copy thereof, and, after the trial of the petition, shall forthwith forward to such Clerk a copy of the order of the Court.

[Section 168 amended: No. 67 of 1979 s. 53.]

169. Costs

The Court may award costs against an unsuccessful party to the petition, to be taxed by the Taxing Officer of the Supreme Court, and may in its discretion recommend that costs be paid by the Crown.

[Section 169 amended: No. 39 of 1979 s. 23.]

170. Security for costs, how to be dealt with

If costs are awarded to any party against the petitioner, the deposit shall be applicable in payment of the sum ordered, but otherwise the deposit shall be repaid to the petitioner.

171. Other costs

All other costs awarded by the Court, including any balance above the deposit payable by the petitioner, shall be recoverable as if the order of the Court were a judgment of the Supreme Court, and such order, certified by the Court, may be entered as a judgment of the Supreme Court, and enforced accordingly.

172. Court's decision, effect of

- (1) Effect shall be given to any decision of the Court as follows:
 - (a) If any person returned is declared not to have been duly elected, he shall cease to be a member of the Council or Assembly.
 - (b) If any person not returned is declared to have been duly elected he may take his seat accordingly.
 - (c) If any election is declared absolutely void a new election shall be held, and, notwithstanding any provisions elsewhere in this Act contained, except where the Court otherwise orders, the same roll as was used for the voided election, shall be used for such new election.
- (2) The proceedings of the Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly shall not be invalidated by reason of the presence in that House of any person returned under this Act as elected to that House but later subject to a declaration of the Court that —
 - (a) he was not duly elected to that House; or
 - (b) his election to that House is void or absolutely void.
- (3) Where a person returned under this Act as elected to the Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly receives an appointment to one or more of the principal executive offices of the Government referred to in section 43 of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*, but later he is subject to a declaration by the Court that —
 - (a) he was not duly elected to that House; or
 - (b) his election to that House is void or absolutely void,any act, matter, or thing made, done, or executed in the exercise or purported exercise of the functions of that office or those offices from the time of his appointment until the time of the declaration shall not be invalidated by reason of the effect of that declaration apart from this subsection.

[Section 172 amended: No. 63 of 1948 s. 25; No. 39 of 1979 s. 24.]

173. Rules of Court for this Part

- (1) The judges of the Supreme Court or any 2 of them may make Rules of Court not inconsistent with this Act for carrying this Part into effect, and in particular for regulating the practice and procedure of the Court the forms to be used, and the fees to be paid by parties.
- (2) Every such Rule of Court shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within 40 days next after it is made, if Parliament is then sitting, or if Parliament is not then sitting, then within 40 days after the next meeting of Parliament.
- (3) If an address is presented to the Governor by either House of Parliament within the next subsequent 40 sitting days of the House praying that any such rule may be annulled, the Governor may thereupon annul the same.
- (4) The rule so annulled shall thenceforth become void and of no effect, but without prejudice to the validity of any proceedings which have in the meantime been taken under it.

174. Election of MLC on re-count, application of this Part to

Sections 157, 158, 160, 161, 162(1) and (2), 163(1) and 167 to 173 apply to and in relation to the election of a member of the Council under sections 156C and 156D as if that election was an election within the meaning of this Act, but for the purposes of that application —

- (a) section 158(5) shall be deemed to be amended by deleting “return of the writ” and substituting the following —
“ declaration of the election ”; and
- (b) section 162(1)(ca) and (f) and section 172(1)(c) shall be deemed to be deleted; and

s. 174

- (c) section 163(1) shall be deemed to be repealed and the following subsection substituted —

“

- (1) The Court may inquire whether or not the requisites of section 158 have been observed, whether or not a nomination was validly made under section 156C(3), and whether or not the re-count of votes conducted under section 156D was correctly conducted, but shall not inquire into any other matter.

”.

[Section 174 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 80.]

Part VI — Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

*[Heading inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 58; amended: No. 55 of
2006 s. 5.]*

Division 1 — Preliminary

[Heading inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175. Terms used

In this Part, unless the contrary intention appears —

agent means agent for the purposes of this Part;

associated entity means an entity that —

- (a) is controlled by one or more political parties; or
- (b) operates for the benefit of one or more political parties;

broadcast means broadcast by radio or televisive;

campaign committee, in relation to a political party, means a body of persons appointed or engaged to form a committee to assist the campaign in an election of —

- (a) the candidates in a general election who are endorsed by the party; or
- (b) a candidate in the election who is endorsed by the party; or
- (c) a group in the election all the persons included in which are endorsed by the party;

disposition of property means any conveyance, transfer, assignment, settlement, delivery, payment or other alienation of property, and includes —

- (a) the allotment of shares in a company; and
- (b) the creation of a trust in respect of property; and

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 1 Preliminary

s. 175

- (c) the grant or creation of any lease, mortgage, charge, easement, licence, power, partnership or interest in respect of property; and
- (d) the release, discharge, surrender, forfeiture or abandonment, at law or in equity, of any debt, contract or chose in action, or of any interest in respect of property; and
- (e) the exercise by a person of a general power of appointment over property in favour of any other person; and
- (f) any transaction entered into by any person with intent thereby to diminish, directly or indirectly, the value of the person's own property and to increase the value of the property of any other person;

division, in relation to a political party, includes a branch or campaign committee of the party;

election period, in relation to an election, means the period commencing on the day of issue of the writ for the election and ending at the latest time on polling day at which an elector in the State could enter a polling booth for the purpose of casting a vote in the election;

electoral expenditure, in relation to an election, means expenditure incurred (whether or not incurred during the election period) on —

- (a) the broadcasting, during the election period, of an advertisement relating to the election; or
- (b) the publishing in a journal, during the election period, of an advertisement relating to the election; or
- (c) the display, during the election period, at a theatre or other place of entertainment, of an advertisement relating to the election; or
- (d) the production of an advertisement relating to the election, being an advertisement that is broadcast,

published or displayed as mentioned in paragraph (a),
(b) or (c); or

- (e) the production of any material (not being material referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (c)) that is required under section 187 to include the name and address of the person authorising the material and that is used during the election period; or
- (ea) the production and distribution of electoral matter that is addressed to particular persons or organisations and is distributed during the election period; or
- (f) consultant's or advertising agent's fees in respect of —
 - (i) services provided during the election period, being services relating to the election; or
 - (ii) material relating to the election that is used during the election period;

or

- (g) the carrying out, during the election period, of an opinion poll, or other research, relating to the election;

electoral matter means matter that is intended, calculated or likely to affect voting in an election;

entity means —

- (a) an incorporated or unincorporated body;
- (b) the trustee of a trust;

financial controller, in relation to an associated entity, means —

- (a) if the entity is a company, the secretary of the company;
- (b) if the entity is the trustee of a trust, the trustee;
- (c) in other cases, the person responsible for maintaining the financial records of the entity;

general election means a general election for the Assembly or the Council;

gift means any disposition of property made by a person to another person, otherwise than by will, being a disposition made without consideration in money or money's worth or with inadequate consideration, and includes the provision of a service (other than volunteer labour) for no consideration or for inadequate consideration, but does not include an annual subscription of not more than \$200 paid by a person to a political party or to a division of a political party in respect of the person's membership of the party or division;

journal means a newspaper, magazine or other periodical, whether published for sale or for distribution without charge;

principal officer of a public agency means —

- (a) in relation to a department of the Public Service or an organisation specified in column 2 of the Schedule to the *Public Service Act 1978*⁴ — the chief executive officer of that department or organisation;
- (b) in relation to the Police Force of Western Australia — the Commissioner of Police;
- (c) in relation to a public agency that consists of one person (not being an incorporated body) — that person;
- (d) in relation to a public agency for which the regulations declare an officer to be the principal officer of the agency — that officer;
- (e) in relation to any other public agency —
 - (i) if it is an incorporated body that has no members — the person who manages the affairs of the body; or
 - (ii) if it is a body (whether incorporated or not) that is constituted by 2 or more persons — the person who is entitled to preside at any meeting of the body at which he or she is present;

property includes money;

public agency means —

- (a) a department of the Public Service or an organisation specified in column 2 of Schedule 2 to the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*; or
- (b) the Police Force of Western Australia; or
- (c) a body or office that is established for a public purpose under a written law; or
- (d) a body or office that is established by the Governor or a Minister; or
- (e) any other body or office that is declared by the regulations to be a public agency being —
 - (i) a body or office established under a written law; or
 - (ii) a corporation or association over which control can be exercised by the State, a Minister, a body referred to in paragraph (a), (c), (d) or (e)(i), or the holder of an office referred to in paragraph (d) or (e)(i);

specified amount means \$1 500 or such greater amount as is determined and published by the Electoral Commissioner —

- (a) under the regulations; and
- (b) within the period of 30 days after the polling day in a general election.

[Section 175 inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26); amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 59 and 66; No. 35 of 2012 s. 5.]

175A. Interpretation of this Part

- (1) A reference in this Part to things done by or with the authority of a political party or a division of a political party shall, if the party or division is not a body corporate, be read as a reference to things done by or with the authority of members or officers of the party or division on behalf of the party or division.

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 1 Preliminary

s. 175A

- (2) A reference in this Part to the endorsement by a political party of a candidate or group in an election includes a reference to the endorsement of that candidate or group by a body or organisation of which the party forms part or by a division of the party.
- (3) A reference in this Part to a political party, other than a reference to the endorsement of a candidate or group in an election, shall be read as not including a reference to a part of the party.
- (4) For the purposes of this Part, the amount or value of a gift consisting of or including a disposition of property other than money shall, if the regulations so provide, be determined in accordance with principles set out or referred to in the regulations.
- (5) For the purposes of this Part —
 - (a) a body corporate and any other body corporate that is related to the first-mentioned body corporate shall be deemed to be the same person; and
 - (b) the question whether a body corporate is related to another body corporate shall be determined in the same manner as the question whether a corporation is related to another corporation is determined under the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth.
- (6) If the Electoral Commissioner determines and publishes an amount for the purposes of the definition of *specified amount* in section 175, the amount published becomes the specified amount —
 - (a) in relation to sections 175O, 175P, 175Q and 175R(1)(b), (c) and (d) — from the end of the period of 30 days mentioned in that definition; and
 - (b) in relation to sections 175N, 175R(1)(a) and 175ZE — on and from 1 July next following publication.

- (7) For the purposes of this Part, an advertisement relates to an election if it contains electoral matter, whether or not consideration was given for the publication or broadcasting of the advertisement.
- (8) For the purposes of Division 4, electoral expenditure incurred by or with the authority of a division of a political party shall be taken to have been incurred by the party.

[Section 175A inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26); amended: No. 10 of 2001 s. 220.]

Division 2 — Agents

[Heading inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175B. Agent of political party, appointment of

- (1) A political party shall appoint a person as its agent.
- (2) If an appointment under subsection (1) ceases to be in force the political party shall make another appointment under that subsection.

[Section 175B inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175C. Agent of candidate, appointment of etc.

- (1) A candidate in an election (including a person included in a group) may appoint a person as the agent of the candidate in relation to the election.
- (2) When there is no appointment in force under subsection (1) of an agent of a candidate in an election —
- (a) if the candidate has been endorsed by a political party, the agent of the political party is the agent of the candidate in relation to the election; or
 - (b) if paragraph (a) does not apply, the candidate is the agent in relation to the election.

[Section 175C inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4; amended: No. 7 of 2009 s. 14.]

175D. Agent of group, appointment of etc.

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) the persons included in a group in an election may appoint a person as the agent of the group in relation to the election.
- (2) Where all the persons included in a group in an election have been endorsed by the same political party, the agent of the political party is the agent of the group in relation to the election.
- (3) When there is no appointment in force under subsection (1) of an agent of a group in an election and subsection (2) does not apply to the group, the person whose name is to appear first in the group in the ballot papers under section 113B(3)(c) is the agent of the group in relation to the election.

[Section 175D inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 87.]

175E. Appointment under s. 175B, 175C and 175D, eligibility for and notice of

- (1) An appointment of an agent under section 175B, 175C(1) or 175D(1) has no effect unless —
 - (a) the person appointed is a natural person who has attained the age of 18 years; and
 - (b) notice of the appointment, setting out the name and address of the person appointed, is given to the Electoral Commissioner by the political party, the candidate, or each person included in the group, making the appointment; and
 - (c) the person appointed has signed a form of consent to the appointment and a declaration of eligibility for appointment.

- (2) The notice under subsection (1)(b) shall be in an approved form incorporating the consent and declaration under subsection (1)(c).
- (3) Where a person who is the agent of a political party, of a candidate, or of a group is convicted of an offence against this Part in relation to a particular election, the person is not eligible to be appointed or hold office as an agent in relation to any subsequent election.
- (4) An appointment of an agent under section 175C(1) or 175D(1) is not effective in relation to anything required by this Part to be done —
 - (a) in respect of a return under this Part in relation to an election; or
 - (b) during a prescribed period after polling day in an election,

if notice of the appointment was given to the Electoral Commissioner after 6 p.m. on the day before polling day in the election.

[Section 175E inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 60.]

175F. Agent of political party, registration of

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner shall keep a register for the purposes of this section (the *party agents register*).
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner shall enter in the party agents register the name and address of every person appointed to be an agent of a political party.

[Section 175F inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175G. Agent of political party, appointment of has no effect if not on register

The appointment of an agent by a political party —

- (a) takes effect on the entry of the name and address of the agent in the party agents register; and
- (b) ceases to have effect if the name and address of the agent are removed from the party agents register.

[Section 175G inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175H. Agent of political party, removing from register

The name and address of a person shall not be removed from the party agents register unless —

- (a) the person gives to the Electoral Commissioner notice, in an approved form, of having resigned the appointment as agent; or
- (b) the political party that appointed the person gives to the Electoral Commissioner notice, in an approved form, that the person's appointment has been revoked or that the person has died or resigned and also gives notice under section 175E(1)(b) of the appointment of another person as agent of the party; or
- (c) the person is convicted of an offence against this Part.

[Section 175H inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175I. Agent of political party, evidence of appointment of

An entry in the party agents register is, for all purposes, conclusive evidence that the person described in the entry is the agent of the political party named in the entry.

[Section 175I inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175J. No agent of political party, who has Div. 3 duties in case of

Where Division 3 imposes an obligation on the agent of a political party and there is no agent of the party, the obligation rests on each of the members of the executive committee of the party and this Act applies to each of those members as if the obligation rested on that member alone.

[Section 175J inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175K. Agent of candidate or group, revoking appointment of

- (1) A candidate or the persons included in a group may, by giving notice to the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form, revoke the appointment of a person as an agent of the candidate or group under section 175C(1) or 175D(1).
- (2) A notice under subsection (1) has no effect unless it is signed by the candidate or by each person included in the group, as the case requires.

[Section 175K inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175L. Agent of candidate or group, notice of death or resignation of to be given

If an agent appointed by a candidate or group under section 175C(1) or 175D(1) dies or resigns, the candidate or a person included in the group, as the case requires, shall without delay give to the Electoral Commissioner notice, in an approved form, of the death or resignation.

[Section 175L inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

Division 2A — Electoral funding

[Heading inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6.]

175LA. Terms used and interpretation

- (1) In this Division —

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 2A Electoral funding

s. 175LB

election does not include an election held before the coming into operation of the *Electoral Reform (Electoral Funding) Act 2006* section 6;

eligible vote means —

- (a) a vote given at an election in which there are only 2 candidates; or
- (b) a first preference vote given at an election in which there are more than 2 candidates,

but does not include any vote on a ballot paper that has been rejected;

party group means a group all the persons included in which have been endorsed by the same registered political party.

- (2) For the purposes of this Division, a reference to a vote given includes a reference to a vote taken under section 146EC(2) to have been given.
- (3) For the purposes of this Division, electoral expenditure incurred in relation to an election by or with the authority of —
 - (a) a candidate endorsed by a registered political party who is not included in a group; or
 - (b) persons included in a party group,

is taken to have been incurred by or with the authority of the party.

[Section 175LA inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 88.]

175LB. Election funding reimbursement amount, entitlement to

Subject to this Division, after an election the election funding reimbursement amount under section 175LC is payable for each eligible vote given for a candidate.

[Section 175LB inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6.]

175LC. Election funding reimbursement amount, calculation of

- (1) The election funding reimbursement amount —
- (a) is taken, as at 30 June 2006, to have been \$1.39413; and
 - (b) thereafter is the amount worked out, to 5 decimal places, under subsection (2).
- (2) The election funding reimbursement amount is taken to have been adjusted on 1 July 2006 and is to be adjusted for each subsequent financial year on 1 July of that financial year using the formula —

$$\frac{A \times B}{C}$$

where —

A is the election funding reimbursement amount immediately before 1 July in a year; and

B is the CPI number published for the March quarter in the year; and

C is the CPI number published for the March quarter in the previous year.

- (3) In subsection (2) —
- CPI** means the all groups consumer price index for Perth published by the Australian Statistician referred to in section 5 of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* of the Commonwealth.
- (4) If, for a particular financial year, adjustment of the election funding reimbursement amount would reduce the amount, the amount is not to be adjusted for the year.
- (5) If an amount would, if calculated to 6 decimal places, end with a number more than 4, the amount is taken to be the amount calculated to 5 decimal places and increased by 0.00001.

[Section 175LC inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6.]

175LD. Claim for payment, requirement for and making etc.

- (1) A payment under this Division cannot be made unless a claim for the payment has been lodged with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form before the expiration of the claims period referred to in subsection (6).
- (2) A claim for payment under this Division for the eligible votes given for a candidate endorsed by a registered political party may be lodged by, and only by —
 - (a) in the case of a candidate not included in a group, the agent of the registered political party; or
 - (b) in the case of a candidate included in a party group, the agent of the registered political party; or
 - (c) in the case of a candidate included in a group, other than a party group, the agent of the group.
- (3) If a registered political party endorsed candidates in 2 or more elections held on the same day, all claims for payment under this Division lodged by the agent of the party under subsection (2)(a) or (b) in relation to those elections must be lodged as one claim.
- (4) A claim for payment under this Division for the eligible votes given for a candidate not endorsed by a registered political party may be lodged by, and only by —
 - (a) in the case of a candidate not included in a group, the agent of the candidate; or
 - (b) in the case of a candidate included in a group, the agent of the group.
- (5) A claim for a payment under this Division is to be accompanied by any information required by the Electoral Commissioner regarding —
 - (a) in the case of a claim lodged by the agent of a registered political party under subsection (2)(a) or (b), the

electoral expenditure incurred by or with the authority of the party in relation to —

- (i) the election to which the claim relates; or
- (ii) in the case of a claim lodged in accordance with subsection (3), the elections to which the claim relates;

or

- (b) in the case of a claim lodged by the agent of a candidate under subsection (4)(a), the electoral expenditure incurred by or with the authority of the candidate in relation to the election to which the claim relates; or
 - (c) in the case of a claim lodged by the agent of a group under subsection (2)(c) or (4)(b), the electoral expenditure incurred by or with the authority of persons included in the group in relation to the election to which the claim relates.
- (6) For the purposes of subsection (1) the claims period is —
- (a) the period of 20 weeks after polling day in the election or elections to which the claim relates; or
 - (b) such longer period as the Electoral Commissioner fixes before the end of the period specified in paragraph (a).
- (7) The Electoral Commissioner cannot fix a longer period for the purpose of subsection (6)(b) unless satisfied that the circumstances of the case justify the fixing of a longer period.

[Section 175LD inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6.]

175LE. Electoral Commissioner to determine claims

A claim for payment under this Division is to be decided by the Electoral Commissioner in accordance with this Division.

[Section 175LE inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6.]

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 2A Electoral funding

s. 175LF

175LF. Circumstances in which payment to be made

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a payment can be made under this Division in respect of eligible votes given for a candidate in an election if, and only if, the number of those eligible votes is more than 4% of the total number of eligible votes given at the election.
- (2) If a candidate in a Council election is included in a group, a payment can be made under this Division in respect of eligible votes given for the candidate as long as the total number of eligible votes given for candidates in the election included in the group is more than 4% of the total number of eligible votes given at the election.
- (3) In the case of a claim lodged by the agent of the registered political party in accordance with section 175LD(3), a payment can be made under this Division in respect of eligible votes given for a candidate endorsed by the party as long as the total number of eligible votes given, at the elections to which the claim relates, for candidates endorsed by the party is more than 4% of the total number of eligible votes given at those elections.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) do not limit each other's operation.

[Section 175LF inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 94.]

175LG. Amount paid not to exceed electoral expenditure

- (1) The amount of a payment under this Division made in respect of a claim under section 175LD is not to exceed —
 - (a) if the claim is lodged by the agent of a registered political party under section 175LD(2)(a) or (b), the electoral expenditure incurred by or with the authority of the party in relation to —
 - (i) the election to which the claim relates; or

- (ii) in the case of a claim lodged in accordance with section 175LD(3), the elections to which the claim relates,
less any input tax credit in respect of that expenditure; or
 - (b) if the claim is lodged by the agent of a candidate under section 175LD(4)(a), the electoral expenditure incurred by or with the authority of the candidate in relation to the election to which the claim relates, less any input tax credit in respect of that expenditure; or
 - (c) if the claim is lodged by the agent of a group under section 175LD(2)(c) or (4)(b), the electoral expenditure incurred by or with the authority of persons included in the group in relation to the election to which the claim relates, less any input tax credit in respect of that expenditure.
- (2) In subsection (1) —

input tax credit means an entitlement arising under section 11-20 or 15-15 of the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999* of the Commonwealth.

[Section 175LG inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6.]

175LH. Payments, to whom to be made

- (1) If the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied, in respect of a claim under section 175LD(2)(a) or (b), that an amount is payable under this Division for eligible votes given at an election or elections for a candidate or candidates endorsed by a registered political party, the Electoral Commissioner shall make the payment to the agent of the party.
- (2) If the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied, in respect of a claim under section 175LD(4)(a), that an amount is payable under this Division for eligible votes given at an election for a candidate, the Electoral Commissioner shall make the payment to the agent of the candidate.

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 2A Electoral funding

s. 175LI

- (3) If the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied, in respect of a claim under section 175LD(2)(c) or (4)(b), that an amount is payable under this Division for eligible votes given at an election for persons included in a group, the Electoral Commissioner shall make the payment to the agent of the group.
- (4) If a payment is made under this Division and the recipient is not entitled to receive the whole or a part of the amount paid, whether because of a false statement in a claim or otherwise, the amount or the part of the amount may be recovered by the State as a debt due to the State by action, in a court of competent jurisdiction, against the person.

[Section 175LH inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6.]

175LI. Decision as to payment, revoking and re-making

- (1) If the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that the amount of a payment decided under section 175LE exceeds, or is less than, the amount payable to the claimant, the Commissioner may revoke the decision and make a fresh decision.
- (2) If the amount payable under the fresh decision is less than the amount paid to a person under the revoked decision, the difference between the amounts fixed by the decisions may be recovered by the State as a debt due to the State by action, in a court of competent jurisdiction, against the person.

[Section 175LI inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6.]

175LJ. Death of candidate, payments etc. in case of

- (1) If a candidate for whom eligible votes were given at an election dies, a payment under this Division for the eligible votes given for the candidate may be made despite the candidate's death.
- (2) If the candidate —
 - (a) was not endorsed in the election by a registered political party; and
 - (b) was not included in a group; and

(c) had not appointed an agent,

a claim for the payment may be lodged by, and the payment may be made to, the legal personal representative of the candidate.

(3) If the candidate —

- (a) was included in a group other than a party group; and
- (b) was the agent of the group,

another person included in the group may lodge a claim for a payment under this Division for the eligible votes given for persons included in the group, and the payment may be made to that other person.

(4) This section has effect despite sections 175LD and 175LH.

[Section 175LJ inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6.]

175LK. Appropriation for payments under this Division

Any payment made under this Division shall be charged to the Consolidated Account which is to the extent necessary appropriated accordingly.

[Section 175LK inserted: No. 55 of 2006 s. 6; amended: No. 77 of 2006 s. 4.]

Division 3 — Disclosure of gifts and other income

[Heading inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175M. Relevant details of gifts, defined

For the purposes of this Division the relevant details of a gift are the amount or value of the gift, the date on which the gift was made, and —

- (a) in the case of a gift made on behalf of the members of an unincorporated association —
 - (i) the name of the association; and

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 3 Disclosure of gifts and other income

s. 175N

- (ii) the names and addresses of the members of the executive committee (however described) of the association;
- and
- (b) in the case of a gift purportedly made out of a trust fund or out of the funds of a foundation —
 - (i) the names and addresses of the trustees of the fund or of the funds of the foundation and of the person for whose benefit the fund or funds are held; and
 - (ii) the title or other description of the trust fund or the name of the foundation, as the case requires;
- and
- (c) in any other case, the name and address of the person who made the gift.

[Section 175M inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175N. Gifts etc. received by political party, annual return as to required

- (1) The agent of a political party shall, by 30 November in each year, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form setting out details of all gifts and other income received by the party during the financial year which ended on the last preceding 30 June.
- (2) The following gifts and income received by the political party do not have to be included in the return —
 - (a) gifts made to the party for a purpose related to an election or by-election under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*;
 - (b) other gifts and income which the party has used, or will use, for a purpose related to an election or by-election under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*;

- (c) any income that consists of a payment received under Division 2A.
- (3) In the case of gifts the details to be set out in the return are as follows —
 - (a) the amount or value of all gifts; and
 - (b) the relevant details of each gift the value of which equals or exceeds the specified amount.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(b) the sum of the respective amounts or values of 2 or more gifts made to a political party by the same person shall be taken to be one gift but, in calculating that sum, an amount or value that is less than one-third of the specified amount need not be counted.
- (5) The agent of a political party may comply with this section by lodging a return or the relevant portion of a return prepared, in relation to the financial year in question, for the purposes of section 314AB of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, and a return or portion of a return so lodged is to be regarded as satisfying the requirements of this section even if —
 - (a) it does not separate the amounts and values of gifts from the amounts and values of other income received by the party; and
 - (b) it does not separate gifts and income referred to in subsection (2) from other gifts and income.

[Section 175N inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26); amended: No. 55 of 2006 s. 7.]

175NA. Gifts etc. received by associated entity, annual return as to required

- (1) If an entity is an associated entity at any time during a financial year the financial controller of that entity shall, by 30 November next following the end of that financial year, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form setting out

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 3 Disclosure of gifts and other income

s. 175O

details of all gifts and income received by the entity during that financial year.

- (2) Gifts and income received by the entity at a time when it was not an associated entity or before the commencement of section 4 of the *Electoral Amendment (Political Finance) Act 1992* do not have to be included in the return.
- (3) Subsections (3), (4) and (5) of section 175N apply to and in relation to returns under this section as if any reference in those subsections to —
 - (a) a political party, were a reference to an associated entity;
 - (b) the agent of a political party, were a reference to the financial controller of an associated entity;
 - (c) section 314AB of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, were a reference to section 314AEA of that Act.

[Section 175NA inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175O. Gifts received by candidate in disclosure period, return as to required

- (1) The agent of a person (including a person included in a group) who was a candidate in an election shall, within 15 weeks after polling day in the election, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form setting out —
 - (a) the total amount or value of all gifts; and
 - (b) the number of persons who made gifts; and
 - (c) subject to subsection (4), the relevant details of each gift,

received by the person during the disclosure period for the election.

- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the disclosure period for an election (the *relevant election*) shall be determined as follows —
- (a) if the person was a candidate in a previous election and polling day for the previous election was within 5 years before polling day in the relevant election, the disclosure period is the period that —
 - (i) commenced at the end of 30 days after polling day in the most recent previous election in which the person was a candidate; and
 - (ii) ended 30 days after polling day in the relevant election;
 - (b) in any other case, the disclosure period is the period that —
 - (i) commenced one year before the day of the nomination of the person as a candidate in the relevant election; and
 - (ii) ended 30 days after polling day in the relevant election.
- (3) A gift does not have to be included in the return unless —
- (a) the gift was made to the candidate for a purpose related to an election; or
 - (b) the candidate has used, or will use, the gift solely or substantially for a purpose related to an election.
- (4) The return does not have to set out the relevant details of a gift if the amount or value of the gift is less than the specified amount.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not apply in relation to a gift made by a person to the candidate if the sum of the amount or value of that gift and of other gifts which were made by that person to the candidate and are included in the return equals or exceeds the specified amount.

[Section 175O inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175P. Gifts received by group in disclosure period, return as to required

- (1) Subject to subsection (3), the agent of a group in an election shall, within 15 weeks after polling day in the election, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form setting out —
- (a) the total amount or value of all gifts; and
 - (b) the number of persons who made gifts; and
 - (c) subject to subsection (4), the relevant details of each gift,

received by the group during the disclosure period for the election.

- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the disclosure period for an election is the period that —
- (a) commenced when the persons who were included in the group made a claim under section 80(1) in relation to the election; and
 - (b) ended 30 days after polling day in the election.
- (3) Where all the persons included in a group in an election have been endorsed by the same political party, a gift received by the group shall be taken to have been received by the party.
- (4) The return does not have to set out the relevant details of a gift if the amount or value of the gift is less than the specified amount.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not apply in relation to a gift made by a person to the group if the sum of the amount or value of that gift and other gifts that were made by that person to the group and are included in the return equals or exceeds the specified amount.

[Section 175P inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175Q. Gifts received in disclosure period by other persons who incur expenditure for political purposes, return as to required

- (1) Where a person (not being a political party, an associated entity a candidate or a group) incurs expenditure for a political purpose during the disclosure period for an election, the person shall, within 15 weeks after polling day in the election, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form setting out the relevant details of all gifts received by the person during that disclosure period.
- (2) The return does not have to set out the relevant details of a gift unless —
 - (a) the whole or a part of the gift was used by the person —
 - (i) to incur expenditure for a political purpose; or
 - (ii) to reimburse the person for incurring expenditure for a political purpose;and
 - (b) the amount or value of the gift was not less than the specified amount.
- (3) A person does not have to lodge a return under subsection (1) if the total amount of expenditure incurred by the person for political purposes during the disclosure period for an election is less than the specified amount.
- (4) For the purposes of this section the disclosure period for an election (the *relevant election*) is the period that —
 - (a) commenced at the end of 30 days after polling day in the last preceding general election; and
 - (b) ended 30 days after polling day in the relevant election.
- (5) A reference in this section to the incurring of expenditure for a political purpose is a reference to the incurring of expenditure for or in connection with promoting or opposing, directly or indirectly, a political party or a member of parliament or the

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 3 Disclosure of gifts and other income

s. 175Q

election of a candidate or candidates in an election, or for the purpose of influencing, directly or indirectly, voting in an election, and includes a reference to the incurring of expenditure —

- (a) in connection with, or by way of —
 - (i) the publication, broadcasting, display or distribution of electoral matter in relation to an election; or
 - (ii) the expression publicly, by any other means, of views on an issue in an election;
 - (b) in connection with, or by way of, the making of a gift to a candidate or group in an election;
 - (c) in connection with, or by way of, the making of a gift to a political party;
 - (d) in connection with, or by way of, the making of a gift to a person on the understanding that that person or another person will apply, either directly or indirectly, the whole or a part of the gift as mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c).
- (6) In subsection (5) *election* means the election referred to in subsection (1) or any other election.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (2), 2 or more gifts made by the same person to another person during the disclosure period for an election shall be taken to be one gift.
- (8) In the case of a conjoint election a person may lodge one return under subsection (1) relating to both general elections without showing the extent to which gifts referred to in the return were used in relation to one general election or the other.

[Section 175Q inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175R. Gifts not to be accepted from unidentified donors etc.

- (1) It is unlawful for —
- (a) a political party or a person acting on behalf of a political party to receive a gift made to or for the benefit of the party by another person, being a gift the amount or value of which is not less than the specified amount; or
 - (b) a candidate in an election (including a person included in a group) or a person acting on behalf of a candidate in an election to receive a gift made to or for the benefit of the candidate by another person, being a gift the amount or value of which is not less than the specified amount; or
 - (c) a person included in a group in an election or a person acting on behalf of a group in an election to receive a gift made to or for the benefit of the group by another person, being a gift the amount or value of which is not less than the specified amount; or
 - (d) a person (not being a political party, a candidate or a group) to receive a gift made to or for the benefit of the person for the purpose of the incurring of expenditure for a political purpose, being a gift the amount or value of which is not less than the specified amount,

unless the name and address of the person making the gift (the *donor*) are known to the person receiving the gift (the *recipient*) or, at the time when the gift is made, the name and address of the donor are given to the recipient and the recipient has no grounds to believe that the name and address so given are not the true name and address of the donor.

- (2) A reference in subsection (1) to the name and address of a person making a gift is —
- (a) in the case of a gift made on behalf of the members of an unincorporated association, a reference to —

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 3 Disclosure of gifts and other income

s. 175R

- (i) the name of the association; and
 - (ii) the names and addresses of the members of the executive committee (however described) of the association;
- and
- (b) in the case of a gift purportedly made out of a trust fund or out of the funds of a foundation, a reference to —
 - (i) the names and addresses of the trustees of the fund or of the funds of the foundation and of the person for whose benefit the fund or funds are held; and
 - (ii) the title or other description of the trust fund or the name of the foundation, as the case requires.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1) —
 - (a) a person who is a candidate in an election shall be taken to remain a candidate for 30 days after polling day in the election;
 - (b) a person included in a group in an election shall be taken to continue to be included in that group for 30 days after polling day in the election;
 - (c) 2 or more gifts made during a prescribed period by the same person to or for the benefit of a political party, candidate, group or other person shall be taken to be one gift;
 - (d) a reference to the incurring of expenditure for a political purpose shall be read in accordance with section 175Q(5) and a reference to a gift made for the purpose of incurring such expenditure includes a reference to a gift the whole or part of which is used for that purpose.
- (4) The reference in subsection (3)(c) to a prescribed period is a reference —

- (a) in the case of a political party or an associated entity, to a financial year;
 - (b) in the case of a candidate, to the disclosure period applicable to the candidate under section 175O;
 - (c) in the case of a group, to the disclosure period applicable to the group under section 175P;
 - (d) in the case of a person (not being a political party, an associated entity, a candidate or a group) to the disclosure period for an election for the purposes of section 175Q.
- (5) Where a person receives a gift and, by virtue of subsection (1), it is unlawful for the person to receive that gift, an amount equal to the amount or value of the gift is payable by that person to the State and may be recovered by the State as a debt due to the State by action, in a court of competent jurisdiction, against —
- (a) in the case of a gift to or for the benefit of a political party —
 - (i) if the party is a body corporate, the party; or
 - (ii) in any other case, the agent of the party;
 - (b) in the case of a gift to or for the benefit of a candidate, the candidate or the agent of the candidate;
 - (c) in the case of a gift to or for the benefit of a group, a person included in the group or the agent of the group;
 - (d) in the case of a gift to a person (not being a political party, a candidate or a group), that person.

[Section 175R inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175S. Return under s. 175N, 175O and 175P required even if nothing to disclose etc.

- (1) Where no details are required to be included in a return under section 175N, 175O or 175P, the return shall nevertheless be

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 4 Disclosure of electoral expenditure

s. 175SA

lodged and shall include a statement to the effect that no gifts of a kind required to be disclosed were received.

- (2) Where details of a gift or gifts or income are included in a return under section 175N, 175O, 175P or 175Q, the return shall include a statement to the effect that no other gifts or income of a kind required to be disclosed were received.

[Section 175S inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

Division 4 — Disclosure of electoral expenditure

[Heading inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175SA. Electoral expenditure by political party, return as to required

Where electoral expenditure in relation to an election is incurred by or with the authority of a political party, the agent of the party shall, before the expiration of 15 weeks after polling day in the election, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form setting out details of that electoral expenditure.

[Section 175SA inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175SB. Electoral expenditure by candidate, return as to required

The agent of a person who is a candidate in an election (not being a person included in a group) shall, before the expiration of 15 weeks after the polling day in the election, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form setting out details of all electoral expenditure in relation to the election incurred by or with the authority of the candidate.

[Section 175SB inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175SC. Electoral expenditure by group, return as to required

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the agent of a group in an election shall, before the expiration of 15 weeks after the polling day in the election, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form setting out details of all electoral expenditure in relation to the election incurred by or with the authority of persons included in the group.
- (2) Where electoral expenditure in relation to an election is incurred by or with the authority of persons included in a group and all the persons included in the group have been endorsed by the same political party, the electoral expenditure shall be taken to have been incurred by or with the authority of the party.

[Section 175SC inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175SD. Electoral expenditure by other person, return as to required

- (1) Where electoral expenditure in relation to an election was incurred by or with the authority of a person and that expenditure was not incurred with the written authority of a political party, a candidate in the election or a person included in a group in the election, the person shall, before the expiration of 15 weeks after the polling day in the election, lodge a return with the Electoral Commissioner in an approved form setting out details of that electoral expenditure.
- (2) A person is not required to furnish a return under subsection (1) in respect of an election if the total amount of the electoral expenditure incurred in relation to the election by or with the authority of the person does not exceed \$500.

[Section 175SD inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175SE. Return under s. 175SA, 175SB and 175SC required even if no expenditure etc.

- (1) Where no details are required to be included in a return under section 175SA, 175SB or 175SC, the return shall nevertheless be lodged and shall include a statement to the effect that no expenditure of a kind required to be disclosed was incurred.
- (2) Where details of expenditure are included in a return under section 175SA, 175SB, 175SC or 175SD, the return shall include a statement to the effect that no other expenditure of a kind required to be disclosed was incurred.

[Section 175SE inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175SF. Two or more elections on one day, one return may be lodged in case of

- (1) Where —
 - (a) the polling at 2 or more elections took place on the same day; and
 - (b) a person would, but for this subsection, be required to lodge 2 or more returns under this Division relating to those elections,

the person may, in lieu of lodging those returns, lodge one return, in an approved form, setting out the particulars that the person would have been required to set out in those returns.

- (2) Where —
 - (a) a return is lodged by a person under subsection (1); and
 - (b) particular electoral expenditure details of which are required to be set out in the return relates to more than one election,

it is sufficient compliance with this Division if the return sets out details of the expenditure without showing the extent to which it relates to any particular election.

*[Section 175SF inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended:
No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]*

Division 5 — Miscellaneous

*[Heading inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended:
No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]*

175T. Interpretation

Except in section 175X, a reference in this Division to a return under Division 3 or 4 or to a return under this Part includes a reference to particulars required under section 175X(3).

*[Section 175T inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended:
No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]*

175U. Offences

- (1) Where a person fails to lodge a return that the person is required to lodge under Division 3 or 4 within the time required by this Part the person commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding —
 - (a) in the case of a return required to be lodged by the agent of a political party, \$7 500; or
 - (b) in any other case, \$1 500.
- (2) Where a person lodges a return that is incomplete, being a return that the person is required to lodge under Division 3 or 4, the person commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$1 500.
- (3) Where the agent of a political party lodges a return that the agent is required to lodge under Division 3 or 4 or a claim that the agent may lodge under Division 2A and that return or claim contains particulars that are, to the agent's knowledge, false or misleading in a material particular, the agent commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$15 000.

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 5 Miscellaneous

s. 175U

- (4) Where a person (not being the agent of a political party) lodges a return that the person is required to lodge under Division 3 or 4 or a claim that the person may lodge under Division 2A and that return or claim contains particulars that are, to the person's knowledge, false or misleading in a material particular, the person commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$7 500.
- (5) A person shall not supply to another person who is required to lodge a return under Division 3 or 4, or may lodge a claim under Division 2A, information that relates to the return or claim and that is, to the knowledge of the first-mentioned person, false or misleading in a material particular.
Penalty: \$1 500.
- (6) Where —
- (a) a person is required to lodge a return under Division 3 or 4 within a particular period; and
 - (b) the person fails to lodge the return within that period,
- the following provisions of this subsection have effect —
- (c) the obligation to lodge the return continues notwithstanding that that period has expired; and
 - (d) where the person is convicted of an offence that is constituted by failure to lodge the return within that period, that person commits a separate and further offence in respect of each day after the day of the conviction during which the failure to lodge the return continues; and
 - (e) the penalty applicable to each separate and further offence is a fine not exceeding \$150.
- (7) Charges against the same person for any number of offences under subsection (6)(d) may be joined in the one prosecution notice.

- (8) If a person is convicted of more than one offence under subsection (6)(d), the court may impose one penalty in respect of all offences of which the person is so convicted but that penalty shall not exceed the sum of the maximum penalties that could be imposed if a penalty were imposed in respect of each offence separately.

[Section 175U inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26); amended: No. 84 of 2004 s. 80; No. 55 of 2006 s. 8.]

175V. Payments due to State, recovery of

- (1) An action in a court to recover an amount due to the State under section 175LH(4), 175LI(2) or 175R(5) may be brought in the name of the State by the Electoral Commissioner.
- (2) Any process in the action required to be served on the State may be served on the Electoral Commissioner.

[Section 175V inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4; amended: No. 55 of 2006 s. 9.]

175W. Investigation powers etc. for this Part

- (1) In this section *authorised officer* means a person authorised by the Electoral Commissioner under subsection (2).
- (2) The Electoral Commissioner may, by instrument in writing authorise a person, or a person included in a class of persons, to perform functions under this section.
- (3) An authorised officer may, for the purpose of finding out whether a person has complied with this Part, serve a notice on the person requiring the person —
- (a) to produce, within the period and in the manner specified in the notice, the documents or other things referred to in the notice; or
 - (b) to appear, at a time and place specified in the notice, before the authorised officer to give evidence, either

orally or in writing, and to produce the documents or other things referred to in the notice.

- (4) Where an authorised officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a person is capable of producing documents or other things or giving evidence relating to a contravention, or possible contravention, of section 175U, or relating to matters that are set out in, or are required to be set out in, a return or claim under this Part, the authorised officer may serve a notice on the person requiring the person —
- (a) to produce, within the period and in the manner specified in the notice, the documents or other things referred to in the notice; or
 - (b) to appear, at a time and place specified in the notice, before the authorised officer to give evidence, either orally or in writing, and to produce the documents or other things referred to in the notice.
- (5) An authorised officer may require any evidence that is to be given in compliance with a notice under subsection (3) or (4) to be given on oath or affirmation and for that purpose the authorised officer may administer an oath or affirmation.
- (6) A person shall not, without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to comply with a notice under subsection (3) or (4) to the extent that the person is capable of complying with the notice.
Penalty: \$1 500.
- (7) A person shall not, in purported compliance with a notice under subsection (3) or (4), give evidence that is, to the knowledge of the person, false or misleading in a material particular.
Penalty: \$1 500.
- (8) Where —
- (a) a police officer has reasonable grounds for suspecting that there may be, at any time within the next following 24 hours, upon any land or upon or in any premises,

vessel, aircraft or vehicle, a document or other thing that may afford evidence relating to a contravention of section 175U; and

- (b) the police officer has reasonable grounds to believe that, if a notice under this section were issued for the production of the document or other thing, the document or other thing might be concealed, lost, mutilated or destroyed,

the police officer may make an application to a judge for the issue of a warrant under subsection (9).

- (9) Subject to subsection (10), where an application under subsection (8) is made by a police officer to a judge, the judge may issue a warrant authorising the police officer or any other person named in the warrant, with such assistance as he thinks necessary and if necessary by force —
 - (a) to enter upon the land or upon or into the premises, vessel, aircraft or vehicle; and
 - (b) to search the land, premises, vessels, aircraft or vehicle for documents or other things that may afford evidence relating to a contravention of section 175U, being documents or other things of a kind described in the warrant; and
 - (c) to seize any documents or other things of the kind referred to in paragraph (b).
- (10) A judge shall not issue a warrant under subsection (9) unless —
 - (a) an affidavit has been given to the judge setting out the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being sought; and
 - (b) the police officer applying for the warrant or some other person has given to the judge, either orally or by affidavit, such further information (if any) as the judge requires concerning the grounds on which the issue of the warrant is being sought; and

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 5 Miscellaneous

s. 175W

- (c) the judge is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for issuing the warrant.
- (11) Where a judge issues a warrant under subsection (9), the judge shall state on the affidavit given under subsection (10)(a) which of the grounds specified in that affidavit the judge has relied on to justify the issue of the warrant and particulars of any other grounds relied on by the judge to justify the issue of the warrant.
- (12) A warrant issued under subsection (9) shall —
- (a) include a statement of the purpose for which the warrant is issued, which shall include a reference to the contravention of section 175U in relation to which the warrant is issued; and
 - (b) state whether entry is authorised to be made at any time of the day or night or during specified hours of the day or night; and
 - (c) include a description of the kind of documents or other things authorised to be seized; and
 - (d) specify a date, not being later than one month after the date of issue of the warrant, upon which the warrant ceases to have effect.
- (13) Where a document or other thing is seized by a person pursuant to a warrant issued under subsection (9) —
- (a) the person may retain the document or other thing so long as is reasonably necessary for the purposes of the investigation to which the document or other thing is relevant; and
 - (b) when the retention of the document or other thing by the person ceases to be reasonably necessary for those purposes, the person shall cause the document or other thing to be delivered to the person who appears to the first-mentioned person to be entitled to possession of the document or other thing.

- (14) In performing functions under this section the Electoral Commissioner and any authorised officer shall ensure, as far as practicable, that there is no duplication of functions performed or being performed under section 316 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*.

[Section 175W inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26); amended: No. 55 of 2006 s. 10.]

175X. Incomplete returns, lodging etc.

- (1) Where a person who is required to lodge a return under Division 3 or 4 considers that it is impossible to complete the return because he is unable to obtain particulars that are required for the preparation of the return, the person may —
- (a) prepare the return to the extent that it is possible to do so without those particulars; and
 - (b) lodge the return so prepared; and
 - (c) give to the Electoral Commissioner notice in writing —
 - (i) identifying the return; and
 - (ii) stating that the return is incomplete by reason that the person is unable to obtain certain particulars; and
 - (iii) identifying those particulars; and
 - (iv) setting out the reasons why the person is unable to obtain those particulars; and
 - (v) if the person believes, on reasonable grounds, that another person whose name and address the person knows can give those particulars, stating that belief and the reasons for it and the name and address of that other person.
- (2) A person who lodges a return and gives a notice under subsection (1) shall not be taken, for the purposes of section 175U(2), to have lodged a return that is incomplete by reason of the omission of the particulars identified under subsection (1)(c)(iii).

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 5 Miscellaneous

s. 175X

- (3) Where the Electoral Commissioner has been informed under subsection (1)(c) or (4)(e) that a person can supply particulars that have not been included in a return, the Electoral Commissioner may, by written notice served on the person, require the person to supply those particulars to the Electoral Commissioner, in writing within the time specified in the notice.
- (4) If a person who is required to supply particulars under subsection (3) considers that he is unable to obtain some or all of the particulars, the person shall give to the Electoral Commissioner a written notice —
- (a) setting out the particulars (if any) that the person is able to give; and
 - (b) stating that the person is unable to obtain some or all of the particulars; and
 - (c) identifying the particulars the person is unable to obtain; and
 - (d) setting out the reasons why the person is unable to obtain those particulars; and
 - (e) if the person believes, on reasonable grounds, that another person whose name and address the person knows can give those particulars, stating that belief and the reasons for it and the name and address of that other person.
- (5) A person who gives a notice under subsection (4) shall not be taken, for the purposes of section 175U(2), to have lodged a return that is incomplete by reason of the omission of the particulars identified under subsection (4)(c).

[Section 175X inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175Y. Extension of time to lodge annual return

If during the period from 30 June to 30 November in any year —

- (a) the polling in a general election is conducted; or
- (b) the writ for a general election is issued,

the Electoral Commissioner, by notice published in the *Gazette*, may extend the period within which returns under section 175N or 175NA have to be lodged so that it ends on a day specified in the notice.

[Section 175Y inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26); amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 20.]

175Z. Information in return, verification of etc.

Regulations may require information contained in a return lodged with the Electoral Commissioner under Division 3 or 4 to be verified or substantiated in accordance with the regulations.

[Section 175Z inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

175ZA. Non-compliance with Part does not affect election

- (1) A failure of a person to comply with a provision of this Part in relation to an election does not invalidate that election.
- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), if the agent of a candidate who is elected at an election fails to comply with a provision of this Part in relation to the election, that failure does not invalidate the election of the candidate.
- (3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), if the agent of a group, being a group one or more of the persons included in which is or are elected at an election, fails to comply with a provision of this Part in relation to the election, that failure does not invalidate the election of the person or persons.

[Section 175ZA inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4.]

175ZB. Return, amendment of

- (1) Where the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that a return or claim under this Part contains a formal error or is subject to a formal defect, the Electoral Commissioner may amend the return or claim to the extent necessary to correct the error or remove the defect.
- (2) A person who has lodged a return or claim under this Part may request the permission of the Electoral Commissioner to make a specified amendment of the return or claim for the purpose of correcting an error or omission.
- (2a) If the return or claim was lodged by a person as the registered agent of a political party or as the financial controller of an associated entity, a request under subsection (2) may be made either —
 - (a) by that person; or
 - (b) by the person who is currently the registered agent of the political party or the financial controller of the associated entity, as the case may be.
- (3) A request under subsection (2) shall be made by notice in writing signed by the person making the request.
- (4) Where —
 - (a) a request has been made under subsection (2); and
 - (b) the Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that there is an error in, or omission from, the return or claim to which the request relates,

the Electoral Commissioner shall permit the person making the request to amend the return or claim in accordance with the request.

- (5) Where the Electoral Commissioner decides to refuse a request under subsection (2), the Commissioner shall give to the person making the request written notice of the reasons for the decision.
- (6) An officer authorised for the purpose by the Electoral Commissioner may exercise the power of the Electoral Commissioner under subsection (4).
- (7) Where an officer acting under subsection (6) decides to refuse a request under subsection (2) —
- (a) subsection (5) applies as if the officer were the Electoral Commissioner; and
 - (b) the person who made the request may, by written notice lodged with the Electoral Commissioner within 28 days after notice of the refusal was given, request the Electoral Commissioner to review the decision.
- (8) Where a request is made under subsection (7), the Electoral Commissioner shall review the decision to which the request relates and make a fresh decision.
- (9) The amendment of a return or claim under this section does not affect the liability of a person to be convicted of an offence against section 175U(2), (3) or (4) arising out of the furnishing of the return or claim.

[Section 175ZB inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26); amended: No. 55 of 2006 s. 11.]

175ZC. Public may obtain copies of returns

- (1) The Electoral Commissioner shall keep a copy of each claim under Division 2A and each return under Division 3 or 4 at the principal office of the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 5 Miscellaneous

s. 175ZD

- (2) A person is entitled —
- (a) to peruse a copy of a claim or a return kept under subsection (1);
 - (b) on payment of a fee determined by the Electoral Commissioner to cover the cost of copying, to obtain a copy of a claim or a return a copy of which is kept under subsection (1),

at any time after the end of 4 weeks after the end of the period during which the claim or return was required to be lodged.

[Section 175ZC inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26); amended: No. 55 of 2006 s. 12.]

175ZD. Unincorporated party, proceedings against

- (1) A proceeding in respect of an offence against this Part alleged to be committed by a political party that is not a body corporate, or in respect of any amount recoverable from such a party under section 175LH(4), 175LI(2) or 175R(5), may be instituted against an officer or officers of the party as a representative or representatives of the members of the party, and a proceeding so instituted shall be deemed to be a proceeding against all the persons who were members of the party at any relevant time.
- (2) For the purposes of enforcing any judgment or order given or made in a proceeding under this Part against a party that is not a body corporate, process may be issued and executed against any property of the party, or any property in which the party has, or any members of the party have in their capacity as such members, a beneficial interest, whether vested in trustees or however otherwise held, as if the party were a body corporate and the absolute owner of the property or interest, but no process shall be issued or executed against any other property of members, or against any property of officers, of the party.

[Section 175ZD inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4; amended: No. 55 of 2006 s. 13.]

175ZE. Public agencies to report on certain expenditure

- (1) If a public agency is required to publish an annual report under Part 5 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* or any other written law, the principal officer of the public agency shall ensure that a statement is included in the annual report setting out the details mentioned in subsection (2) of all expenditure incurred by or on behalf of the public agency during the reporting period in relation to the following —
- (a) advertising agencies;
 - (b) market research organisations;
 - (c) polling organisations;
 - (d) direct mail organisations;
 - (e) media advertising organisations.
- (2) The details to be set out in the statement are —
- (a) the total amount of the expenditure; and
 - (b) in relation to each class of expenditure constituted by a paragraph of subsection (1) —
 - (i) the amount of the expenditure for the class; and
 - (ii) the name of each person, agency or organisation to whom an amount was paid.
- (3) The principal officer does not have to set out the details mentioned in subsection (2)(b) in relation to a class of expenditure if the amount of the expenditure for the class is less than the specified amount.

[Section 175ZE inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4; amended: No. 77 of 2006 Sch. 1 cl. 51.]

175ZF. Regulations for this Part

- (1) The Governor may make regulations prescribing all matters that are required or permitted by this Part to be prescribed, or are

Electoral Act 1907

Part VI Electoral funding and disclosure of gifts, income and expenditure

Division 5 Miscellaneous

s. 175ZF

necessary or convenient to be prescribed for giving effect to the purposes of this Part and, in particular —

- (a) prescribing the manner in which the Electoral Commissioner is to determine and publish the specified amount for the purposes of this Part; and
- (aa) requiring the agent of a political party to lodge returns or other information identifying any entity that is or has been an associated entity in relation to that political party; and
- (ab) requiring the agent of a political party to lodge a return setting out additional information as prescribed where section 175N(5)(a) or (b) applies in respect of a return lodged in relation to the political party; and
- (ac) imposing such requirements as are necessary to ensure that the provisions of this Part as to the lodgment of returns in relation to a political party are complied with even if the political party ceases to exist; and
- (b) requiring the making, keeping and auditing of records of —
 - (i) gifts and other income received by political parties and associated entities; and
 - (ii) gifts received in respect of elections by candidates, groups and other persons; and
 - (iii) electoral expenditure incurred in respect of elections by political parties, candidates, groups and other persons,and requiring or otherwise providing for the production, examination and copying of those records; and
- (ba) facilitating the lodging of returns or portions of returns prepared for the purposes of sections 314AB and 314AEA of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* in satisfaction of the requirements of sections 175N and 175NA; and

- (c) providing that contravention of a regulation constitutes an offence and providing for penalties not exceeding a fine of \$3 000 for offences against the regulations.
- (2) The regulations referred to in subsection (1)(a) —
- (a) shall provide for the specified amount to be determined in a manner that incorporates any increase in the amount of \$1 500 that is appropriate to reflect movements that have occurred since the commencement of the *Electoral Amendment (Political Finance) Act 1992* in the Consumer Price Index, All Groups Index number for Perth, published from time to time by the Commonwealth Statistician under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* of the Commonwealth; but
- (b) may provide for such an adjustment to be increased or decreased by an amount of not more than \$50 in order to ensure that the specified amount continues to be a multiple of \$100.

[Section 175ZF inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26); amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 61.]

175ZG. Annual report by Electoral Commissioner

- (1) As soon as practicable after the end of the period within which returns under sections 175N and 175NA have to be lodged in relation to a financial year, the Electoral Commissioner shall prepare and submit to the Minister a report on the operation of this Part in relation to that financial year.
- (2) The Minister shall cause a copy of each report submitted under subsection (1) to be laid before each House of Parliament as soon as practicable after receiving the report.

[Section 175ZG inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 4 (as amended: No. 43 of 1996 s. 26).]

[176-178. Deleted: No. 39 of 1979 s. 25.]

Part VII — Electoral offences

179. Offences generally

To secure the due execution of this Act and the purity of elections, the following acts are hereby prohibited and penalised:

- (1) Breach or neglect of official duty.
- (2) Illegal practices, including —
 - (a) bribery;
 - (b) undue influence.
- (3) Electoral offences.

180. Term used: breach or neglect of official duty

Breach or neglect of official duty includes —

- (1) any attempt by any officer to influence the vote of any elector, or, except by recording his vote, the result of any election;
- (2) the disclosure of any knowledge officially acquired by any officer or scrutineer touching the vote of any elector;
- (3) any neglect or refusal by any officer to discharge any official duty, and any violation by any officer of any provision of this Act.

Breach or neglect of official duty is punishable by imprisonment not exceeding one year.

[Section 180 amended: No. 53 of 1957 s. 14; No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 64 of 2006 s. 42.]

181. Bribery, offence of

Any person who —

- (a) promises, or offers, or suggests any valuable consideration, advantage, recompense, reward, or

benefit for or on account of, or to induce any candidature or withdrawal of candidature, or any vote or omission to vote, or any support of, or opposition to, any candidate, or any promise of any such vote, omission, support, or opposition; or

- (b) gives or takes any valuable consideration, advantage, recompense, reward, or benefit for, or on account of, any such candidature, withdrawal, vote, omission, support or opposition, referred to in paragraph (a), or promise thereof; or
- (c) promises, offers, or suggests any valuable consideration, advantage, recompense, reward or benefit for bribery, or gives or takes any valuable consideration, advantage, recompense, reward, or benefit for bribery; or
- (d) directly or indirectly makes overtures to any person for the acquiring by gift or purchase, or who acquires by gift or purchase from any person, any early ballot paper; or
- (e) being an elector directly or indirectly makes overtures to any person for the giving away, or parting with the possession of, or selling, any early ballot paper; or who gives away any early ballot paper; or who sells any early ballot paper; or, except as provided for in section 92(5), parts with the possession of, any early ballot paper,

shall be guilty of bribery.

[Section 181 amended: No. 53 of 1957 s. 15; No. 51 of 1962 s. 9; No. 39 of 1979 s. 5; No. 66 of 1983 s. 5; No. 36 of 2000 s. 48(1).]

182. Term used: bribery

Without limiting the effect of the general words in the preceding section, ***bribery*** particularly includes the supply of food, drink, or entertainment after the nominations have been officially declared, or transport for any voter whilst going to or returning from the poll, with a view to influencing the vote of an elector.

[Section 182 amended: No. 51 of 1962 s. 10; No. 39 of 1979 s. 5; No. 66 of 1983 s. 6; No. 64 of 2006 s. 43.]

183. Undue influence, offence of

Any person who —

- (1) threatens, offers, or suggests any violence, injury, punishment, damage, loss, or disadvantage for or on account of or to induce any candidature, or withdrawal of candidature, or any vote or any omission to vote, or any support or opposition to any candidate, or any promise of any vote, omission, support, or opposition;
- (2) or uses, causes, inflicts, or procures any violence, punishment, damage, loss, or disadvantage for or on account of any such candidature, withdrawal, vote, omission, support or opposition, referred to in paragraph (1);
- (3) or by spoken words, or by written or printed words or signs in any form whatsoever, publishes any matter intended or intending to prevent or restrain the free exercise of the franchise by any person, or which threaten, offer, or suggest any damage, loss, or disadvantage, either in the present or in the future, to any person on account of his political opinions;
- (4) or in any way interferes with any elector, either in the polling place or within 6 metres from the entrance thereto with the intention of influencing him or advising him as to his vote;

[(5), (6) deleted]

- (7) or, being a candidate attends at any meeting of electors other than his committee held for electoral purposes on polling day,

shall be guilty of undue influence.

[Section 183 amended: No. 63 of 1948 s. 26; No. 59 of 1959 s. 13; No. 51 of 1962 s. 11; No. 94 of 1972 s. 4; No. 39 of 1979 s. 5; No. 66 of 1983 s. 7; No. 7 of 2009 s. 15; No. 35 of 2012 s. 31.]

184. Term used: undue influence

Without limiting the effect of the general words in the preceding section, ***undue influence*** includes every interference or attempted interference with the free exercise of the franchise of any voter.

[Section 184 amended: No. 51 of 1962 s. 12; No. 39 of 1979 s. 5; No. 66 of 1983 s. 8.]

185. Exception to what is bribery or undue influence

No declaration of public policy or promise of public action shall be deemed bribery or undue influence.

186. Disqualification for bribery or undue influence

Any person who —

- (a) is convicted of bribery or undue influence, or of attempted bribery or undue influence, at an election; or
- (b) is found by the Court of Disputed Returns to have committed or attempted to commit bribery or undue influence when a candidate,

shall, during a period of 2 years from the date of the conviction or finding, be disqualified from being elected as, or from being, a member of the Council or the Assembly.

[Section 186 amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 53.]

187. Illegal practices defined

- (1) In addition to bribery and undue influence, the following shall be illegal practices:

s. 187

- (a) Any publication of any electoral advertisement (other than an advertisement in a newspaper announcing the holding of a meeting), handbill, or pamphlet, or any issue of any electoral notice without at the end thereof the name and address of the person authorising the same.
 - (b) Printing or publishing any printed electoral advertisement, handbill, or pamphlet (other than an advertisement in a newspaper), without the name and place of business of the printer being printed at the foot of it.
 - (c) The attendance by a candidate after nomination day at any committee meeting held for the purpose of promoting or procuring his election on premises on which the sale by retail of any intoxicating liquor is authorised by licence, except where the meeting is held in or on a part of those premises in or on which part, intoxicating liquor is not ordinarily sold by retail to members of the public and is a part that is ordinarily let for the holding of meetings.
 - (d) The attendance by any member of a committee formed in the interests and with a view to obtain the return of any candidate at an election at a committee meeting held on any premises licensed to sell by retail spirituous liquors, except where the meeting is held in or on a part of those premises in or on which part spirituous liquors are not ordinarily sold by retail to members of the public and is a part that is ordinarily let for the holding of meetings.
- (2) Subsection (1)(a) and (b) do not apply in relation to —
- (a) T-shirts, lapel buttons, lapel badges, pens, pencils or balloons; or
 - (b) business or visiting cards that promote the candidacy of any person in an election; or
 - (c) letters and cards —

- (i) that bear the name and address of the sender; and
- (ii) that do not contain a representation or purported representation of a ballot paper for use in an election;

or

- (d) an article included in a prescribed class of articles.

- (3) Nothing in subsection (2)(a), (b) or (c) is to be regarded as limiting, by implication, the kind of regulations that can be made for the purposes of subsection (2)(d).

[Section 187 amended: No. 68 of 1964 s. 36; No. 39 of 1979 s. 26; No. 36 of 2000 s. 79.]

187A. Intentionally rendering person unable to vote etc.

- (1) A person who does any act or engages in any course of conduct intending that as a result thereof another person —

- (a) will be rendered; or
- (b) will be encouraged or assisted to render himself,

unable to vote or mentally incapable of voting commits an offence and is liable to be punished under section 188(2).

- (2) Subject to proof of the other elements of the offence, a person is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) notwithstanding that —

- (a) the other person was not rendered or did not render himself unable or incapable as mentioned therein; or
- (b) the other person did vote.

- (3) An act or course of conduct which is made an offence under subsection (1) is also an illegal practice for the purposes of this Act.

[Section 187A inserted: No. 52 of 1980 s. 2.]

s. 187B

187B. Electoral advertisement on internet, when publishing is an illegal practice

- (1) A person is guilty of an illegal practice if —
- (a) the person publishes an electoral advertisement on the internet or causes, permits or authorises an electoral advertisement to be published on the internet; and
 - (b) the electoral advertisement is intended to affect voting in an election; and
 - (c) the electoral advertisement is paid for by the person or another person; and
 - (d) the name and address of the person who authorised the advertisement do not appear at the end of the advertisement.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the matter published on the internet forms part of a general commentary on an internet website.

[Section 187B inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 44.]

188. Illegal practices, penalties for

- (1) Bribery or undue influence is punishable —
- (a) if the offence relates to an early ballot paper or early vote, by imprisonment for 2 years;
 - (b) in any other case, by imprisonment for 12 months.
- (2) Any other illegal practice is punishable —
- (a) if the offence relates to an early ballot paper or early vote, by imprisonment for 12 months;
 - (b) in any other case, by a fine of \$6 000.

[Section 188 inserted: No. 64 of 2006 s. 45.]

189. Gift etc. by candidate to club etc., offence in some cases

Any person who, having announced himself as a candidate, shall, after the date for an election is ascertained, and within

3 months of the polling day, offer, promise, or give, directly or indirectly, to or for any club or other association, any gift, donation, or prize, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, unless such gift, donation or prize is similar to one that the person has given to that club or association before the date on which he announced himself as a candidate:

Provided that no proceeding shall be taken for a contravention of this section except within 3 months after the act complained of.

[Section 189 amended: No. 68 of 1964 s. 37.]

190. Electoral offences and punishments

The matters mentioned in the first column of the table at the foot of this section are electoral offences, punishable as provided in the second column of the table opposite the statement of the offence.

Table of electoral offences and punishments

First Column — Offences	Second Column — Punishments
Falsely personating any person to secure a ballot paper to which the personator is not entitled or personating any other person for the purpose of voting.	Imprisonment not exceeding 2 years.
Fraudulently destroying or defacing any nomination or ballot paper.	Imprisonment not exceeding 2 years.
Fraudulently putting any ballot or other paper into the ballot box.	Penalty not exceeding \$6 000.
Fraudulently taking any ballot paper out of any polling place.	Penalty not exceeding \$6 000.
Forging or uttering, knowing the same to be forged, any nomination or ballot paper.	Imprisonment not exceeding 2 years.
In any polling place on polling day, or in any counting place, misconducting himself, or failing	Penalty not exceeding \$1 000.

s. 190

First Column — Offences	Second Column — Punishments
to obey the lawful directions of the presiding officer.	
Supplying ballot papers without authority.	Penalty not exceeding \$6 000.
Unlawfully destroying, taking, opening, or otherwise interfering with ballot boxes or ballot papers.	Imprisonment not exceeding 9 months.
Voting more than once at the same election.	Imprisonment not exceeding 12 months.
Wilfully making a false statement in any objection to any claim or to any name on the roll.	Imprisonment not exceeding 12 months.
Wagering on the result of any election.	Penalty not exceeding \$1 000.
Wilfully defacing, mutilating, destroying, or removing any notice, list, or other document affixed by any returning officer or by his authority.	Penalty not exceeding \$1 000.
Wilfully making false statement in any claim other than a false statement as to any qualification required by section 17(1)(a) or (c), or wilfully making false statement in any application, return, or declaration, or in answer to a question under this Act.	Imprisonment not exceeding 12 months.
Wilfully making false statement in any claim as to any qualification required by section 17(1)(a) or (c).	Penalty not exceeding \$1 000.
Signing as the claimant on a claim to be enrolled as an elector the name of any other person with or without the authority of such person.	Imprisonment not exceeding 12 months.

First Column — Offences	Second Column — Punishments
Distributing any advertisement, handbill, or pamphlet published in contravention of section 187.	Penalty not exceeding \$1 000.
The wearing or displaying by an officer or scrutineer in a polling place on polling day of any badge or emblem of a candidate or political party.	Penalty not exceeding \$50.
During the polling at any election wilfully taking any ballot paper out of a polling place except to one of the voting compartments.	Penalty not exceeding \$1 000.
Any contravention of this Act for which no other punishment is provided.	Penalty not exceeding \$1 000.

[Section 190 amended: No. 5 of 1918 s. 4; No. 63 of 1948 s. 27; No. 57 of 1952 s. 13; No. 68 of 1964 s. 38; No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 33 of 1967 s. 17; No. 39 of 1979 s. 27; No. 31 of 1982 s. 5; No. 9 of 1983 s. 23; No. 79 of 1987 s. 72; No. 78 of 1995 s. 147; No. 50 of 2003 s. 56(4); No. 74 of 2003 s. 47(3); No. 64 of 2006 s. 46.]

191. False statement in electoral paper

- (1) A person shall not knowingly or wilfully make a false statement in any electoral paper, or in answer to any question under this Act, or in any information supplied to any officer or canvasser for the purposes of the preparation of new rolls.
Penalty: \$1 000.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall not affect the liability of any person to be proceeded against in respect of any other offence, but he shall not be liable to be punished twice in respect of the same offence.

s. 191A

- (3) In this section the words *electoral paper* include any prescribed form.

[Section 191 inserted: No. 5 of 1918 s. 5; amended: No. 59 of 1919 s. 6; No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 64 of 2006 s. 47.]

191A. Misleading or deceptive publication etc.

- (1) A person shall not, during the relevant period in relation to an election, print, publish or distribute, or cause, permit or authorise to be printed, published or distributed, any matter or thing that is likely to mislead or deceive an elector in relation to the casting of the elector's vote.

Penalty: \$1 000.

- (2) A person shall not, during the relevant period in relation to an election, print, publish or distribute, or cause, permit or authorise to be printed, published or distributed, an advertisement, handbill, pamphlet or notice that contains a representation or purported representation of a ballot paper for use in that election that is likely to induce an elector to mark his ballot paper otherwise than in accordance with the directions on the ballot paper.

Penalty: \$1 000.

- (3) In a prosecution of a person for an offence against subsection (1), it is a defence if the person proves that he did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to have known, that the matter or thing was likely to mislead an elector in relation to the casting of the elector's vote.

- (4) In this section —

publish includes publish by radio or television or by electronic communication;

relevant period, in relation to an election, means the period commencing on the day that notice of issue of the writ for the election is published in the *Government Gazette* pursuant to section 65 and ending at the latest time on polling day at which

an elector in the State could enter a polling booth for the purpose of casting a vote in the election.

[Section 191A inserted: No. 79 of 1987 s. 73; amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 21 and 80; No. 50 of 2003 s. 56(5).]

192. Canvassing etc. in or near polling place

- (1) The following acts are, on polling day, and on all days to which the polling is adjourned, prohibited in a polling place or within 6 metres from the entrance thereto, namely —
 - (a) canvassing for votes; or
 - (b) soliciting the vote of any elector; or
 - (c) inducing any elector not to vote for any particular candidate; or
 - (d) inducing any elector not to vote at the election.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), where a polling place has been appointed by the Electoral Commissioner under the provisions of section 100, at any institution or hospital, the acts referred to in subsection (1) are, at all times, prohibited in the institution or hospital, in the grounds thereof, or within 6 metres from the entrance to the institution or hospital or from the entrance to the grounds thereof, whichever entrance is the furthest distance away from the institution or hospital itself.
- (3) Literature relating to political parties may be left at the general office of an institution or hospital referred to in subsection (2) so that such literature may be available on request by any elector who is for the time being resident in the institution or hospital wherein the polling place is appointed to be by reason of illness or infirmity or in the case of a woman, by reason of approaching maternity.
- (3a) A scrutineer accompanying a mobile portable ballot box under section 100A or 100B may distribute to persons recording their votes at the mobile portable ballot box literature (which may be,

s. 192A

or include, “how-to-vote” cards) that suggests a manner in which ballot papers might be marked.

[Section 192 amended: No. 63 of 1948 s. 28; No. 59 of 1959 s. 14; No. 94 of 1972 s. 4; No. 39 of 1979 s. 28; No. 40 of 1987 s. 81; No. 79 of 1987 s. 74; No. 64 of 2006 s. 48.]

192A. Loud speakers etc., use of during polling hours

During the hours of polling at any election —

- (a) no candidate shall use or permit to be used; and
- (b) no other person shall use,

any loud speaker, public address system or amplifier whether fixed or mobile, broadcasting van sound system, radio apparatus or any other apparatus or device for the broadcasting or dissemination of any matter intended or likely to affect the result of the election; and

- (c) no person shall make any public demonstration having reference to the election.

Penalty: \$1 000.

[Section 192A inserted: No. 28 of 1970 s. 17; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 49.]

193. Collecting etc. petitions etc. in polling places etc.

- (1) On polling day, or on a day to which polling is adjourned, a person shall not in —
 - (a) a polling place; or
 - (b) a polling area declared under section 100(1)(i) in relation to a polling place,

collect, canvass for, solicit or invite signatures or comments for the purpose of any petition, opinion poll or survey, or display or distribute any information for such a purpose.

- (2) In subsection (1) *polling place* does not include a polling place appointed under section 100(1)(c).

[Section 193 inserted: No. 58 of 1988 s. 6.]

194. Failure to transmit claim for enrolment

When any person has signed a claim to be enrolled as an elector, any other person who induces the claimant to let him have custody of the claim for transmission to the Electoral Commissioner, and fails without just cause or excuse to transmit the claim to the Electoral Commissioner, shall be guilty of a contravention of this Act.

[Section 194 amended: No. 31 of 1982 s. 6; No. 9 of 1983 s. 25; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1).]

195. Information for preparation of roll etc., not obeying requirement to provide

- (1) For the purposes of preparing any roll or ensuring the enrolment of any elector on a roll, the Electoral Commissioner, any enrolment officer, or any person authorised in this behalf by the Electoral Commissioner, may require any person to answer any questions or furnish any return or fill in and sign any claim.
- (2) Every person to whom any question shall be put under this section shall answer the same truthfully and completely to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief, and shall comply to the best of his ability with any requisition made on him under this section.

Penalty: \$100.

[Section 195 inserted: No. 59 of 1919 s. 4; amended: No. 113 of 1965 s. 8; No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(2); No. 64 of 2006 s. 50.]

196. Employer to allow employee leave of absence to vote

- (1) If an employee who is an elector notifies his employer before the polling day that he desires leave of absence to enable him to vote at any election, the employer shall, if the absence desired is necessary to enable the employee to vote at the election, allow

s. 197

him leave of absence without any penalty or disproportionate deduction of pay for such reasonable period not exceeding 2 hours as is necessary to enable the employee to vote at the election.

- (2) No employee shall, under pretence that he intends to vote at the election, but without the bona fide intention of doing so, obtain leave of absence under this section.
- (3) This section shall not apply to any elector whose absence may cause danger or substantial loss in respect of the employment in which he is engaged.

197. Person misbehaving etc. may be removed from polling place

Whoever in any polling place on polling day misconducts himself, or fails to obey the lawful directions of the presiding officer, may be removed from the polling place by any constable or by any person authorised by the presiding officer.

198. Re-entering etc. polling place after being removed from

Any person so removed re-entering or attempting to re-enter the polling place, without the permission of the presiding officer, shall be guilty of a further electoral offence punishable, on conviction, by twice the penalties prescribed in the table for the original offence.

[Section 198 amended: No. 57 of 1952 s. 14.]

199. Incurring unauthorised electoral expense on behalf of a candidate

If any person purporting to act for and on behalf of a candidate incurs or authorises any electoral expense without the written authority of the candidate or his agent authorised in writing, he shall be guilty of a contravention of this Act.

199A. Interfering with political liberty

- (1) A person shall not hinder or interfere with the free exercise or performance, by any other person, of any political right or duty that is relevant to an election or of the right to make a political gift.

Penalty: \$1 000.

- (2) In subsection (1) —

political gift means a gift to —

- (a) a political party or an associated entity within the meaning of Part VI; or
- (b) a candidate or group in an election; or
- (c) a person to whom section 175Q applies.

[Section 199A inserted: No. 75 of 1992 s. 7; amended: No. 50 of 2003 s. 56(6).]

200. Illegal practice committed indirectly etc., liability for

Every person shall be liable for an illegal practice committed directly or indirectly by himself, or by any other person on his behalf, and with his knowledge and authority.

201. Attempt to commit offence

Any attempt to commit an offence against this Act shall be an offence against this Act punishable as if the offence has been committed.

202. Evidentiary provision

On any prosecution under this Act the certificate of the Electoral Commissioner or a returning officer that the election mentioned in the certificate was duly held, and that the person named in the certificate was a candidate at the election, shall be evidence of the matter stated.

[Section 202 amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84.]

s. 204

[203. Deleted: No. 51 of 1992 s. 16(4).]

204. Offences that are crimes

Offences against this Act punishable by imprisonment exceeding one year (except as a summary conviction penalty) are crimes.

[Section 204 amended: No. 4 of 2004 s. 58; No. 14 of 2016 s. 26.]

205. Summary offences and time limit for prosecutions

All offences against this Act which are not crimes shall be punishable on summary conviction, and a prosecution for any such offence may be commenced within 12 months after the offence was allegedly committed.

[Section 205 amended: No. 63 of 1948 s. 29; No. 4 of 2004 s. 58; No. 84 of 2004 s. 80.]

206. *The Criminal Code* Ch. XIV not to apply to parliamentary elections

Nothing contained in Chapter XIV of *The Criminal Code* shall apply to parliamentary elections.

Part VIII — Miscellaneous

207. Who may witness signatures and take declarations

- (1) The signatures to claims or other forms may be witnessed by an elector, or a person qualified to be enrolled as an elector, of the Commonwealth Parliament or of the Assembly.
- (2) Any declaration required under this Act may be made before any person authorised to witness signatures to claims, and shall have the same force and effect, and in the case of a false declaration shall subject the declarant to the same penalty, as if such declaration had been made before a justice of the peace.
- (3) Any person who witnesses the signature of a claimant without being personally acquainted with the facts, or satisfying himself by inquiry from the claimant or otherwise that the statements contained in the claim are true, commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$100.

[Section 207 inserted: No. 9 of 1983 s. 26.]

208. Notices, service of

Without limiting the *Interpretation Act 1984* sections 75 and 76, where any notice or notification is required to be served on, or given or sent to, any person under this Act, the same may be posted to him as a letter addressed to him —

- (a) at the address shown for him in the roll; or
- (b) if the person has notified a postal address to the Electoral Commissioner, at that postal address.

[Section 208 inserted: No. 9 of 1983 s. 27; amended: No. 40 of 1987 s. 84; No. 36 of 2000 s. 28(1); No. 35 of 2012 s. 32.]

209. Electoral papers sent by post, deemed service of

- (1) All electoral papers transmitted through the post, if duly addressed, shall, on proof of posting, be deemed to have been duly served on and received by the person to whom they were

s. 210

addressed on the day when, in the ordinary course of post, they should have been received at his address.

- (2) Subsection (1) applies whether or not this Act provides that the electoral matter in question is to be transmitted by post.

[Section 209 amended: No. 36 of 2000 s. 70.]

210. Electronic communication of electoral matter permitted

- (1) If this Act provides for electoral matter to be transmitted by post, the matter may be transmitted by electronic means if it is practicable to do so.
- (2) Communications under this Act between officers may be transmitted by electronic means in any case.

[Section 210 inserted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 71; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 51.]

211A. Certain documents may be transmitted electronically

- (1) In this section —

certain document means a claim, nomination, application, notice, objection or other communication that is required or permitted to be transmitted to the Electoral Commissioner or any other officer under —

- (a) Part IIIA, IV or VI; or
(b) any other provision of the Act as is prescribed;

transmitted includes sent, given, made, forwarded by post, delivered to or lodged with.

- (2) If the Electoral Commissioner has established procedures for the electronic transmission and recording of data for certain documents, or a case or class of cases of such documents then, despite anything else in this Act, a document transmitted in accordance with those procedures is to be taken to be transmitted under this Act.

- (3) If, under this Act, a certain document is required to be signed by a person, then, despite anything else in this Act, that requirement is to be taken to be satisfied in respect of an electronically transmitted document if procedures established under subsection (2) by the Electoral Commissioner include a method to be used to —

- (a) identify the person transmitting the document; and
- (b) indicate the person's intention in respect of the information communicated in the document,

and that method is complied with.

[Section 211A inserted: No. 35 of 2012 s. 6.]

211. Person unable to write may make mark etc.

- (1) Any person required by this Act to sign his name may, on satisfying an attesting witness that he is unable to write, make his distinguishing mark, which shall be witnessed by the attesting witness and his distinguishing mark when so witnessed, shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be the personal signature of that person.
- (2) Where a person is required by this Act —
- (a) to sign his name; or
 - (b) make his distinguishing mark,
- is unable to do either of those things and a legally qualified medical practitioner has certified in writing that the person is so physically incapacitated that the person cannot sign his name or make his distinguishing mark, another person may on behalf of the person sign the name of the person in accordance with the directions of the first-mentioned person.
- (3) A certificate referred to in subsection (2) shall be attached to the document to which it relates.
- (4) A certificate referred to in subsection (2) is not required in relation to a declaration completed under section 92(5)(a).

s. 212

[Section 211 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 39; No. 68 of 1964 s. 39; No. 31 of 1982 s. 7; No. 9 of 1983 s. 28; No. 79 of 1987 s. 75; No. 36 of 2000 s. 47.]

212. Forms, compliance requirements

Strict compliance with the prescribed forms shall not be required, and substantial compliance therewith shall suffice for the purposes of this Act.

[Section 212 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 40.]

213. Regulations generally

- (1) The Governor may make regulations for carrying out this Act, and prescribing forms for use under this Act.

[(2)-(8) deleted]

[Section 213 amended: No. 44 of 1911 s. 41; No. 33 of 1964 s. 39; No. 40 of 1987 s. 82; No. 79 of 1987 s. 76; No. 36 of 2000 s. 81(1); No. 20 of 2021 s. 89.]

213A. Regulations affecting certain candidates

The Governor may make regulations —

- (a) requiring a person who holds any office or place mentioned in Part 2 of Schedule V to the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899*, not being an office also mentioned in Part 1 of that Schedule, and who is nominated for election under this Act to take leave of absence from that office or place and —
- (i) prescribing the period during which that leave of absence shall be taken;
 - (ii) authorising that leave of absence to be granted and taken notwithstanding anything contained in the Act under which that person is appointed or employed;

- (iii) providing for that leave of absence to be taken without pay except to the extent to which that person has an accrued entitlement to, and applies for, leave of absence with pay;
- (b) prohibiting a person who is a member of any body mentioned in Part 3 of Schedule V to the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* and who is nominated for election under this Act from attending any meeting of that body, or carrying out any function or duty as a member of that body, or receiving any salary, fees, allowances, expenses or other remuneration as a member of that body and —
 - (i) prescribing the period during which those prohibitions shall have effect;
 - (ii) providing that those prohibitions shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Act under which that person is appointed;
 - (iii) providing for consequential matters in relation to membership of that body.

[Section 213A inserted: No. 78 of 1984 s. 17.]

[214. *Omitted under the Reprints Act 1984 s. 7(4)(f).]*

Part 9 — Transitional provisions

[Heading inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 90; amended: No. 30 of 2023 s. 176.]

Division 1 — Transitional provisions for *Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Act 2021*

[Heading inserted: No. 30 of 2023 s. 177.]

215. Terms used

In this Division —

amending provisions means the *Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Act 2021* Parts 3 and 4;

commencement day means the day on which the *Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Act 2021* section 90 comes into operation;

existing party means a political party that, immediately before commencement day, is a registered political party;

former provisions means this Act and the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* as they were enacted immediately before commencement day;

previous electoral distribution means the division of the State into regions for the election of members of the Council that took effect on 27 November 2019;

register of political parties has the meaning given in section 62C(1).

[Section 215 inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 90; amended: No. 30 of 2023 s. 178.]

216. Vacancies and representation in Legislative Council

Despite the amendments made to this Act and the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* by the amending provisions, the

former provisions and the previous electoral distribution continue to apply in respect of —

- (a) the filling of a vacancy in the Council under sections 156C and 156D before 22 May 2025; and
- (b) the representation of electoral regions by members of the Council elected —
 - (i) before the commencement of the amending provisions; or
 - (ii) as referred to in paragraph (a).

[Section 216 inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 90.]

217. Continued registration of existing parties

- (1) An existing party may, in the period of 12 months beginning on commencement day, make an application to the Electoral Commissioner under this section (an ***application for continued registration***).
- (2) Sections 62E, 62F and 62G apply for the purposes of this section as if references in those sections to an application or an application for registration were references to an application for continued registration.
- (3) The Electoral Commissioner must cancel the registration of an existing party if —
 - (a) the existing party does not make an application for continued registration within the period referred to in subsection (1); or
 - (b) the Electoral Commissioner, after considering an application for continued registration made by the existing party within that period, is satisfied that the application would have been refused under section 62J if the application had been an application for the registration of the existing party.

Electoral Act 1907

Part 9 Transitional provisions

Division 2 Transitional provisions for Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023

s. 218

- (4) Sections 62L(3) to (6) and 62N apply to and in relation to a cancellation of registration under subsection (3) as if it were a cancellation of registration under section 62L (other than because of section 62L(2)(d)).
- (5) If the Electoral Commissioner does not cancel the registration of an existing party under subsection (3), the Electoral Commissioner must replace the information and documents in the register of political parties relating to the existing party with —
 - (a) the information set out in the existing party’s application for continued registration (other than under section 62E(4)(d) as applied by subsection (2)); and
 - (b) any document accompanying the existing party’s application for continued registration (other than under section 62E(4)(da) as applied by subsection (2)).
- (6) Nothing in this section prevents the cancellation of the registration of an existing party under section 62L.

[Section 217 inserted: No. 20 of 2021 s. 90.]

Division 2 — Transitional provisions for *Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023*

[Heading inserted: No. 30 of 2023 s. 179.]

Subdivision 1 — Transitional provisions commencing on day after Royal Assent of *Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023*

[Heading inserted: No. 30 of 2023 s. 179.]

218. Terms used

In this Subdivision —

amended Part 6 Division 2A means Part 6 Division 2A as amended by the *Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023* section 123;

amount change day means the day on which the *Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023* section 123 comes into operation;

commencement day means the day on which the *Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023* section 179 comes into operation;

higher reimbursement amount means the higher reimbursement amount as defined in section 175LB(1) to be inserted by the *Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023* section 123;

independent candidate means a candidate in an election who has not been endorsed by a body or organisation that is, includes or is part of a political party;

lodgment period means the period of 28 days beginning on commencement day;

post-change election means an election held after the amount change day;

pre-commencement registered party means a registered political party the registration for which was in force immediately before commencement day.

[Section 218 inserted: No. 30 of 2023 s. 179.]

219. Pre-commencement registered parties opting in to receive higher reimbursement amount

- (1) The secretary of a pre-commencement registered party may, within the lodgment period, lodge a request in writing to the Electoral Commissioner to receive the higher reimbursement amount under amended Part 6 Division 2A.
- (2) If, during the period beginning on commencement day and ending on the amount change day, a political party becomes a registered political party under this Act, the secretary of the party may, within 28 days after the day on which the party is given written notice of the party's registration under

section 62H(5)(a), lodge a request in writing to the Electoral Commissioner to receive the higher reimbursement amount under amended Part 6 Division 2A.

- (3) The secretary of a registered political party may, in writing, withdraw a request made under subsection (1) or (2) in relation to the party before the amount change day.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if —
 - (a) a request made under subsection (1) or (2) in relation to a registered political party is withdrawn under subsection (3); and
 - (b) the party endorses at least 1 candidate in an election held on or after the amount change day.
- (5) The request withdrawn under subsection (3) is taken, for the purposes of section 175LC(3), to be a party opt-in request withdrawn under section 175LC(2).
- (6) A request lodged under subsection (1) or (2) that is not withdrawn under subsection (3) before the amount change day is taken to be, on and from that day, a party opt-in request lodged under section 175LC(1).

[Section 219 inserted: No. 30 of 2023 s. 179.]

220. Elected non-party members opting in to receive higher reimbursement amount for next election after amount change day

- (1) In this section —

elected non-party member means a member of the Council or the Assembly who is not a member of a registered political party;

pre-commencement elected non-party member means a person who, immediately before commencement day, is an elected non-party member.

- (2) Despite section 175LCA, a non-party opt-in request cannot be lodged under section 175LCA(1) or (3) in relation to —
 - (a) a person who is a pre-commencement elected non-party member for the next post-change election at which the person is a candidate; or
 - (b) a member (a *relevant member*) of the Council or the Assembly who becomes an elected non-party member other than by being elected during the period beginning on commencement day and ending on the amount change day.
- (3) A person who is a pre-commencement elected non-party member may, within the lodgment period, lodge a request in writing to the Electoral Commissioner to receive the higher reimbursement amount under amended Part 6 Division 2A for the next post-change election at which the person is a non-party candidate.
- (4) A person who is a relevant member may, within 28 days after the day on which they become an elected non-party member, lodge a request in writing to the Electoral Commissioner to receive the higher reimbursement amount under amended Part 6 Division 2A for the next post-change election at which the person is a non-party candidate.
- (5) An elected non-party member who lodges a request under subsection (3) or (4) may, in writing, withdraw the request before the amount change day.
- (6) The request withdrawn under subsection (5) is taken, for the purposes of section 175LCA(3), to be a non-party opt-in request withdrawn under section 175LCA(2) for the post-change election for which it was lodged.
- (7) A request lodged under subsection (3) or (4) that is not withdrawn under subsection (5) before the amount change day is taken to be, on and from that day, a non-party opt-in request

lodged under section 175LCA(1) for the post-change election for which it was lodged.

[Section 220 inserted: No. 30 of 2023 s. 179.]

221. Independent candidates may opt in to receive higher reimbursement amount for next post-change election

- (1) This section applies if, in the period beginning on commencement day and ending on amount change day —
 - (a) a person has nominated as an independent candidate in an election (the *relevant election*); and
 - (b) the polling day for the relevant election is fixed in the writ as being after the amount change day.
- (2) Despite section 175LCA, if the person is elected at the relevant election, a non-party opt-in request cannot be lodged under section 175LCA(1) or (3) in relation to the person for the next post-change election at which the person is an independent candidate.
- (3) The person's agent may, before the hour of nomination for the relevant election, lodge a request in relation to the person in writing to the Electoral Commissioner to receive the higher reimbursement amount under amended Part 6 Division 2A for the next post-change election at which the person is an independent candidate.
- (4) The person's agent may, in writing, withdraw a request made under subsection (3) in relation to the person before the amount change day.
- (5) The request withdrawn under subsection (4) is taken, for the purposes of section 175LCA(3), to be a non-party opt-in request withdrawn under section 175LCA(2) for the post-change election for which it was lodged.
- (6) A request lodged under subsection (3) that is not withdrawn under subsection (4) before the amount change day is taken to

be, on and from the amount change day, a non-party opt-in request lodged under section 175LCA(1) for the post-change election for which it was lodged.

[Section 221 inserted: No. 30 of 2023 s. 179.]

222. Independent candidates may opt in to receive higher reimbursement amount for that election held after amount change day

- (1) This section applies if —
 - (a) a person has nominated before the amount change day as an independent candidate in an election; and
 - (b) the polling day for the election occurs on or after the amount change day.
- (2) The person's agent may, before the hour of nomination for the election, lodge a request in writing to the Electoral Commissioner to receive the higher reimbursement amount under amended Part 6 Division 2A in respect of the election.
- (3) The person's agent may, in writing, withdraw a request made under subsection (2) in relation to the person before the amount change day.
- (4) A request lodged under subsection (2) that is not withdrawn under subsection (3) before the amount change day is taken to be, on and from that day, a non-party opt-in request lodged under section 175LCA(1).

[Section 222 inserted: No. 30 of 2023 s. 179.]

223. Publishing information about who has opted in to receive higher reimbursement amount

- (1) Within 5 days after the day on which the Electoral Commissioner receives a request made under section 219(1) or (2) or 220(3) or (4), the Electoral Commissioner must publish on the Commission website the name of the registered political party in relation to which the request has been lodged.

- (2) On the next business day after the day on which the hour of nomination occurs for an election, the Electoral Commissioner must publish on the Commission website the names of all independent candidates in relation to whom a request under section 221(3) or 222(2) has been lodged.
- (3) If the Electoral Commissioner receives a written withdrawal of a request under section 219(3) or 220(5), or a written withdrawal of a non-party opt-in request under section 221(4) or 222(3), the Electoral Commissioner must publish on the Commission website that the request has been withdrawn.

[Section 223 inserted: No. 30 of 2023 s. 179.]

Schedule 1

[Sections 146I, 156D]

Counting of votes at Council elections

[Heading inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 83; amended: No. 20 of 2021 s. 91.]

1. The method of counting the votes to be used by the returning officer to ascertain the result of a Council election shall be as provided in this Schedule.
2. (1) In this Schedule —
ballot paper includes a vote record;
continuing candidate means a candidate not already elected or not excluded from the count.
(2) A reference in this Schedule to votes of or obtained or received by a candidate includes votes obtained or received by the candidate on any transfer under this Schedule.
3. The number of first preference votes given for each candidate and the total number of all such votes shall be ascertained and a quota shall be determined by dividing the total number of first preference votes by one more than the number of candidates required to be elected and by increasing the quotient so obtained (disregarding any remainder) by one, and any candidate who has received a number of first preference votes equal to or greater than the quota shall be elected.
4. Unless all the vacancies have been filled, the number (if any) of votes in excess of the quota (in this Schedule referred to as *surplus votes*) of each elected candidate shall be transferred to the continuing candidates as follows —
 - (a) the number of surplus votes of the elected candidate shall be divided by the number of first preference votes received by him and the resulting fraction shall be the transfer value;
 - (b) the total number of ballot papers of the elected candidate that express the first preference vote for him and the next available

preference for a particular continuing candidate shall be multiplied by the transfer value, the number so obtained (disregarding any fraction) shall be added to the number of first preference votes of the continuing candidate and all those ballot papers shall be transferred to the continuing candidate,

and any continuing candidate who has received a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota on the completion of any such transfer shall be elected.

5. Unless all the vacancies have been filled, the surplus votes (if any) of any candidate elected under clause 4, or elected subsequently under this clause, shall be transferred to the continuing candidates as follows —

- (a) the number of surplus votes of the elected candidate shall be divided by the number of votes received by him and the resulting fraction shall be the surplus fraction;
- (b) in relation to any particular ballot papers for surplus votes of the elected candidate, the surplus fraction shall be multiplied by the transfer value at which those ballot papers were transferred to the elected candidate, or by one if they expressed first preference votes for the elected candidate, and the product shall be the continued transfer value of those particular ballot papers;
- (c) the total number of ballot papers for surplus votes of the elected candidate that each —
 - (i) express the next available preference for a particular continuing candidate; and
 - (ii) have a particular continued transfer value,

shall be multiplied by that transfer value, the number so obtained (disregarding any fraction) shall be added to the number of votes of the continuing candidate and all those ballot papers shall be transferred to the continuing candidate,

and if on the completion of the transfer of the surplus votes of the elected candidate to a particular continuing candidate that candidate has received a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota, that candidate shall be elected.

6. Where a continuing candidate has received a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota on the completion of a transfer under clause 4 or 5 of the surplus votes of a particular elected candidate, no votes of any other candidate shall be transferred to the continuing candidate.
- [7. *deleted*]
8. Where, after the counting of first preference votes or the transfer of surplus votes (if any) of elected candidates, no candidate has, or less than the number of candidates required to be elected have, received a number of votes equal to the quota, the candidate who has the fewest votes must be excluded and —
- (a) if the ballot papers of the excluded candidate express the first preference vote for the excluded candidate and the next available preference for a particular continuing candidate, the total number of those ballot papers must be transferred, each ballot paper at a transfer value of one, to the continuing candidate and added to the number of votes of the continuing candidate and all those ballot papers must be transferred to the continuing candidate;
 - (b) if votes have been obtained by the excluded candidate on a transfer from a particular candidate under this Schedule and ballot papers transferred to the excluded candidate from that candidate express the next available preference for a particular continuing candidate —
 - (i) the total number of those ballot papers must be multiplied by the transfer value at which the votes were so transferred to the excluded candidate; and
 - (ii) the number so obtained (disregarding any fraction) must be added to the number of votes of the continuing candidate; and
 - (iii) all those ballot papers must be transferred to the continuing candidate.
- 8A. If votes have been obtained by the excluded candidate on transfers from 2 or more candidates under this Schedule, clause 8(b) must be applied to those transfers in the order in which they were received, the earliest transfer being dealt with first.

- 8B. A ballot paper must be set aside as exhausted if it is found that the ballot paper expresses no preference for any continuing candidate.
9. Any continuing candidate who has received a number of votes equal to or greater than the quota as a result of a transfer under clause 8 or 10 of votes of an excluded candidate shall be elected, and, unless all the vacancies have been filled, the surplus votes (if any) of the candidate so elected shall be transferred in accordance with clause 5, except that, where the candidate so elected is elected before all the votes of the excluded candidate have been transferred, the surplus votes (if any) of the candidate so elected shall not be transferred until clause 8(a) and (b) have been applied to the remaining votes of the excluded candidate.
10. Subject to clause 12, where, after the application of clause 8(a) and (b) to the votes of an excluded candidate, no continuing candidate has received a number of votes greater than the quota, the continuing candidate who has the fewest votes shall be excluded and clause 8(a) and (b) must be applied to the continuing candidate's votes.
11. Where a candidate is elected as a result of a transfer of the first preference votes of an excluded candidate or a transfer of all the votes of an excluded candidate that were transferred to the excluded candidate from a particular candidate, no other votes of the excluded candidate shall be transferred to the candidate so elected.
12. In respect of the last vacancy for which 2 continuing candidates remain, the continuing candidate who has the larger number of votes shall be elected notwithstanding that that number is below the quota, and if those candidates have an equal number of votes —
- (a) the returning officer shall make out in respect of each of those candidates, a slip bearing the name of the candidate, and deal with the slips in accordance with Schedule 2; and
 - (b) the candidate whose name is on the slip obtained by the returning officer in accordance with clause 5 of Schedule 2 shall be excluded and the other candidate shall be elected.
13. Despite any other provision of this Schedule, if the number of continuing candidates is equal to the number of remaining unfilled vacancies, each of those candidates is elected regardless of whether

the candidate has received a number of votes below, equal to or greater than the quota.

14. Subject to clauses 15 and 16, where, after any count or transfer under this Schedule, 2 or more candidates have surplus votes, the order of any transfers of the surplus votes of those candidates shall be in accordance with the relative sizes of the surpluses, the largest surplus being transferred first.
15. Subject to clause 16, where, after any count or transfer under this Schedule, 2 or more candidates have equal surpluses, the order of any transfers of the surplus votes of those candidates shall be in accordance with the relative numbers of votes of those candidates at the last count or transfer at which each of those candidates had a different number of votes, the surplus of the candidate with the largest number of votes at that count or transfer being transferred first, but if there has been no such count or transfer —
 - (a) the returning officer shall make out in respect of each of those candidates, a slip bearing the name of the candidate, and deal with the slips in accordance with Schedule 2; and
 - (b) the candidate whose name is on the slip obtained by the returning officer in accordance with clause 5 of Schedule 2 shall, as between those candidates, be deemed to have had the largest surplus.
16. Where, after any count or transfer under this Schedule, a candidate obtains surplus votes, those surplus votes shall not be transferred before the transfer of any surplus votes obtained by any other candidate on an earlier count or transfer.
17. Where the candidate who has the fewest votes is required to be excluded under clause 8 or 10, and 2 or more candidates (in this clause called the *tied candidates*) have an equal number of votes (each other candidate having a larger number of votes) whichever of the tied candidates had the fewest votes at the last count or transfer at which each of the tied candidates had a different number of votes shall be excluded, but if there has been no such count or transfer —
 - (a) the returning officer shall make out in respect of each of the tied candidates a slip bearing the name of the candidate, and deal with the slips in accordance with Schedule 2; and

- (b) the candidate whose name is on the slip obtained by the returning officer in accordance with clause 5 of Schedule 2 shall be excluded.
18. Where a candidate is elected by reason that the number of first preference votes received by him, or the aggregate of first preference votes received by him and all other votes obtained by him on transfers under this Schedule, is equal to the quota, all the ballot papers expressing those votes shall be set aside as finally dealt with.
19. For the purposes of this Schedule, a transfer under clause 4, 5 or 9 of all the surplus votes of an elected candidate, a transfer in accordance with clause 8(a) of all first preference votes of an excluded candidate or a transfer in accordance with clause 8(b) of all the votes of an excluded candidate that were transferred to him from a particular candidate each constitutes a separate transfer.
20. In a case to which section 146E(7) applies, a vote indicated on a ballot paper opposite the name of the deceased candidate must be counted to the candidate next in the order of the elector's preference, and the numbers indicating any subsequent preferences, if any, must be taken to be altered accordingly.

[Schedule 1 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 83; amended: No. 64 of 2006 s. 52; No. 14 of 2016 s. 27; No. 20 of 2021 s. 92 and 94.]

Schedule 2

[Sections 86, 87, 144;
Schedule 1, clauses 12, 15 and 17]

Ballot procedure

[Heading inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 83.]

1. Slips made out for the purposes of section 86(2a), 87(5) or (6) or 144(2)(g) or clause 12, 15 or 17 of Schedule 1 shall be dealt with as provided in this Schedule.
2. In this Schedule **ballot** means a hollow opaque sphere inside which a slip may be enclosed.
3. The returning officer shall place each of the slips in separate ballots of exact similarity, securely close the several ballots, deposit the several ballots in a ballot box, and securely fasten the ballot box.
4. The returning officer shall then shake and rotate the ballot box and shall permit any other person then present to do likewise, if the person so desires.
5. (1) The returning officer shall then —
 - (a) open the ballot box; and
 - (b) take out and open one of the ballots to obtain the slip enclosed therein.
- (2) Where the proceedings are being conducted for the purposes of section 86(2a) or 87(5) or (6) the returning officer shall repeat the procedure mentioned in subclause (1)(b) until no ballots remain in the ballot box.

[Schedule 2 inserted: No. 40 of 1987 s. 83.]

[Schedule 3 deleted: No. 36 of 2000 s. 81(1).]



Notes

This is a compilation of the *Electoral Act 1907* and includes amendments made by other written laws⁵. For provisions that have come into operation, and for information about any reprints, see the compilation table. For provisions that have not yet come into operation see the uncommenced provisions table.

Compilation table

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
<i>Electoral Act 1907</i>	27 of 1907 (7 Edw. VII No. 27)	20 Dec 1907	1 Mar 1908 (see s. 2)
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1911</i>	44 of 1911 (1 Geo. V No. 55)	16 Feb 1911	1 May 1911 (see s. 1)
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1912</i>	56 of 1912 (3 Geo. V No. 37)	30 Dec 1912	30 Dec 1912
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1918</i>	5 of 1918 (8 Geo. V No. 19) (as amended by No. 59 of 1919 s. 6)	18 Mar 1918	18 Mar 1918
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 1919</i>	59 of 1919 (10 Geo. V No. 47)	17 Dec 1919	17 Dec 1919
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1921</i>	7 of 1921 (12 Geo. V No. 7)	26 Oct 1921	26 Oct 1921
Reprint of the <i>Electoral Act 1907</i> in Appendix Session Volume 1928 (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1931</i>	38 of 1931 (22 Geo. V No. 38)	3 Dec 1931	3 Dec 1931
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1934</i>	39 of 1934 (25 Geo. V No. 38)	4 Jan 1935	4 Jan 1935

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1936</i>	10 of 1936 (1 Edw. VIII No. 10)	3 Dec 1936	3 Dec 1936
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1940</i>	18 of 1940 (4 Geo. VI No. 18)	29 Nov 1940	29 Nov 1940
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1940 (No. 3)</i>	47 of 1940 (4 & 5 Geo. VI No. 47)	30 Dec 1940	30 Dec 1940
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 in Volume 2 of Reprinted Acts ⁵ (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1948</i>	63 of 1948 (12 & 13 Geo. VI No. 63)	21 Jan 1949	27 May 1949 (see s. 1 and <i>Gazette</i> 27 May 1949 p. 1133)
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 approved 21 Oct 1949 (not in a Volume) (includes amendments listed above and in the <i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1949</i>)			
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1949</i>	26 of 1949 (13 Geo. VI No. 112)	22 Oct 1949	22 Oct 1949
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1951</i>	58 of 1951 (15 & 16 Geo. VI No. 58)	7 Jan 1952	7 Jan 1952
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1952</i>	57 of 1952 (1 Eliz. II No. 57)	23 Dec 1952	23 Dec 1952
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act (No. 2) 1953</i>	34 of 1953 (2 Eliz. II No. 34)	18 Dec 1953	18 Dec 1953
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 approved 19 Mar 1956 in Volume 9 of Reprinted Acts (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act (No. 2) 1957</i>	53 of 1957 (6 Eliz. II No. 53)	6 Dec 1957	14 Feb 1958 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 14 Feb 1958 p. 244)
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act (No. 3) 1959</i>	59 of 1959 (8 Eliz. II No. 59)	3 Dec 1959	15 Jan 1960 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 15 Jan 1960 p. 35)

Electoral Act 1907**Notes** Compilation table

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 approved 26 Feb 1962 (not in a Volume) (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1962</i>	51 of 1962 (11 Eliz. II No. 51)	20 Nov 1962	20 Nov 1962
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1964</i>	33 of 1964 (13 Eliz. II No. 33)	3 Nov 1964	31 Dec 1964 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 24 Dec 1964 p. 4094)
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act (No. 3) 1964</i>	68 of 1964 (13 Eliz. II No. 68)	4 Dec 1964	31 Dec 1964 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 24 Dec 1964 p. 4094)
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 approved 9 Feb 1965 in Volume 19 of Reprinted Acts (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Decimal Currency Act 1965</i>	113 of 1965	21 Dec 1965	Act other than s. 4-9: 21 Dec 1965 (see s. 2(1)); s. 4-9: 14 Feb 1966 (see s. 2(2))
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1967</i>	33 of 1967	17 Nov 1967	24 Nov 1967 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 24 Nov 1967 p. 3195)
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act 1970</i>	28 of 1970	20 May 1970	1 Nov 1970 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 30 Oct 1970 p. 3343)
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act (No. 2) 1970</i>	94 of 1970	30 Nov 1970	5 Dec 1970 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 4 Dec 1970 p. 3705)
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 approved 12 Jan 1971 (not in a Volume) (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Metric Conversion Act 1972</i>	94 of 1972	4 Dec 1972	Relevant amendments (see First Sch. ⁶) took effect on 1 Jan 1974 (see s. 4(2) and <i>Gazette</i> 7 Dec 1973 p. 4490)
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act (No. 2) 1973</i>	70 of 1973	6 Dec 1973	1 Jan 1974 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 28 Dec 1973 p. 4725)
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act (No. 2) 1976</i>	129 of 1976	9 Dec 1976	9 Dec 1976
<i>Electoral Act Amendment Act (No. 2) 1979</i>	39 of 1979	25 Oct 1979	23 Nov 1979 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 23 Nov 1979 p. 3635)
<i>Acts Amendment (Master, Supreme Court) Act 1979 Pt. XI</i>	67 of 1979	21 Nov 1979	11 Feb 1980 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 8 Feb 1980 p. 383)

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 1980</i>	52 of 1980	19 Nov 1980	19 Nov 1980
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 approved 8 Dec 1981 (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 1982</i>	31 of 1982	27 May 1982	11 Oct 1982 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 10 Sep 1982 p. 3637)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act (No. 2) 1982</i>	123 of 1982	10 Dec 1982	10 Dec 1982
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 1983</i>	9 of 1983	29 Sep 1983	s. 5: 7 Oct 1983 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 7 Oct 1983 p. 4066); s. 1-4 and 6-28: 1 Nov 1983 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 14 Oct 1983 p. 4147); s. 29-31: 26 Jan 1984 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 18 Nov 1983 p. 4559)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act (No. 2) 1983</i>	54 of 1983	13 Dec 1983	13 Dec 1983
<i>Electoral Amendment Act (No. 3) 1983</i>	66 of 1983	22 Dec 1983	26 Jan 1984 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 20 Jan 1984 p. 119)
<i>Health Legislation Amendment Act 1984 Pt. VI</i>	28 of 1984	31 May 1984	1 Jul 1984 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 15 Jun 1984 p. 1629)
<i>Acts Amendment and Repeal (Disqualification for Parliament) Act 1984 Pt. VII</i>	78 of 1984	14 Nov 1984	1 Jul 1985 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 17 May 1985 p. 1671)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 1984</i>	76 of 1984	26 Nov 1984	s. 1 and 2: 26 Nov 1984; Act other than s. 1 and 2: 24 Dec 1984 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 21 Dec 1984 p. 4173)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act (No. 2) 1985</i>	104 of 1985 (as amended by No. 1 of 1987)	7 Dec 1985	s. 1 and 2: 7 Dec 1985; Act other than s. 1 and 2: 1 May 1987 (see s. 3 of Act No. 1 of 1987 and <i>Commonwealth Special Gazette</i> 68 of 1987)
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 as at 16 Jun 1986 (includes amendments listed above except those in the <i>Electoral Amendment Act (No. 2) 1985</i>)			

Electoral Act 1907**Notes**

Compilation table

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
<i>Acts Amendment (Electoral Reform) Act 1987 Pt. IV</i> ^{7,8}	40 of 1987	12 Jul 1987	30 Oct 1987 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 30 Oct 1987 p. 3977)
<i>Electoral (Procedures) Amendment Act 1987</i>	79 of 1987	1 Dec 1987	s. 1 and 2: 1 Dec 1987; Act other than s. 1 and 2: 16 Feb 1988 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 16 Feb 1988 p. 477)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 1988</i>	20 of 1988	9 Sep 1988	9 Sep 1988 (see s. 2)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act (No. 2) 1988</i>	58 of 1988	8 Dec 1988	s. 1 and 2: 8 Dec 1988; Act other than s. 1 and 2: 27 Jan 1989 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 27 Jan 1989 p. 264)
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 as at 1 Jan 1989 (includes amendments listed above except those in the <i>Electoral Amendment Act (No. 2) 1988</i>)			
<i>Guardianship and Administration Act 1990</i> s. 123	24 of 1990	7 Sep 1990	20 Oct 1992 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 2 Oct 1992 p. 4811)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 1990</i>	66 of 1990	17 Dec 1990	14 Jan 1991
<i>Criminal Law Amendment Act (No. 2) 1992</i> s. 16(4)	51 of 1992	9 Dec 1992	6 Jan 1993
<i>Electoral Amendment (Political Finance) Act 1992</i> ⁹	75 of 1992 (as amended by No. 43 of 1996 Pt. 3; No. 64 of 2006 s. 55)	16 Dec 1992	s. 1 and 2: 16 Dec 1992; Act other than s. 1, 2, 5 and 6: 9 Nov 1996 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 8 Nov 1996 p. 6265); s. 5 and 6 repealed by No. 64 of 2006 s. 55
<i>Financial Administration Legislation Amendment Act 1993</i> s. 11	6 of 1993	27 Aug 1993	1 Jul 1993 (see s. 2(1))
<i>Acts Amendment (Ministry of Justice) Act 1993</i> Pt. 8 ¹⁰	31 of 1993	15 Dec 1993	1 Jul 1993 (see s. 2)
<i>Acts Amendment (Public Sector Management) Act 1994</i> s. 11	32 of 1994	29 Jun 1994	1 Oct 1994 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 30 Sep 1994 p. 4948)

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
<i>Sentencing (Consequential Provisions) Act 1995</i> Pt. 26 and s. 147	78 of 1995	16 Jan 1996	4 Nov 1996 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 25 Oct 1996 p. 5632)
<i>Local Government (Consequential Amendments) Act 1996</i> s. 4	14 of 1996	28 Jun 1996	1 Jul 1996 (see s. 2)
<i>Electoral Legislation Amendment Act 1996</i> Pt. 2	43 of 1996	16 Oct 1996	9 Nov 1996 (see s. 2(2) and <i>Gazette</i> 8 Nov 1996 p. 6265)
<i>Financial Legislation Amendment Act 1996</i> s. 64	49 of 1996	25 Oct 1996	25 Oct 1996 (see s. 2(1))
<i>Mental Health (Consequential Provisions) Act 1996</i> Pt. 6	69 of 1996	13 Nov 1996	13 Nov 1997 (see s. 2)
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 as at 22 Apr 1997 (includes amendments listed above except those in the <i>Electoral Amendment (Political Finance) Act 1992</i> s. 5 and 6 and the <i>Mental Health (Consequential Provisions) Act 1996</i>)			
<i>Equal Opportunity Amendment Act (No. 3) 1997</i> s. 8	42 of 1997	9 Dec 1997	6 Jan 1998 (see s. 2(1))
<i>Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Act (No. 2) 1998</i> s. 76	10 of 1998	30 Apr 1998	30 Apr 1998 (see s. 2(1))
<i>Acts Repeal and Amendment (Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration) Act 1998</i> s. 11	40 of 1998	30 Oct 1998	14 Apr 1999 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 9 Apr 1999 p. 1433)
<i>Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Act 2000</i> s. 50	24 of 2000	4 Jul 2000	4 Jul 2000 (see s. 2)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 2000</i> ¹¹	36 of 2000	10 Oct 2000	s. 1 and 2: 10 Oct 2000; Act other than s. 1, 2, 28 and Pt. 5: 21 Oct 2000 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 20 Oct 2000 p. 5899); s. 28 and Pt. 5: 11 Nov 2000 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 10 Nov 2000 p. 6193)
Reprint of the Electoral Act 1907 as at 15 Dec 2000 (includes amendments listed above except those in the <i>Electoral Amendment (Political Finance) Act 1992</i> s. 5 and 6)			

Electoral Act 1907**Notes** Compilation table

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
<i>Corporations (Consequential Amendments) Act 2001</i> s. 220	10 of 2001	28 Jun 2001	15 Jul 2001 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 29 Jun 2001 p. 3257 and <i>Cwlth Gazette</i> 13 Jul 2001 No. S285)
<i>Sentencing Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2003</i> s. 56	50 of 2003	9 Jul 2003	15 May 2004 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 14 May 2004 p. 1445)
<i>Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Act 2003</i> s. 47	74 of 2003	15 Dec 2003	15 Dec 2003 (see s. 2)
<i>Criminal Code Amendment Act 2004</i> s. 58	4 of 2004	23 Apr 2004	21 May 2004 (see s. 2)
<i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i> Sch. 2 cl. 8	34 of 2004	20 Oct 2004	1 Mar 2006 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 14 Feb 2006 p. 695)
<i>Courts Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2004</i> s. 141	59 of 2004	23 Nov 2004	1 May 2005 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 31 Dec 2004 p. 7128)
<i>State Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction) Amendment and Repeal Act 2004</i> s. 468 ¹²	55 of 2004	24 Nov 2004	24 Jan 2005 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 31 Dec 2004 p. 7130)
<i>Criminal Procedure and Appeals (Consequential and Other Provisions) Act 2004</i> s. 80 and 82	84 of 2004	16 Dec 2004	2 May 2005 (see s. 2 and <i>Gazette</i> 31 Dec 2004 p. 7129 (correction in <i>Gazette</i> 7 Jan 2005 p. 53))
<i>Electoral Amendment and Repeal Act 2005</i> Pt. 2	1 of 2005	20 May 2005	20 May 2005 (see s. 2)
<i>Constitution and Electoral Amendment Act 2005</i> s. 4	2 of 2005	23 May 2005	23 May 2005 (see s. 2)
Reprint 13: The Electoral Act 1907 as at 9 Sep 2005 (includes amendments listed above except those in the <i>Electoral Amendment (Political Finance) Act 1992</i> s. 5 and 6 and the <i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i>)			
<i>Electoral Reform (Electoral Funding) Act 2006</i>	55 of 2006	26 Oct 2006	27 Oct 2006 (see s. 2)

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
<i>Electoral Legislation Amendment Act 2006</i> Pt. 3 ¹³	64 of 2006	8 Dec 2006	5 Mar 2007 (see s. 2(2) and <i>Gazette</i> 2 Mar 2007 p. 689)
<i>Financial Legislation Amendment and Repeal Act 2006</i> s. 4 and Sch. 1 cl. 51	77 of 2006	21 Dec 2006	1 Feb 2007 (see s. 2(1) and <i>Gazette</i> 19 Jan 2007 p. 137)
Reprint 14: The Electoral Act 1907 as at 7 Dec 2007 (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Criminal Law Amendment (Homicide) Act 2008</i> s. 32	29 of 2008	27 Jun 2008	1 Aug 2008 (see s. 2(d) and <i>Gazette</i> 22 Jul 2008 p. 3353)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 2008</i>	38 of 2008	3 Jul 2008	s. 1 and 2: 3 Jul 2008 (see s. 2(a)); Act other than s. 1 and 2: 30 Apr 2010 (see s. 2(b) and <i>Gazette</i> 23 Apr 2010 p. 1523)
<i>Electoral Amendment (Miscellaneous) Act 2009</i>	7 of 2009	21 May 2009	Pt. 1: 21 May 2009 (see s. 2(a)); Act other than Part 1: 1 Oct 2009 (see s. 2(b) and <i>Gazette</i> 1 Sep 2009 p. 3393)
<i>Acts Amendment (Bankruptcy) Act 2009</i> s. 34	18 of 2009	16 Sep 2009	17 Sep 2009 (see s. 2(b))
Reprint 15: The Electoral Act 1907 as at 23 Jul 2010 (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Electoral and Constitution Amendment Act 2011</i> Pt. 2	49 of 2011	11 Nov 2011	21 Dec 2011 (see s. 2(b) and <i>Gazette</i> 20 Dec 2011 p. 5373)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 2012</i>	35 of 2012	5 Nov 2012	s. 1 and 2: 5 Nov 2012 (see s. 2(a)); Act other than s. 1 and 2: 5 Dec 2012 (see s. 2(b) and <i>Gazette</i> 4 Dec 2012 p. 5907)
Reprint 16: The Electoral Act 1907 as at 11 Jan 2013 (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 2014</i> Pt. 2	14 of 2014	2 Jul 2014	3 Jul 2014 (see s. 2(b))
<i>Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Act 2014</i> s. 11	17 of 2014	2 Jul 2014	6 Sep 2014 (see s. 2(b) and <i>Gazette</i> 5 Sep 2014 p. 3213)

Electoral Act 1907**Notes** Uncommenced provisions table

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
<i>Mental Health Legislation Amendment Act 2014</i> Pt. 4 Div. 4 Subdiv. 11	25 of 2014	3 Nov 2014	30 Nov 2015 (see s. 2(b) and <i>Gazette</i> 13 Nov 2015 p. 4632)
<i>Electoral Amendment Act 2016</i>	14 of 2016	11 Jul 2016	s. 1 and 2: 11 Jul 2016 (see s. (2)(a)); Act other than s. 1 and 2: 17 Aug 2016 (see s. 2(b) and <i>Gazette</i> 16 Aug 2016 p. 3469)
Reprint 17: The Electoral Act 1907 as at 9 Dec 2016 (includes amendments listed above)			
<i>Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Act 2021</i> Pt. 4	20 of 2021	24 Nov 2021	25 Nov 2021 (see s. 2(b))
<i>Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023</i> Pt. 2 (other than s. 4-175 and 180-182)	30 of 2023	11 Dec 2023	12 Dec 2023 (see s. 2(b))

Uncommenced provisions table

To view the text of the uncommenced provisions see *Acts as passed* on the WA Legislation website.

Short title	Number and year	Assent	Commencement
<i>State Superannuation (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2000</i> s. 75	43 of 2000	2 Nov 2000	To be proclaimed (see s. 2(2))
<i>Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Act 2023</i> Pt. 15 Div. 13	10 of 2023	13 Apr 2023	To be proclaimed (see s. 2(b))
<i>Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Act 2023</i> s. 4-175 and 180-182	30 of 2023	11 Dec 2023	1 Jul 2024 (see s. 2(c))

Other notes

- ¹ Repealed by the *Australian Citizenship (Transitional and Consequential) Act 2007* (Cwlth) Sch. 1 Pt. 2. Now see the *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* (Cwlth).
- ² The *Superannuation and Family Benefits Act 1938* was repealed by the *State Superannuation Act 2000* s. 39 but its provisions continue to apply to and in relation to certain schemes because of the *State Superannuation (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2000* s. 26 and those provisions may be amended by regulations under subsection (3) of that section. See also the uncommenced provisions table.
- ³ Footnote no longer applicable.
- ⁴ Under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* s. 112(1), a reference to the *Public Service Act 1978* is, unless the contrary is intended, to be read and construed as a reference to the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.
- ⁵ In this consolidation the renumbering of sections effected in the 1943 reprint (in Volume 2 of the Reprinted Acts of the Parliament of Western Australia) and retained in subsequent reprints has again been retained. References to the original numbering are contained in the 1943 reprint.
- ⁶ The Schedule to the *Metric Conversion Act 1972* was redesignated as the First Schedule by the *Metric Conversion Act Amendment Act 1973*.
- ⁷ The *Acts Amendment (Electoral Reform) Act 1987* s. 19(2) reads as follows:
 - (2) References to the Chief Electoral Officer in any written law shall, unless because of the context it would be inappropriate so to do, be read and construed as references to the Electoral Commissioner.
- ⁸ The *Acts Amendment (Electoral Reform) Act 1987* s. 21(2) reads as follows:
 - (2) A Registrar or returning officer holding office immediately before the commencement of this Act shall, on and from that commencement, be deemed to have been appointed by the Electoral Commissioner.
- ⁹ The *Electoral Amendment (Political Finance) Act 1992* s. 8 is a transitional provision that is of no further effect.
- ¹⁰ The *Acts Amendment (Ministry of Justice) Act 1993* Pt. 19 is a savings and transitional provision that is of no further effect.

¹¹ The *Electoral Amendment Act 2000* s. 81(2) reads as follows:

- (2) The repeal of Schedule 3 does not affect the operation of the *Electoral (Ballot Paper Forms) Regulations 1990*.

¹² The *State Administrative Tribunal (Conferral of Jurisdiction) Amendment and Repeal Act 2004* Pt. 5, the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004* s. 167 and 169, and the *State Administrative Tribunal Regulations 2004* r. 28 and 42 deal with certain transitional issues some of which may be relevant for this Act.

¹³ The *Electoral Legislation Amendment Act 2006* s. 27(2)-(4) read as follows:

- (2) A person who is a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council immediately before the commencement —
- (a) does not become disqualified, on the commencement, for membership of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council for the purposes of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* section 38(a) or 40(a); and
- (b) is not prevented from completing his or her current term as a member,

by reason only of not being an Australian citizen as defined in the *Electoral Act 1907* section 4(1).

- (3) A person who has been elected as a member of the Legislative Council but has not begun his or her term as a member before the commencement —
- (a) does not become disqualified, on the commencement for membership of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council for the purposes of the *Constitution Acts Amendment Act 1899* section 38(a) or 40(a); and
- (b) is not prevented from beginning and completing his or her term as a member,

by reason only of not being an Australian citizen as defined in the *Electoral Act 1907* section 4(1).

- (4) In subsections (2) and (3) —
commencement means the coming into operation of this section.

Defined terms

*[This is a list of terms defined and the provisions where they are defined.
The list is not part of the law.]*

Defined term	Provision(s)
above the line	4(1), 128(1)
absent voter	4(1)
absolute majority of votes	144(3)
advertise	75(1)
agent.....	175
amended Part 6 Division 2A	218
amending provisions	215
amount change day	218
application for continued registration	217(1)
application name	62J(1)
approved form.....	4(1)
approved procedures	99C
Assembly	4(1)
associated entity	175
Australian citizen	4(1)
Australian Electoral Officer	31(6)
authorised officer	175W(1)
authorised witness	4(1)
automated.....	146I(6)
available day	71(1)
average district enrolment.....	16A, 16G(1)
ballot	Sch. 2
ballot paper	156D(14), Sch. 1
ballot paper packet.....	146G(1)
ballot papers.....	99B(1)
below the line.....	4(1), 128(1)
Breach or neglect of official duty	180
bribery.....	182
broadcast	175
campaign committee	175
candidate	4(1)
certain document.....	211A(1)
chief executive officer, prisons	59(1)
christian name	4(1)
claim	43(1)
commencement day	43(1), 215, 218
Commissioners.....	16A
Commission website	4(1)
Commonwealth elector	43(1)

Defined terms

conjoint election.....	4(1)
consenting candidate.....	156D(1)
constitution.....	4(1)
continuing candidate.....	Sch. 1
Council.....	4(1)
Council ballot paper.....	4(1)
Council election.....	4(1)
CPI.....	175LC(3)
Deputy Electoral Commissioner.....	4(1)
disposition of property.....	175
district.....	4(1)
division.....	175
document.....	149B
donor.....	175R(1)
DRO.....	146H(1)
early ballot paper.....	4(1)
early vote.....	4(1)
elected non-party member.....	220(1)
election.....	4(1), 175LA(1), 175Q(6)
election period.....	62C(1), 175
election year.....	4(1)
elector.....	4(1)
electoral census.....	4(1)
Electoral Commissioner.....	4(1), 5B(1)
electoral expenditure.....	175
electoral matter.....	175
electoral paper.....	191(3)
eligible elector.....	91(1), 99C
eligible political party.....	62C(1)
eligible vote.....	175LA(1)
enrolment information.....	4(1)
enrolment officer.....	42(1)
entity.....	175
excluded day.....	71(1)
existing party.....	62J(1), 215
expiry year.....	4(1)
financial controller.....	175
first district or sub-district.....	31AB(4)
former provisions.....	215
general election.....	4(1), 175
general polling place.....	4(1), 100(3)
gift.....	175
Government Statistician.....	16A
group.....	4(1)

group claim	80(1)
higher reimbursement amount	218
hour of nomination.....	4(1)
independent auditor.....	99F(1)
independent candidate.....	218
infringement notice	155AB
in order.....	43(1)
input tax credit	175LG(2)
issuing officer	90(2)
journal	175
Land Information Authority.....	16A
large district allowance	16G(4)
lodgment period	218
mentally impaired accused.....	59(1)
modified penalty	156(6) and (13A)
name.....	113C(10)
new address.....	31AB(3)
non-participating candidate.....	156D(14)
officer.....	4(1)
official agent	4(1)
official paper	4(1)
original election	156A.
parent body	62C(4)
parliamentary party	25A(6), 62C(1)
party agents register	175F(1)
party group.....	175LA(1)
party nomination	81A(1)
penalty notice.....	155AB
periodic election.....	4(1)
permitted purpose	25D(2)
person with judicial experience.....	16A
political gift.....	199A(2)
political party	4(1)
polling day	69
polling place.....	4(1), 193(2)
post-change election.....	218
pre-commencement elected non-party member	220(1)
pre-commencement registered party	218
preferenced group	146EC(1)
prepared	155AB
prescribed information	25A(1a)
prescribed manner.....	140(3), 146E(9)
President	4(1)
previous electoral distribution.....	215

Defined terms

previously elected member	156D(14)
principal officer.....	175
prison	4(1)
prisoner	59(1)
property.....	175
public agency	175
public body name	62J(1)
publish.....	191A(4)
qualified person.....	156A.
recipient	175R(1)
referendum	4(1)
registered political party	4(1), 62C(1)
register of political parties	62C(1), 215
registrar, MIARB	59(1)
relevant citizenship law.....	4(1)
relevant day.....	16A
relevant election.....	175O(2), 175Q(4), 221(1)
relevant member	220(2)
relevant number	4(1)
relevant period	88(1A), 191A(4)
required information	59(1)
response date.....	155AB
returning officer	4(1)
roll.....	4(1)
second district or sub-district	31AB(4)
secretary.....	4(1)
single member election	4(1)
Speaker	4(1)
specified.....	156AA(3)
specified amount	175
State party	62C(4)
sub-district	4(1)
surplus votes	Sch. 1
technology assisted voting	99C
tied candidates.....	144(2), 145(3), Sch. 1
transmitted	211A(1)
undue influence.....	184
vacancy	156A.
valid and sufficient reason	156(16)
vote record	4(1), 99E(1)
whole of State electorate.....	4(1), 16C(1)

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