

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE REFERENDUM (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2024

Explanatory Note

This Bill amends the Referendum Act [CAP 297] (“the Act”).

Currently, the Act provides that a person is eligible to vote in a national referendum if he or she is eligible to vote at an election under the Representation of the Peoples Act [CAP 146]. Persons who are eligible to vote at an election under the Representation of the Peoples Act must be registered in the electoral roll.

This amendment provides that persons who are eligible to vote in a national referendum are persons who:

- (a) are at least 18 years old; and
- (b) are citizens of Vanuatu; and
- (c) possess a valid National ID.

This amendment also provides that persons who are not registered in the electoral roll will still be eligible to vote at a national referendum given that they meet the criteria set out above.

Minister of Internal Affairs



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**BILL FOR THE
REFERENDUM (AMENDMENT)
ACT NO. OF 2024**

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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE REFERENDUM (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2024

An Act to amend the Referendum Act [CAP 297].

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Amendment

The Referendum Act [CAP 297] is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF REFERENDUM ACT [CAP 297]

1 Section 7

Repeal the section, substitute

“7 Persons eligible to vote in a national referendum

- (1) A person is eligible to vote in a national referendum if that person:
- (a) is 18 of age or more; and
 - (b) is a citizen of Vanuatu; and
 - (c) is in possession of a valid National ID.
- (2) To avoid doubt, a person who is not registered in the electoral roll is eligible to vote at a national referendum.”

2 Subsection 8(2)

Repeal the subsection.