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**COVID 19 PANDEMIC (SPECIAL PROVISIONS)
ACT, 2021**

Arrangement of Sections

Section

1.	Short title and commencement	2
2.	Application.....	2
3.	Interpretation.....	2
4.	Local Government Act.....	3
5.	Education Act	3
6.	Immigration Act.....	3
7.	Data Protection (Privacy of Personal Information) Act.	3



No. 29 of 2021

**COVID 19 PANDEMIC (SPECIAL PROVISIONS)
ACT, 2021**

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSITION AND
CONSEQUENCES OF THE SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN
ENACTMENTS UNDER THE EMERGENCY POWERS (COVID 19
PANDEMIC)(MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY)
(SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ORDER, 2021**

[Date of Assent - 12th November, 2021]

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

1. Short title and commencement.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Covid 19 Pandemic (Special Provisions) Act, 2021.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on the 13th day of November, 2021.

2. Application.

This Act shall apply —

- (a) to the particular provisions of law hereinafter mentioned which were modified by the Emergency Powers (Covid 19 Pandemic) (Management and Recovery)(Special Provisions) Order, 2021; and
- (b) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in —
 - (i) the Local Government Act (*Ch. 37*);
 - (ii) the Education Act (*Ch. 46*);
 - (iii) the Immigration Act (*Ch. 191*); and
 - (iv) the Data Protection (Privacy of Personal Information) Act (*Ch. 324A*).

3. Interpretation.

In this Act, "state of public emergency" refers to the period extending between the 17th day of March, 2020 and the 13th day of November, 2021 during which the Governor-General, pursuant to Article 29 of the Constitution declared there to be a state of public emergency.

4. Local Government Act.

- (1) The suspension by the Emergency Powers (Covid 19 Pandemic) (Management and Recovery)(Special Provisions) Order, 2021, of the elections required to be held in accordance with section 17(1) of the Local Government Act (*Ch. 37*), is continued for a period of ninety days from the date of the commencement of this Act.
- (2) The term of office of committee members and Councillors currently holding office, shall be extended for a period of ninety days from —
 - (a) the date of the commencement of this Act; or
 - (b) the date of issue of the writ of election for the next election of committee members and Councillors, if sooner.

5. Education Act.

- (1) The suspension by the Emergency Powers (Covid 19 Pandemic) (Management and Recovery)(Special Provisions) Order, 2021, of the elections required to be held in accordance with section 14 of the Education Act (*Ch. 46*) and in accordance with the Education (School Board Elections) Regulations (*S.I. No. 71 of 1996*) shall be suspended for a period of ninety days from the date of the commencement of this Act.
- (2) The term of office of the members of a School Board currently holding office, shall be extended for a period of ninety days from the date of the commencement of this Act.

6. Immigration Act.

- (1) Any work permit, annual residence or other permit issued under the Immigration Act (*Ch. 191*) that expired during the state of public emergency, shall be deemed to be extended and valid for a period of ninety days from the date of the commencement of this Act.
- (2) The application for renewal of a work permit, annual residence or other permit extended pursuant to subsection (1), shall be made before the expiry of ninety days from the date of the commencement of this Act.

7. Data Protection (Privacy of Personal Information) Act.

- (1) The National Insurance Board is, in accordance with section 13(e) of the Data Protection (Privacy of Person Information) Act (*Ch. 324A*), permitted to continue to share with a money transmission service provider approved in writing by the Minister responsible for Information Privacy and Data Protection, the personal data of a data subject for the purpose of facilitating the payment of a national insurance benefit to the data subject through the money transmission service.

- (2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as relieving the approved money transmission service provider of the requirement to safeguard any personal data received by it in respect of any data subject in accordance with subsection (1).
- (3) Subsection (1) shall continue for a period of ninety days from the date of the commencement of this Act.