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**CHAPTER 1****CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM**

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**CHAPTER 1**

CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

**An Act to provide for the manner in which a vote shall be taken for the purpose of obtaining the approval of the electors with respect to a Bill which seeks to alter certain Articles of the Constitution of The Bahamas.** *16 cf 1977*  
*7 cf 2002*

*[Commencement 29th December, 1977]*

1. This Act may be cited as the Constitutional Referendum Act. Short title.

2. (1) For the purpose of obtaining the approval of the electors qualified to vote in an election of members of the House of Assembly with respect to a Bill submitted to them, which Bill seeks to alter an Article of the Constitution specified in Article 54(2) or (3) of the Constitution or any of the provisions of The Bahamas Independence Act, 1973, a vote shall be taken by way of a referendum held in accordance with this Act. Holding of referendum.

(2) The Governor-General may by proclamation appoint a day for the holding of a referendum, being a day not earlier than twenty-one days after the date of the proclamation. *7 cf 2002, s 3*

(3) The electors qualified to vote in a referendum shall be the electors who are qualified to vote as electors for the Election of members of the House of Assembly and for the purpose of referendum the register of voters prepared pursuant to section 13 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, 1992 shall be deemed to be closed ten days before the holding of the referendum. *7 cf 2002, s 4*

3. The question to be asked in a referendum shall be set out in the Bill which seeks to amend the Constitution or The Bahamas Independence Act, 1973, as the case may be. Question to be asked in referendum.

4. For the purposes of a referendum the votes of the electors shall be cast and the proceedings shall be conducted so far as may be as if a referendum were a general election of members of the House of Assembly and the Parliamentary Elections Act, and any regulations in force under that Act, shall be construed accordingly. Application of Parliamentary Elections Act.  
  
*7 cf 2002, s 2*  
*Ch 7;*

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Regulations.

- 5.** The Governor-General may make regulations —
- (a) for the establishment of such organization as may appear to the Governor-General to be necessary for the conduct of a referendum;
  - (b) as to the form of a ballot paper for the purpose of a referendum;
  - (c) for the modification of the Parliamentary Elections Act (including omissions from, additions to and amendments to the said Act) for the purpose of this Act;
  - (d) for any other matter appearing to the Governor-General to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of this Act.

*7 cf 2002, s 2*  
Ch.7

Expenses.

- 6.** Any expenses incurred in carrying this Act into effect shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament.