

Fixed-Term Parliaments Act 2014

Draft – For Public Consultation

An Act to make provision about the dissolution of Parliament and the determination of polling days for parliamentary general elections.

1) Polling Days for Parliamentary General Elections

- a. The polling day for the next parliamentary election after the passing of this Act is to be June 20th, 2016.
- b. The polling day of each subsequent parliamentary general election is to be the third Monday in June in the fourth calendar year following that in which the polling day for the previous parliamentary general election fell.
- c. Parliament may postpone the polling day for a parliamentary general election in a specified calendar year by no more than four weeks (28 days) by a vote equal to 66% of the House of Assembly in favour of the postponement.
- d. The vote on postponing a parliamentary general election must be accompanied by a statement setting out the reasons for proposing the change in the polling day.

2) Extraordinary Parliamentary Elections

- a. An extraordinary parliamentary election is to take place if a Motion of No Confidence is passed with a simple majority in the form of the motion:
 - i. *“This House has no confidence in the Government and there shall be an extraordinary parliamentary election.”*
- b. An extraordinary parliamentary election must be held within four weeks (28 days) of such a motion (i.) being passed by the House of Assembly.
- c. If an extraordinary parliamentary election is held it then replaces the day which would otherwise have been the polling day for the next election determined under Section 1 (and, accordingly, the next parliamentary election will be the third Monday in June in the fourth calendar year following the extraordinary parliamentary election).

3) Dissolution of Parliament

- a. The Parliament then in existence dissolves four weeks (28 days) before the polling day of the next parliamentary election as determined under Section 1(b) or as per Section 2(b).

- b. Parliament cannot otherwise be dissolved.

4) The New Parliament

- a. Following the parliamentary election, the new Parliament must convene no later than four weeks (28 days) from the polling date.

5) Final Provisions

- a. This Act may be cited as the Fixed-Term Parliaments Act 2014.
- b. This Act comes into force on the day it is passed.
- c. The Premier must make arrangements:
 - i. For a joint-select parliamentary committee to carry out a review of the operation of the Act and, if appropriate in consequence of its findings, to make recommendations for the repeal or amendment of this Act.
 - ii. For the public publication of the committee's findings and recommendations (if any) no later than four weeks (28 days) of the committee's report to the Premier.
- d. Arrangements under subsection (C)(i) are to be made no earlier than June 1st, 2018.