

**A BILL**  
**entitled**  
**REFERENDUM (CLARITY) ACT 2014**

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the Referendum Act 2012 so that the role of the Parliamentary Registrar is expanded to include ensuring the appropriate wording of referendum questions;

Be it enacted by The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Assembly of Bermuda, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

**Citation**

- 1 This Act may be cited as the Referendum (Clarity) Act 2014.

**Amends section 5**

- 2 Section 5 of the Referendum Act 2012 is amended –
  - a. In subsection (1) by inserting after paragraph (b), the following –

“(c) The Parliamentary Registrar shall consider the wording of the referendum question, and shall publish a statement of any views of the Parliamentary Registrar as to the intelligibility and neutrality of that question as soon as reasonably practicable after the Act is introduced or in such manner as they may determine.”

“(d) Where the Parliamentary Registrar considers that the wording of the referendum question is unintelligible or biased the Parliamentary Registrar is empowered to postpone the referendum until an appropriate referendum question replaces the original referendum question.”

“(e) The Parliamentary Registrar shall prepare and publish (in such a manner as the Parliamentary Registrar shall determine) a report, available to the public, on the administration of the referendum.”

**Commencement**

- 3 This Act shall come into operation immediately after passing.

## **REFERENDUM (CLARITY) ACT 2014**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This Act amends the Referendum Act 2012 to further modernise the principle Act in line with international best practice.

For this purpose the Act empowers the Parliamentary Registrar to ensure that referendum questions are intelligible and unbiased in order to ensure that referendum results are not subject to controversy.

Furthermore, the Act empowers the Parliamentary Registrar to produce a report on the administration of the referendum.

Clause 1 provides a citation for the Act.

Clause 2 amends section 5 of the principal Act to insert paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) under subsection (1):

- Paragraph (c) empowers the Parliamentary Registrar to consider the wording of the referendum question and to publish a report on the intelligibility and neutrality of the referendum question.
- Paragraph (d) empowers the Parliamentary Registrar to postpone the referendum if the original referendum question is considered to be unintelligible and biased by the Parliamentary Registrar and until a new referendum question, considered intelligible and neutral, replaces it.
- Paragraph (e) empowers the Parliamentary Registrar to prepare and produce a report on the administration of the referendum.

Clause 3 provides for the coming into operation of the Act.