

AS TABLED IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

A BILL

entitled

PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT ACT 2020

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Public Health Act 1949;

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 Public Health Amendment Act 2020.

Amends section 88

2 The Public Health Act 1949 is amended in section 88 (closing of places of public resort) by repealing subsection (1) and substituting the following—

“(1) Where it appears to the Minister that—

- (a) a communicable disease of the first or second category exists in any part of Bermuda; or
- (b) there is, in the opinion of the Chief Medical Officer, an immediate risk of an outbreak of such disease in any part of Bermuda,

and that the closing of any school, cinema, church, hotel or other place of public resort or meeting is necessary for checking the spread or the threatened spread of the disease, the Minister may order the manager or other person in charge of that place to close it; and such manager or person in charge shall forthwith comply with that order, and shall continue to comply therewith until otherwise directed by the Minister.”.

PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 2020

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Public Health Act 1949 to provide power for the Minister of Health to prevent the threatened spread of a communicable disease of the first or second category by closing schools, cinemas, churches, hotels or other places of public resort or meeting in Bermuda.

Clause 1 provides a citation for the Act.

Clause 2 amends section 88 of the Public Health Act 1949 to provide power for the Minister of Health to prevent the threatened spread of a communicable disease of the first or second category by closing schools, cinemas, churches, hotels or other places of public resort or meeting in Bermuda if, in the opinion of the Chief Medical Officer, there is an immediate risk of an outbreak of such disease.