



Isle of Man

Ellan Vannin

AT 5 of 2021

**ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS (LOCAL
AUTHORITIES) ACT 2021**



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Index

Section	Page
PART 1 – INTRODUCTORY	
5	
1 Short title.....	5
2 Commencement.....	5
PART 2: AMENDMENT OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS ACT 1986	
5	
3 The Local Elections Act 1986.....	5
4 Amendment of section 3.....	5
5 New section 3A.....	6
6 Amendment of section 5.....	6
7 Amendment of section 12.....	6
8 Amendment of section 17.....	7
9 Amendment of section 21.....	7
10 Amendment of section 22.....	7
PART 3: AMENDMENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1985	
7	
11 The Local Government Act 1985.....	7
12 New section 10A.....	8
13 Amendment of section 32.....	9
14 Amendment of Schedule 1.....	9
15 Amendment of Schedule 3.....	10
PART 4: AMENDMENT OF THE EMERGENCY POWERS (AMENDMENT) ACT 2020	
10	
16 The Emergency Powers (Amendment) Act 2020.....	10
17 Amendment of section 6.....	10
18 Amendment of Schedule.....	11
PART 5: ORDERS ETC.	
11	
19 Orders.....	11

20	Continuity of offices and appointments	11
21	Schedule.....	12
SCHEDULE		13
CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS: SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION		13



**Isle of Man***Ellan Vannin*

ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS (LOCAL AUTHORITIES) ACT 2021

<i>Signed in Tynwald:</i>	<i>20 April 2021</i>
<i>Received Royal Assent:</i>	<i>20 April 2021</i>
<i>Announced to Tynwald:</i>	<i>20 April 2021</i>

AN ACT to change the date on which local elections in 2021 are due to take place and to enable meetings of local authorities to take place remotely; and for connected purposes

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Council and Keys in Tynwald assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

PART 1 – INTRODUCTORY

1 Short title

The short title of this Act is the Elections and Meetings (Local Authorities) Act 2021.

2 Commencement

This Act comes into operation on its announcement day.

PART 2: AMENDMENT OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS ACT 1986

3 The Local Elections Act 1986

The *Local Elections Act 1986* is amended as follows.

4 Amendment of section 3

For section 3(1) (day of election), substitute—

- █ (1) Subject to section 17(2), the day of election for the purposes of all local elections shall be such day in July as the Department may determine in the year 2021, and such day in April as the Department may determine in the year 2025 and in each fourth succeeding year. █

5 New section 3A

After section 3 insert —

█ 3A Power to postpone elections

- (1) The Department may, by regulations provide that a local election under this Act or meeting under this Act or the *Local Government Act 1985* that would otherwise be required to be held on a particular date is instead to be held on such later date, or within such period, as is specified in the regulations.

Tynwald procedure – approval required

- (2) The power to make regulations under subsection (1) may be exercised more than once in respect of an election or meeting.
- (3) The power to make regulations under subsection (1) is capable of being exercised so as to amend any enactment dealing with local authority elections.
- (4) Regulations may make consequential, supplementary, incidental, transitional or saving provision and may, in particular, make provision about—
- (a) acts or omissions in connection with a meeting or an election prior to its postponement;
 - (b) things that have yet to be done in connection with a meeting or an election prior to its postponement;
 - (c) steps to be taken in respect of such a meeting or elections;
 - (d) the manner of voting at an election that has been postponed;
 - (e) the terms of office of incumbent office-holders or those elected at a postponed meeting or election;
 - (f) the nomination of candidates. █

6 Amendment of section 5

In section 5 (“tenure of office”) for “1st May 2021” substitute █ 1st August 2021 █.

7 Amendment of section 12

After section 12(3) (vacation of office by failure to attend meetings) insert—

- █ (4) For the purposes of this section—

- (a) any reference to “attend” or “attendance” in respect of a meeting includes being present through remote attendance;
- (b) “remote attendance” means attendance by electronic means including by telephone conference, video conference, live web cast and live interactive streaming; and
- (c) any reference to the place where a meeting is held, or to be held, includes reference to more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers. **22**

8 Amendment of section 17

For section 17(1) (filling of casual vacancy in case of members) substitute—

- 23** (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, on a casual vacancy occurring in the office of a member of a local authority an election to fill the vacancy must be held —
 - (a) in a case in which the High Court or the authority has declared the office to be vacant, as soon as practicable after the date of the declaration; or
 - (b) in any other case, as soon as practicable after the date on which, by virtue of section 15(1), the vacancy is deemed to have arisen. **22**

9 Amendment of section 21

After section 21(4) (election of chairman etc) insert—

- 24** (5) A chairman whose tenure of office would otherwise end on 1 May 2021 shall continue in office until 1 August 2021 unless a successor is appointed before that date, in which case that successor shall hold office until 1 May 2022. **22**

10 Amendment of section 22

In section 22(2) (mayor and deputy mayor) for “and (3)” substitute **24**, (3) and (5) **22**.

PART 3: AMENDMENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1985

11 The Local Government Act 1985

The *Local Government Act 1985* is amended as follows.

12 New section 10A

After section 10 (proceedings and allowances) insert —

10A Remote attendance

- (1) A reference in this Act or in any other document to a local authority meeting is not limited to a meeting of persons all of whom, or any of whom, are present in the same place and any reference to a “place” where a meeting is held, or is to be held, is not to be read as limited to a single physical location.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act or any such document, a member of a local authority (a “member in remote attendance”) attends the meeting at any time if all of the conditions in subsection (3) are satisfied.
- (3) The conditions referred to in subsection (2) are that the member in remote attendance is able at that time—
 - (a) to hear and be heard by the other members in attendance;
 - (b) to hear and be heard by any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting in order to exercise a right to speak at the meeting; and
 - (c) to be heard by any other members of the public attending the meeting.
- (4) In this Act any reference to a member, or a member of the public, attending or being present at a meeting includes that person attending by remote attendance.
- (5) A local authority may make other standing orders, and any other rules of the authority governing meetings, about remote attendance at meetings of that authority, which may include provision for—
 - (a) voting;
 - (b) member and public access to documents;
 - (c) remote attendance of public and press to a local authority meeting to enable them to attend or where appropriate to participate in that meeting.
- (6) This section applies notwithstanding any prohibition or other restriction contained in the standing orders, any other rules of the local authority or any other document governing the meeting and any such prohibition or restriction has no effect.
- (7) In this section, “remote attendance” means attendance by electronic means including by telephone conference, video conference, live web cast and live interactive streaming.
- (8) A decision taken at a meeting which had this section been in operation at the time that decision was taken would have been

taken in accordance with this section, may be ratified at a meeting after the date on which this section comes into operation and shall take effect at the date of its ratification.

- (9) For the purposes of this section, the extent (if any) to which a person is unable—
- (a) see by reason of any impairment of eyesight, or
 - (b) hear by reason of any impairment of hearing,
- are to be disregarded. **22**

13 Amendment of section 32

For section 32 (public notices) substitute—

32 Public notices

- (1) Save as otherwise expressly provided, a public notice required to be given by a local authority under any enactment may be given —
- (a) by posting it in a conspicuous place at the principal office of the authority or, in the case of the local authority for a parish district, at a place in the parish where public notices are normally exhibited;
 - (b) by posting it in such other places, if any, as appear to the authority to be desirable for giving publicity to the notice;
 - (c) by publishing it on the local authority’s website or on some other online electronic platform (including a social media platform);
 - (d) to a person in electronic form.
- (2) Save as otherwise expressly provided, any requirement under any enactment on a local authority to make a document available for copying or inspection is satisfied if the document is published —
- (a) on the local authority’s website or on some other online electronic platform (including a social media platform);
 - (b) posted in a conspicuous place outside the principal office of the authority or, in the case of a local authority for a parish district, at a place where public notices are normally exhibited; or
 - (c) electronically (including being provided to a person in that way). **22**

14 Amendment of Schedule 1

In Schedule 1 (meetings and proceedings of local authorities)—

- (a) after paragraph 1(3) (annual meeting) insert—

18 Amendment of Schedule

In the Schedule (postponement of local elections: consequential provisions) in paragraph 1 (continuation of tenure of office)—

- (a) in sub-paragraph (1) for “1 May 2021” substitute **1** August 2021 **2**;
- (b) omit sub-paragraph (2).

PART 5: ORDERS ETC.

19 Orders

- (1) This section applies where under a relevant order—
 - (a) a person (P) who holds an office as a committee member, a board member, chairman or vice-chairman (however expressed) of a board and is due to go out of office,
 - (b) a replacement for P is due to be appointed at a meeting of the relevant committee or board, and
 - (c) for whatever reason that meeting, whether remotely or otherwise, does not take place.
- (2) Where subsection (1) applies, and despite any provision in a relevant order to the contrary, P is to remain in office until P’s successor has been appointed.
- (3) For the purposes of this section, the relevant orders are—
 - (a) Peel and Western District Housing Order 1969 (GR 7/69);
 - (b) Ramsey and Northern Districts Housing Order 1976 (GC 141/76);
 - (c) Western Swimming Pool Board Order 1999 (SD 574/99);
 - (d) Southern Civic Amenity Board Order 2000 (SD 58/00);
 - (e) Southern Swimming Pool Board Order 2000 (SD 609/00);
 - (f) Northern Swimming Pool Board Order 2000 (SD 610/00);
 - (g) Northern Parishes Refuse Collection Board Order 2003 (SD 127/03);
 - (h) Western Civic Amenity Board Order 2013 (SD 0183/13);
 - (i) Southern Sheltered Housing Joint Board Order 2020 (SD 2020/0062).

20 Continuity of offices and appointments

- (1) Where a person (P) is to vacate office of a joint board on 1 May 2021 (or has already done so prior to that date) and a successor to that office has not been appointed, P is deemed to have been re-appointed and shall hold

office until 1 August 2021 or such earlier time as the joint board may determine, unless P vacates that office earlier.

- (2) Where a person is to vacate office of a joint board on 1 May 2021 (or has already done so prior to that date) and a successor (S) to that office has been appointed, S is to continue in office until 1 August 2021 or such earlier time as the joint board may determine, unless S vacates that office earlier.
- (3) Where a local authority is required within a fixed number of days which fall before the date on which this section comes into operation to nominate or appoint a person to a joint board to fill a casual vacancy and has not done so, that requirement is satisfied if the local authority makes such nomination or appointment as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (4) Where—
 - (a) a local authority is required to—
 - (i) elect a member of a joint committee before the date this section comes into operation and has not done so, the person holding that office before that date continues to do so until the next meeting of the local authority, unless that person vacates that office earlier;
 - (ii) elect a member of a joint committee to fill a casual vacancy within a fixed number of days which fall before the date on which this section comes into operation and has not done so, that requirement is satisfied if the local authority fills the casual vacancy as soon as reasonably practicable;
 - (b) an appointment to an office falls to be made or would ordinarily be made at a meeting of a joint committee which is due to take place before the date on which this section comes into operation but has not done so, the person holding that office before that date continues to do so until the next meeting of the joint committee, unless the person vacates that office earlier.

21 Schedule

The Schedule, which makes consequential amendments to subordinate legislation, has effect.

SCHEDULE

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS: SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

[section 21]

1 Douglas (Alteration of Wards and Number of Members) Order 2019

In article 4(3)(b) of the Douglas (Alteration of Wards and Number of Members) Order 2019 (SD 2019/0137) for “22 April 2021” substitute **22** 22 July 2021 **22**.

2 Port Erin (Number of Members) Order 2019

In article 4(3)(b) of the Port Erin (Number of Members) Order 2019 (SD 2019/0388) for “22 April 2021” substitute **22** 22 July 2021 **22**.

3 Port St Mary (Number of Members) Order 2019

In article 4(3)(b) of the Port St Mary (Number of Members) Order 2019 (SD 2019/0389) for “22 April 2021” substitute **22** 22 July 2021 **22**.

4 Arbory and Rushen (Local Government District) Order 2019

(1) The Arbory and Rushen (Local Government District) Order 2019 (SD 2019/0498) is amended as follows.

(2) In article 5 —

- (a) in paragraph (2) for “1 May 2021” substitute **22** 1 August 2021 **22**;
- (b) in paragraph (2A) for “1 May 2021” substitute **22** 1 August 2021 **22** and for “30 April 2021” substitute **22** 31 July 2021 **22** and for “1 May 2021” substitute **22** 1 August 2021 **22**;
- (c) in paragraph (4) for “a 1 year term” substitute **22** a term of 1 year and 3 months **22**;
- (d) for paragraph (5) substitute —

22 (5) Commissioners for the Arbory and Rushen Parish District who take up office on or after 1 August 2021 shall hold office until 1 May 2025 (and their successors shall take up office in each fourth succeeding year, other than when filling a casual vacancy in their number). **22**

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