

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Education Act 1996.

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ENACTED by the Parliament of Malaysia as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Education (Amendment) Act 2025.

(2) This Act comes into operation on a date to be appointed by the Minister by notification in the *Gazette*.

Amendment of section 2

2. The Education Act 1996 [*Act 550*], which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Act, is amended in section 2 by substituting for the definition of “compulsory education” the following definition:

‘ “compulsory education” means primary education which is prescribed to be compulsory education under subsection 29A(1) and secondary education which is prescribed to be compulsory education under subsection 32A(1);’.

Amendment of section 29A

3. Subsection 29A(2) of the principal Act is amended—

- (a) by substituting for the words “Every parent who is a Malaysian citizen residing in Malaysia” the words “Every parent whose child is a Malaysian citizen and the child resides in Malaysia,”; and
- (b) by substituting for the words “compulsory education” the words “primary education”.

New section 32A

4. The principal Act is amended by inserting after section 32 the following section:

“Compulsory secondary education

32A. (1) The Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, prescribe secondary education to be compulsory education.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection 29A(2), every parent whose child is a Malaysian citizen and the child resides in Malaysia, shall ensure that his child is enrolled as a pupil in an educational institution for secondary education and remains a pupil in an educational institution for secondary education for the duration of the secondary education.

(3) The Minister may, if he considers it desirable and in the interest of the pupils or the public to do so, by order published in the *Gazette*, exempt any pupil or any class of pupils from the requirement to attend compulsory education, either absolutely or subject to such conditions as he may think fit to impose, and may at any time in his discretion revoke the exemption or revoke or alter or add to such conditions.

(4) A parent who contravenes subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding five thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both.

(5) The Minister may make regulations for the carrying into effect of the provisions of this section.”.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Education Act 1996 (“Act 550”). The main purpose of the amendment is to empower the Minister to prescribe secondary education as compulsory education.

2. *Clause 1* contains the short title and the provision on the commencement of the proposed Act.

3. *Clause 2* seeks to amend section 2 of Act 550 to substitute for the definition of “compulsory education” to include secondary education.

4. *Clause 3* seeks to amend subsection 29A(2) of Act 550 to provide that every parent whose child is a Malaysian citizen and the child resides in Malaysia, shall ensure that if his child has attained the age of six years on the first day of January of the current school year that child is enrolled as a pupil in a primary school in that year and remains a pupil in a primary school for the duration of the primary education.

5. *Clause 4* seeks to introduce a new section 32A into Act 550 on compulsory secondary education. The proposed section 32A seeks to empower the Minister to prescribe secondary education to be compulsory education, to exempt any pupil or any class of pupils from the requirement to attend compulsory education and to make regulations for the carrying into effect of the provisions in relation to compulsory secondary education. The proposed section 32A also seeks to provide that every parent whose child is a Malaysian citizen and the child resides in Malaysia, shall ensure that his child is enrolled as a pupil in an educational institution for secondary education and remains a pupil in an educational institution for secondary education for the duration of the secondary education and to provide for the penalty for the contravention of the proposed subsection 32A(2).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This Bill will involve the Government in extra financial expenditure the amount of which cannot at present be ascertained.

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