

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Sexual Offences against Children Act 2017.

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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 Sexual Offences against Children (Amendment) Act 2026.

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

Substitution of section 3

2. The Sexual Offences against Children Act 2017 [Act 792] is amended by substituting for section 3 the following section:

“Extra-territorial application

3. Where any offence under this Act, or any offence specified in the Schedule where the victim is a child is committed in any place outside Malaysia—

(a) by a citizen of Malaysia, or a permanent resident of Malaysia, or a person who has his habitual residence in Malaysia against any child; or

- (b) by any person against a child who is a citizen of Malaysia, or a permanent resident of Malaysia, or who has his habitual residence in Malaysia,

the offence may be dealt with as if it has been committed at any place within Malaysia.”.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Sexual Offences against Children Act 2017 (“Act 792”).

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

3. *Clause 2* seeks to substitute section 3 of Act 792 to expand the extra-territorial application of Act 792. The existing section 3 of Act 792 provides for the extra-territorial application of Act 792 where any offence under Act 792, or any offence specified in the Schedule to Act 792 where the victim is a child, is committed outside Malaysia by a citizen of Malaysia against any child. The proposed substitution of section 3 of Act 792 therefore seeks to expand the extra-territorial application of Act 792 to offences under Act 792 and offences specified in the Schedule where the victim is a child, committed outside Malaysia, by a permanent resident of Malaysia or a person whose habitual residence is in Malaysia against any child, and by any person against a child who is a citizen of Malaysia or a permanent resident of Malaysia or whose habitual residence is in Malaysia. This will enable Act 792 to apply to a wider category of persons having connection to Malaysia in respect of offences committed outside Malaysia.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This Bill will not involve the Government in any extra financial expenditure.

[PN(U2)3323]