

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

SAMOA

Explanatory Memorandum

1.0 Object and reasons

- 1.1 The Bill seeks to amend the Constitution to increase the number of electoral constituencies. The Legislative Assembly shall comprise of one member elected from 51 electoral constituencies. This does not affect the requirement that 10% of membership of the Legislative Assembly must comprise of women.
- 1.2 The objects of the Bill are:
 - (a) to have members of the Legislative Assembly elected from electoral constituencies which will no longer be regarded as territorial constituencies;
 - (b) to specify that there will now be 51 electoral constituencies with a member elected from each one to make up the composition of the Legislative Assembly;
 - (c) to remove representation from six additional members being one additional member elected from former territorial constituencies with two representatives as such are absorbed into the 51 electoral constituencies;
 - (d) to repeal urban constituencies;
 - (e) to allow the recognition of the 51 Constituencies at the commencement of this Act only for the purpose of permitting the Electoral Commissioner to prepare the electoral rolls in anticipation of the next general elections.

Clauses:

- Clause 1:** - provides for the short title and commencement.
- Clause 2:** - provides for the amendment to Article 44(1) which is substituted with a new clause (1). The new clause replaces the current clause. The changes are that the Legislative Assembly will consist of one member elected for each of 51 electoral constituencies comprising of villages and sub-villages as are prescribed by Act. Urban seats are also repealed.
- Clause 3:** - provides for the amendment of Article 109 to replace the term “territorial” with the term “electoral” for consistency as constituencies will be referred to as “electoral constituencies”.
- Clause 4:** - provides a transitional provision to allow the Electoral Commissioner to begin compiling rolls only for the preparation for the next general elections. The electoral constituencies for the purpose of membership in Parliament will not come into effect until Parliament dissolves for the general elections.

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(Hon TUILAEP Auelua Fatialofa Lupesoliai Lolofietele
Neioti Aiono Galumalemana Dr. Sailele Malielegaoi)
PRIME MINISTER