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**GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS****NO. 971****09 SEPTEMBER 2020****PUBLICATION OF EXPLANATORY SUMMARY OF THE ELECTORAL LAWS AMENDMENT  
BILL, 2020**

The Minister of Home Affairs intends introducing the Electoral Laws Amendment Bill, 2020 in the National Assembly. The explanatory summary of the Amendment Bill is hereby published in accordance with Rule 241(1)(c) of the Rules of the National Assembly.

The Amendment Bill seeks to amend three pieces of legislation, namely, the Electoral Commission Act, 1996 (Act No.51 of 1996) ("Electoral Commission Act"), the Electoral Act, 1998 (Act No.73 of 1998) ("Electoral Act") and the Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act, 2000 (Act No. 27 of 2000) ("the Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act") and to align the relevant provisions of the legislation relating to municipal elections so as to—

- (a) Include the definitions of the local municipality, district municipality and metropolitan municipality in order to have a corresponding meaning assigned to it in terms of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act No.117 of 1998);
- (b) Discontinue with the requirement to submit paper documents by political parties in order to facilitate seamless and electronic submission of documents relating to candidates;
- (c) Allow the Electoral Commission to prescribe a method of voting other than the current paper ballot method such as electronic voting;
- (d) Allow a different voting procedure for voters whose names appear on the certified voters' roll on voting day but without an address recorded on the voters' roll;
- (e) Regulate the application procedure for the registration of parties intending to contest municipal elections at district and metropolitan level; and
- (f) To clarify the dates that the Electoral Code of Conduct is operative and binding on contestants in municipal elections.

Once the Amendment Bill has been tabled in Parliament, a copy can be obtained from:

1. the Government Printers – Cape Town and Pretoria;
2. the Acting Chief Director: Legal Services Department of Home Affairs, 230 Johannes Ramokhoase Street, Pretoria, Tel: (012) 406 4271

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