

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 2024.

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

Deletion of Part VI

2. The Sexual Offences against Children Act 2017 [*Act 792*], which is referred to as the “principal Act” in this Act, is amended by deleting Part VI.

Amendment of Schedule

3. The Schedule to the principal Act is amended in the heading by deleting the words “17, 18.”.

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 delete Part VI of Act 792 consequential to the amendment made to the Evidence of Child Witness Act 2007 [*Act 676*] to insert into the Act the provisions relating to the competency of a child witness to give evidence and to allow the Court to convict an accused on the basis of the uncorroborated evidence of a child witness given upon oath or otherwise. With this amendment, the competency of a child witness to give evidence in any proceedings against any person relating to any offence under Act 792, or any offence specified in the Schedule to Act 792 where the victim is a child, and the conviction of a person for an offence under Act 792, or any offence specified in the Schedule to Act 792 where the victim is a child, on the basis of the uncorroborated evidence of a child witness, shall be dealt with under the Evidence of Child Witness Act 2007.

4. *Clause 3* seeks to amend the Schedule to Act 792 consequential to the amendment made in *clause 2*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

[PN(U2)3323]