

## **Amendment to Federal Constitution tabled for first reading in Dewan Rakyat**

By Nuradzimmah Daim - March 21, 2022



The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2022 which seeks to exempt Malay rulers, spouses and heirs from being subject to laws relating to registration of voters was tabled for first reading in the Dewan Rakyat today. -BERNAMA PIC

KUALA LUMPUR: The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2022 which seeks to exempt Malay rulers, spouses and heirs from being subject to laws relating to registration of voters was tabled for first reading in the Dewan Rakyat today.

The bill, tabled by Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (parliament and law) Datuk Wira Mas Ermeyati Samsudin, among others, seeks to include Article 119A to the Federal Constitution to exempt them from being subject to Article 119.

The latest amendment to the constitution will be applied retrospectively, coming in force from Dec 15, 2021, the same date the Undi18 amendment took effect.

"Clause 2 of this Bill seeks to introduce a new Article 119A into the Federal Constitution to provide for the non-application of Article 119 to the Rulers, etc.

"By virtue of the proposed new Article 119A, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong may, with the consent of the Conference of Rulers, by order published in the Gazette, prescribe for an exemption to any Ruler and his Consort, any Yang di-Pertua Negeri and his Consort, and any heir apparent, heir presumptive and other heirs of a Ruler and their consorts, and any other persons, from the application of Article 119 and any laws relating to registration of electors," reads the Bill.

Article 119 was amended in 2019 to reduce the voting age from 21 to 18 (Undi18) and the implementation of automatic voter registration.