

**Amendment To Drop 'Absolute Power' Of Minister In Printing Presses Act Passed
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 20 (Bernama) -- The Dewan Rakyat today passed the Printing Presses and Publications (Amendment) Bill 2012 aimed at removing the 'absolute power' of the minister in passing or rejecting the licence for printing presses.

The bill, tabled yesterday, among others amended Sub-section 3(3) of the Printing Presses and Publications Act 2007 to do away with the need to refer to the 'full discretion' of the minister in granting or rejecting the application for a printing press.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Abu Seman Yusop, when winding up the debate on the amendment, said the amendments were important to strengthen efforts at protecting the sensitivities of the multi-racial society in Malaysia.

"The government adopts an open, liberal and responsible policy in ensuring the freedom of the press in a plural society in order to achieve a positive news reporting and open up the mind of the people.

"In sensitive matters such as these, there must be a limit to freedom. The act is also to maintain security, safeguard the public and national interest," he said.

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