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Notification No. B 10 — The Housing and Development (Amendment) Bill is hereby published for general information. It was introduced in Parliament on the 12th day of March 2015.

Housing and Development (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 10/2015.

Read the first time on 12 March 2015.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Housing and Development Act (Chapter 129 of the 2004 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Housing and Development (Amendment) Act 2015 and comes into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

5 Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2(1) of the Housing and Development Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Master Plan”, the following definition:

“ “officer” means an officer of the Board;”.

10 New sections 26A, 26B and 26C

3. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 26, the following sections:

“Power to enter upon notice or under warrant

15 **26A.**—(1) The Board may, by one or more of its officers or persons authorised by the Board (in this section called an authorised officer and authorised person, respectively), enter any premises at any reasonable time, on giving 24 hours’ notice of its intention to do so to the owner or occupier of the premises, to do either or both of the following:

20 (a) investigate whether any urgent repairs or works are required to be carried out in the premises;

(b) carry out the urgent repairs or works.

25 (2) There must be at least one authorised officer present in the premises at all times during the conduct of any investigation or carrying out of any urgent repairs or works under subsection (1) in those premises.

(3) Before entering the premises under subsection (1), an authorised officer must produce, if so required —

30 (a) his original identity card or such identification card as the Chief Executive Officer may direct to be carried by the authorised officer as proof of his identity; and

(b) some duly authenticated document showing his authority.

(4) If it is shown to the satisfaction of a Magistrate on sworn information in writing that there is reasonable ground for entry into the premises for either or both of the purposes specified in subsection (1) and —

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(a) that entry into the premises has been refused, or that refusal is apprehended; or

(b) that the premises are unoccupied or the owner or occupier is temporarily absent,

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the Magistrate may by warrant authorise the Board by one or more authorised officers or authorised persons to enter the premises forcibly, if necessary.

(5) The warrant continues in force until the purpose for which the entry is necessary has been satisfied.

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(6) There must be at least one authorised officer present in the premises at all times during the execution of the warrant.

(7) If the owner or occupier is present when an authorised officer or authorised person seeks to execute the warrant, the authorised officer must —

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(a) identify himself to the owner or occupier;

(b) show the owner or occupier —

(i) his original identity card or such identification card as the Chief Executive Officer may direct to be carried by the authorised officer as proof of his identity; and

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(ii) some duly authenticated document showing his authority;

(c) show the owner or occupier the warrant; and

(d) if required, give the owner or occupier a copy of the warrant.

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(8) If the owner or occupier is not present when entry under subsection (7) is sought, but some other person who appears to be in charge of the premises is present, then subsection (7) applies to that other person as if he were the owner or occupier.

5 (9) An authorised officer or authorised person entering the premises under a warrant issued under subsection (4) may do all or any of the following:

(a) break open any outer or inner door or window leading to the premises;

10 (b) forcibly enter the premises and every part of the premises;

(c) remove by force any obstruction to the entry.

15 (10) An authorised officer or authorised person entering the premises under subsection (1), or under a warrant issued under subsection (4), may do either or both of the following:

(a) take with him such other persons as may be necessary;

20 (b) remove or demolish any fixtures or fittings in the premises if such removal or demolition is necessary for the conduct of any investigation or carrying out of any urgent repairs or works under this section.

(11) If the premises are unoccupied at the time of entry, the authorised officer or authorised person must leave the premises as effectually secured against trespassers as he found the premises.

25 (12) Subject to subsection (11), the Board is not liable to compensate the owner or occupier for any loss (including reinstatement costs) incurred by the owner or occupier, or for any damage caused to the premises, as a result of anything done with reasonable care and in good faith under subsection (10)(b).

30 (13) Where the Board has carried out any repairs or works in the premises under this section, the Board may recover from the owner, as a debt due to the Board, the costs incurred by the Board in respect of the repairs or works.