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Notification No. B 26 — The Subordinate Courts (Amendment) Bill is hereby published for general information. It was introduced in Parliament on the 11th day of November 2013.

Subordinate Courts (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 26/2013.

Read the first time on 11th November 2013.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Subordinate Courts Act (Chapter 321 of the 2007 Revised Edition) and to make consequential or related amendments to certain other written laws.

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 Subordinate Courts (Amendment) Act 2013 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of long title

2. The long title to the Subordinate Courts Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by deleting the words “subordinate courts” and substituting the words “State Courts”.

Amendment of section 1

3. Section 1 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “Subordinate Courts Act” and substituting the words “State Courts Act”.

Amendment of section 3

4. Section 3 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the words “subordinate courts” in subsection (1), the words “called the State Courts”; and

(b) by deleting the section heading and substituting the following section heading:

“State Courts”.

New section 8A

5. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately before section 9 under Part III, the following section:

“Appointment of Presiding Judge of State Courts

8A.—(1) For the purposes of the administration of this Act, the President may, on the recommendation of the Chief Justice, appoint a Judge or Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court to be the Presiding Judge of the State Courts for such period as the Chief Justice may recommend.

(2) Notwithstanding any other written law, the Presiding Judge of the State Courts may sit in any State Court and act as a judge (however described) thereof, in which case he shall have all the jurisdiction, power and privileges of such a judge.

(3) A Judge or Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court may, during the period of his appointment as the Presiding Judge of the State Courts, continue to sit in the High Court or the Court of Appeal in accordance with the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Cap. 322).

(4) Any person appointed to be the Presiding Judge of the State Courts shall, although the period of his appointment as such has expired or his appointment as such has been revoked, in relation to any case heard by him as a judge (however described) of a State Court, continue to sit as such a judge for the purpose of giving judgment or otherwise.”.

Amendment of section 9

6. Section 9 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting the word “A” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “Subject to section 8A, a”;

(b) by deleting subsection (2);

(c) by deleting the words “5 years” in subsection (3) and substituting the words “7 years”; and

(d) by inserting, immediately after subsection (3), the following subsection:

“(3A) Notwithstanding subsection (3), a person may be appointed to be or to act as a District Judge if —

(a) he has been for not less than 5 years a qualified person as defined in section 2 of the Legal Profession Act; and

(b) the Chief Justice, after having regard to the qualifications and experience of the person, is of the opinion that the person is suitable to be appointed as a District Judge.”.

Amendment of section 10

7. Section 10 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting the words “one year” in subsection (2) and substituting the words “3 years”; and

5 (b) by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), a person may be appointed to be or to act as a Magistrate if —

10 (a) he has been for not less than one year a qualified person as defined in section 2 of the Legal Profession Act; and

15 (b) the Chief Justice, after having regard to the qualifications and experience of the person, is of the opinion that the person is suitable to be appointed as a Magistrate.”.

Amendment of section 17

8. Section 17 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting the words “subordinate courts” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “State Courts”;

20 (b) by deleting the words “Chief District Judge” in subsections (2) and (3) and substituting in each case the words “Presiding Judge of the State Courts”; and

(c) by deleting the words “his court” in subsection (3)(a) and substituting the words “the State Courts”.

Miscellaneous amendments

9. The principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting the words “subordinate courts” wherever they appear in the following provisions and substituting in each case the words “State Courts”:

30 Sections 2 (definition of “registrar”), 4, 5, 6, 6A (section heading), 8(1), 12(1) and section heading, 14, 15(a) and (c),