

Agency for Science, Technology and Research (Amendment) Bill

Table of Contents

Bill No: 45/2007

Read the first time: 22nd October 2007

Long Title

Enacting Formula

1 Short title and commencement

2 Amendment of section 6

3 Amendment of section 7

4 New sections 22 to 27

5 Miscellaneous amendments

6 Consequential amendments to other written laws

Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

Agency for Science, Technology and Research (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 45/2007

Read the first time on 22nd October 2007.

An Act to amend the Agency for Science, Technology and Research Act (Chapter 5A of the 2002 Revised Edition) and to make consequential amendments to the Health Sciences Authority Act (Chapter 122C of the 2002 Revised Edition), the Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board Act (Chapter 303A of the 2002 Revised Edition) and the Weights and Measures Act (Chapter 349 of the 1985 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 Agency for Science, Technology and Research (Amendment) Act 2007 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 6

2. Section 6(1) of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “and” at the end of paragraph (i); and
- (b) by deleting the full-stop at the end of paragraph (j) and substituting a semi-colon, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraphs:
 - “(k) to serve as the national body in the area of metrology, and to advise the Government and industrial, commercial and other organisations in respect of matters relating to metrology; and
 - (l) to promote and facilitate the national metrology programme and the participation of Singapore in international metrology activities.”.

Amendment of section 7

3. Section 7(1) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after paragraph (e), the following paragraphs:

- “(ea) establish a national standard of weights, measures and other quantities, hold custody and disseminate the measurement parameters of standards of such weights, measures and other quantities, and verify and develop methods for the measurement of such weights, measures and other quantities;
- (eb) develop, verify and calibrate instruments and equipment and issue certificates to the effect that an instrument or equipment complies

with the specifications applicable to it and control the use of such certificates;

- (ec) undertake such measurement activities as the Agency considers necessary for the upgrading of quality standards in industry or for gaining international recognition;
- (ed) establish, administer and operate any scheme considered by the Agency to be necessary or desirable to the development of the metrology infrastructure;
- (ee) provide information resources on matters relating to metrology;
- (ef) conduct tests of proficiency on matters relating to metrology;
- (eg) initiate and undertake or enter into contractual testing, consultancy, research or development projects for the purposes of its functions;
- (eh) collect, compile, analyse and disseminate by any convenient means information of a statistical nature or otherwise concerning matters relating to its functions;”.

New sections 22 to 27

4. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 21, the following sections:

“Transfer to Agency of property, assets, liabilities, etc., relating to metrology

22.—(1) As from the appointed day, all movable and immovable property vested in the Board and used or managed by the national metrology centre of the Board, and all assets, interests, rights, privileges, liabilities and obligations of the Board relating to the national metrology centre, shall be transferred to and shall vest in the Agency without further assurance, act or deed.

(2) If any question arises as to whether any particular property, asset, interest, right, privilege, liability or obligation has been transferred to or vested in the Agency under subsection (1), a certificate under the hand of the Minister shall be conclusive evidence that the property, asset, interest, right, privilege, liability or obligation was or was not so transferred or vested.

(3) In this section and sections 23 to 27 —

“appointed day” means the date of commencement of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (Amendment) Act 2007;

“Board” means the Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board established under section 3 of the Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board Act (Cap. 303A).

Transfer of employees

23.—(1) As from the appointed day, every person employed immediately before that day by the Board in its national metrology centre shall be transferred to the service of the Agency on terms no less favourable than those enjoyed by him immediately prior to his transfer.

(2) If any question arises as to whether any person has been transferred to the service of the Agency under subsection (1), a certificate under the hand of the Minister shall be conclusive evidence that the person was or was not so transferred.

(3) Until such time as terms and conditions of service are drawn up by the Agency, the scheme and terms and conditions of service in the Board shall continue to apply to every person transferred to the service of the Agency under subsection (1) as if he were still in the service of the Board.

(4) The terms and conditions to be drawn up by the Agency shall take into account the terms and conditions of service (including salaries and accrued rights to leave) enjoyed by the persons transferred to the service of the Agency under subsection (1) while in the employment of the Board.

(5) Any term or condition relating to the length of service with the Agency shall recognise the length of service of the persons so transferred while in the employment of the Board to be service with the Agency.

Existing contracts

24. All deeds, bonds, agreements, instruments and arrangements subsisting immediately before the appointed day to which the Board, or any person acting on its behalf, is a party and relating to —

- (a) the national metrology centre of the Board;
- (b) any property, asset, interest, right, privilege, liability or obligation transferred to and vested in the Agency under section 22; or
- (c) any employee of the Board transferred to the service of the Agency under section 23,

shall continue in force on and after that day and shall be enforceable by or against the Agency as if, instead of the Board or the person acting on its behalf, the Agency had been named therein or had been a party thereto.

Pending proceedings