

Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 50/2007

Read the first time: 12th November 2007

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Expenditure of Public Money

Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 50/2007

Read the first time on 12th November 2007.

An Act to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act (Chapter 354 of the 1998 Revised Edition) and to make consequential 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 Workmen’s Compensation (Amendment) Act 2007 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 Workmen’s Compensation Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by deleting the word “workmen” and substituting the word “employees”.

Amendment of section 1

3. Section 1 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the word “Workmen’s” and substituting the words “Work Injury”.

Amendment of section 2

4. Section 2 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “declared” in the definition of “approved hospital” in subsection (1) and substituting the word “prescribed”;
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “approved hospital” in subsection (1), the following definition:

“ “Assistant Commissioner” means any person appointed as an Assistant Commissioner (Work Injury Compensation) under section 2A;”;

- (c) by deleting the words “, and includes any officer to whom the Commissioner has delegated all or any of the powers conferred or duties imposed upon the Commissioner by this Act” in the definition of “Commissioner” in subsection (1);
- (d) by deleting the definition of “domestic servant” in subsection (1);
- (e) by deleting the words “in cash” in the definition of “earnings” in subsection (1);
- (f) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “earnings” in subsection (1), the following definition:

“ “employee” means any person who has entered into or works under a contract of service or apprenticeship with an employer, whether —

- (a) by way of manual labour or otherwise;

(b) the contract is express or implied or is oral or in writing; and

(c) the remuneration is calculated by time or by work done,

but does not include any class of persons specified in the Fourth Schedule;”;

(g) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “injury” in subsection (1), the following definition:

“ “investigation officer” means any person appointed as an investigation officer under section 2A;”;

(h) by deleting the definition of “outworker” in subsection (1);

(i) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “total incapacity” in subsection (1), the following definition:

“ “workplace” means any premises where a person is at work or is to work, for the time being works, or customarily works.”;

(j) by deleting the definition of “workman” in subsection (1); and

(k) by inserting, immediately after subsection (4), the following subsection:

“(4A) This Act shall apply to an accident happening, on or after the date of commencement of this subsection to any seaman onboard any Singapore ship within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Act (Cap. 179), whether the ship was within or outside Singapore at the time of the accident.”.

New sections 2A and 2B

5. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 2, the following sections:

“Appointment of Assistant Commissioners, investigation officers and authorised persons

2A.—(1) The Commissioner may appoint such number of public officers as Assistant Commissioners (Work Injury Compensation) and investigation officers and such persons as authorised persons, as may be necessary to assist the Commissioner in the administration of this Act.