

Accountants (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 4/2006

Read the first time: 17th January 2006

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Expenditure of Public Money

Accountants (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 4/2006

Read the first time on 17th January 2006.

An Act to amend the Accountants Act (Chapter 2 of the 2005 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 Accountants (Amendment) Act 2006 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Accountants Act is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “accounting firm”, the following definition:

“ “accounting limited liability partnership” or “accounting LLP”
means a limited liability partnership approved as an
accounting limited liability partnership under section 18A;”;

(b) by deleting the definition of “corporate practitioner” and substituting the following definition:

“ “corporate practitioner” —

(a) in relation to an accounting corporation, means
a director or an employee of the corporation
who is a public accountant and practising as
such in that corporation; and

(b) in relation to an accounting LLP, means a
partner or an employee of the accounting LLP
who is a public accountant and practising as
such in the accounting LLP;”;

(c) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “lay person”, the following definitions:

“ “limited liability partnership” has the same meaning given to it
by section 4(1) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act
2005 (Act 5 of 2005);

“manager”, in relation to a limited liability partnership, has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2005;”;

- (d) by deleting the definition of “professional indemnity insurance” and substituting the following definition:

““professional indemnity insurance” includes insurance indemnifying a public accountant, an accounting corporation, an accounting firm or an accounting LLP against liability to compensate a third party who has sustained financial loss or any other damage or injury due to a breach of professional duty or to any professional negligence on the part of such public accountant, accounting corporation, accounting firm or accounting LLP, as the case may be (including any such negligence by any director of such accounting corporation or any partner of such accounting LLP), or fraud or dishonesty;”;

- (e) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Register of Public Accounting Firms”, the following definition:

““Register of Public Accounting Limited Liability Partnerships” means the register kept and maintained under section 5(1)(a)(iv);” and

- (f) by deleting the definition of “relevant particulars” and substituting the following definition:

““relevant particulars”, in relation to a public accountant, an accounting corporation, an accounting firm or an accounting LLP, means such particulars of the public accountant, accounting corporation, accounting firm or accounting LLP as the Oversight Committee may determine to be relevant for inclusion in the Register of Public Accountants, the Register of Public Accounting Corporations, the Register of Public Accounting Firms or the Register of Public Accounting Limited Liability Partnerships, as the case may be;”.

Amendment of section 5

3. Section 5(1) of the Accountants Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “and” at the end of paragraph (a)(iii);
- (b) by deleting sub-paragraph (iv) of paragraph (a) and substituting the following sub-paragraphs:
 - “(iv) a Register of Public Accounting Limited Liability Partnerships; and
 - (v) such other registers as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act;” and
- (c) by deleting the words “or accounting firm” in paragraph (h)(i) and (ii) and substituting in each case the words “, accounting firm or accounting LLP”.

Amendment of section 8

4. Section 8 of the Accountants Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “and” at the end of subsection (1)(b);
- (b) by deleting the full-stop at the end of paragraph (c) of subsection (1) and substituting the word “; and”, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraph:
 - “(d) the Register of Public Accounting Limited Liability Partnerships.”;
- (c) by deleting the word “and” at the end of subsection (2)(a)(ii);
- (d) by inserting the word “and” at the end of sub-paragraph (iii) of subsection (2)(a), and by inserting immediately thereafter the following sub-paragraph:
 - “(iv) in the Register of Public Accounting Limited Liability Partnerships the name and relevant particulars of every accounting LLP that is approved under this Act or that has had its approval revoked;” and
- (e) by deleting the words “or the Register of Public Accounting Firms” in subsection (2)(b) and substituting the words “, the Register of Public Accounting Firms or the Register of Public Accounting Limited Liability Partnerships”.

Amendment of section 9

5. Section 9 of the Accountants Act is amended by deleting the word “or” at the end