

Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill

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Read the first time: 28th February 2003

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Expenditure of Public Money

Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 4/2003

Read the first time on 28th February 2003.

An Act to amend the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 137 of the 1999 Revised Edition) and to make a consequential amendment to the National Environment Agency Act 2002 (Act 4 of 2002).

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 Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Act 2003 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 Infectious Diseases Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately before the definition of “AIDS”, the following definition:

“ “Agency” means the National Environment Agency established under the National Environment Agency Act 2002 (Act 4 of 2002);”;

(b) by deleting the words “medical practitioner” in the definition of “Health Officer” and substituting the word “person”;

(c) by deleting the definition of “infectious disease” and substituting the following definition:

“ “infectious disease” means —

(a) any of the diseases specified in the First Schedule; and

(b) for the purposes of sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 47, 55 and 72(1)(g), includes any other disease —

(i) that is caused or is suspected to be caused by a micro-organism or any

agent of disease;

- (ii) that is capable or is suspected to be capable of transmission by any means to human beings; and
- (iii) that, the Director has reason to believe, if left uninvestigated or unchecked, is likely to result in an epidemic of the disease;”;

(d) by deleting the definition of “Minister” and substituting the following definition:

“ “Minister” means —

- (a) in relation to sections 3(1), 7(1), 19(2), 21(3), 25(1)(k), 26, 47, 52, 54 and 58(1), the Minister charged with the responsibility for health; and
- (b) in relation to section 3(2), the Minister charged with the responsibility for the environment”; and

(e) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “premises”, the following definition:

“ “public place” means any place or premises to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission, and includes any place or premises used by the public or a section of the public for educational or recreational purposes or for assemblage;”.

Amendment of section 3

3. Section 3 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsections (1) and (2) and substituting the following subsections:

“(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Act, the Director shall, subject to any general or special directions of the Minister, be responsible for the administration of Parts III and V.

(2) Except as otherwise provided by this Act, the Director-General shall, subject

to any general or special directions of the Minister, be responsible for the administration of Part IV.”.

Amendment of section 5

4. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “The Minister” and substituting the words “The appropriate Minister”.

Amendment of section 6

5. Section 6 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “forthwith give notice in the prescribed form to the Director” in subsections (1), (2) and (3) and substituting in each case the words “notify the Director within the prescribed time and in such form or manner as the Director may require”.

Amendment of section 8

6. Section 8 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (3) and substituting the following subsection:

“(3) If any person fails to comply with the requirements of the Director under this section —

- (a) that person shall be guilty of an offence; and
- (b) the Director may order the removal of that person to a hospital or place where the person may be detained until he is free from infection.”.

Amendment of section 12

7. Section 12(1) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “or destroy any insect, rat or other vermin found therein”.

Amendment of section 17

8. Section 17(1) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the word “surveillance”, the words “or required to undergo any examination or treatment”.

Amendment of section 26

9. The principal Act is amended by renumbering section 26 as subsection (1) of that section, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following subsection:

“(2) The Minister may, in his discretion, issue an order prohibiting the entry into Singapore of any person or class of persons from an infected area declared