

Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 6/2000

Read the first time: 17th January 2000

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Expenditure of Public Money

Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 6/2000

Read the first time on 17th January 2000.

An Act to amend the Trade Unions Act (Chapter 333 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 Trade Unions (Amendment) Act 2000 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 Trade Unions Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

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

“ “delegate” means —

- (a) in relation to a trade union which is not a federation, a person who is elected or appointed in accordance with the rules of the trade union to attend and vote at a meeting of the trade union on behalf of any number of members of the trade union; or
- (b) in relation to a federation, a person elected or appointed in accordance with the rules of the federation to attend and vote at a meeting of the federation on behalf of any of the constituent trade unions of the federation;”;

- (b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “executive”, the following definition:

“ “federation” means a federation of 2 or more trade unions;”;

- (c) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Registrar”, the following definition:

“ “requisite consent” —

- (a) in relation to a trade union which is not a federation, means the consent, obtained by secret ballot, of —
- (i) the majority of the members of the trade union voting on their own behalf on the matter for which consent is sought; or
- (ii) where the rules of the trade union allow or require a decision on that matter to be taken by means of voting

by delegates and the decision is taken using that means, two-thirds of the total number of delegates representing the members; or

(b) in relation to a federation, means the consent, obtained by secret ballot, of two-thirds of the total number of delegates representing the constituent trade unions of the federation;”;
and

(d) by deleting the words “of two or more trade unions” in the penultimate and last lines of the definition of “trade union”.

Amendment of section 7

3. Section 7 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting subsection (1) and substituting the following subsections:

“(1) The Registrar shall keep and maintain a register of trade unions which shall contain such particulars of each registered trade union as may be prescribed.

(2) The register may be kept in whole or in part in an electronic form.

(3) The Registrar may require an officer or member of a registered trade union to produce such document or provide such information as the Registrar may require for the purposes of maintaining the register.

(4) The Registrar may order the destruction of any document in the registry after the document has been microfilmed or converted to electronic form.”; and

(b) by renumbering the existing subsection (2) as subsection (5).

Amendment of section 9

4. Section 9 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (2) and substituting the following subsection:

“(2) Every application shall be made in the prescribed form and shall be accompanied by —

- (a) the prescribed fee;
- (b) a copy of the rules of the trade union; and
- (c) a statement of the prescribed particulars of the members making the application and the officers of the trade union.”.

Amendment of section 16

5. Section 16 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “bank” in the following subsections and substituting in each case the words “financial institution”:

Subsections (1) (4th line), (2) (4th line), (3), (4) (1st line) and (5) (5th and 6th lines);

- (b) by inserting, immediately after the word “pay” in the 4th lines of subsections (1) and (2), the words “or cause to be paid”;
- (c) by inserting, immediately after subsection (6), the following subsection:

“(7) For the purposes of this section, “financial institution” means a bank, a finance company, or any co-operative society carrying on the business of managing and investing funds.”; and

- (d) by deleting the marginal note and substituting the following section heading:

“Power to stop payment of money held by financial institution”.

Amendment of section 27

6. Section 27 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting “\$2,000” in subsection (2) and substituting “\$3,000”;
- (b) by deleting “\$1,000” in the last line of subsection (3) and substituting “\$2,000”;
- (c) by deleting “\$2,000” in the last line of subsection (4) and substituting “\$3,000”;
- (d) by deleting “\$1,000” in the last line of subsection (5) and substituting “\$2,000”; and
- (e) by deleting “\$1,000” in the last line of subsection (6) and substituting “\$2,000”.