

# **Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill**

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**Bill No: 7/1999**

***Read the first time: 11th February 1999***

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## **Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill**

**Bill No. 7/1999**

*Read the first time on 11th February 1999.*

An Act to amend the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 137 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 Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Act 1999 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 by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Health Officer”, the following definition:

““HIV Infection” means Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection;”.

### **New section 10A**

3. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 10, the following section:

#### **“Offence for supplying false or misleading information**

**10A.**—(1) Any person who —

- (a) donates any blood or blood product at any blood bank or hospital in Singapore for any use or purpose; and
- (b) directly in connection with such donation of blood or blood product, supplies any material information which he knows to be false or misleading,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

(2) For the purposes of this section, “material information” means any information directly relating to the likelihood of transmission of an infectious disease by the use of any blood or blood product.”.

### **Amendment of section 20A**

4. Section 20A(1) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “as having been infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus” in the 3rd and 4th lines and

substituting the words “HIV Infection”.

#### **Amendment of section 20B**

**5.** Section 20B of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “that he has been infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus” in the 2nd and 3rd lines of subsection (1) and substituting the words “HIV Infection”;
- (b) by deleting the words “from him or of being infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus” in subsection (1)(a) and substituting the words “or HIV Infection from him”;
- (c) by deleting the words “has been infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus” in the 3rd and 4th lines of subsection (5) and substituting the words “HIV Infection”; and
- (d) by deleting the words “Human Immunodeficiency Virus” in the 6th and 7th lines of subsection (5) and substituting the words “HIV Infection”.

#### **Amendment of section 20C**

**6.** Section 20C of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “that he has been infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus” in the 2nd and 3rd lines of subsection (1) and substituting the words “HIV Infection”;
- (b) by deleting the words “to another person or cause another person to be infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus” in subsection (1)(b) and substituting the words “or HIV Infection to another person”; and
- (c) by deleting “\$10,000” in the 4th line of subsection (2) and substituting “\$50,000”.

#### **Amendment of section 20D**

**7.** Section 20D of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “is infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus” in the 4th, 5th and 6th lines of subsection (1) and substituting the words “HIV Infection”;
- (b) by deleting the word “or” at the end of subsection (1)(f);
- (c) by deleting the full-stop at the end of paragraph (g) of subsection (1) and substituting a semicolon, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraphs:

- “(h) to the Controller of Immigration for the purposes of the Immigration Act (Cap. 133);
- (i) to the next-of-kin of the other person upon the death of such person;
- (j) to any person or class of persons to whom, in the opinion of the Director, it is in the public interest that the information be given; or
- (k) when authorised by the Minister to publish such information for the purposes of public health or public safety.”; and

(d) by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsections:

“(3) The Director may disclose any information relating to any person whom he reasonably believes to be infected with AIDS or HIV Infection to —

- (a) any medical practitioner or other health staff who has been exposed to a risk of infection from AIDS or HIV Infection; or
- (b) any first responder who has experienced a significant exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials of any patient.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), “first responder” means any police officer, member of the Singapore Civil Defence Force or any person who provides emergency response, first aid care or other medically related assistance either in the course of the person’s occupational duties or as a volunteer.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), a medical practitioner may disclose information relating to any person whom he reasonably believes to be infected with AIDS or HIV Infection to the spouse, former spouse or other contact of the infected person or to a Health Officer for the purpose of making the disclosure to the spouse, former spouse or other contact.

(6) The medical practitioner shall not disclose any information under subsection (5) unless —

- (a) he reasonably believes that it is medically appropriate and that there is a significant risk of infection to the spouse, former spouse or other contact;