

Singapore Armed Forces (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 10/1998

Read the first time: 19th February 1998

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Expenditure of Public Money

Singapore Armed Forces (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 10/1998

Read the first time on 19th February 1998.

An Act to amend the Singapore Armed Forces Act (Chapter 295 of the 1995 Revised Edition) and to make consequential amendments to the Pension Fund Act (Chapter 224A of the 1996 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 Singapore Armed Forces (Amendment) Act 1998 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

New sections 205A, 205B and 205C

2. The Singapore Armed Forces Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by inserting, immediately after section 205, the following sections:

“SAVER Plan

205A.—(1) The Armed Forces Council may also make regulations for the establishment of a Savings and Employee Retirement Plan (referred to in this Act as the SAVER Plan) for the payment of —

- (a) any gratuity, allowance, superannuation or other like benefit to such servicemen or classes of servicemen as may be prescribed, or to their legal personal representatives or dependants, on the death or the retirement or resignation from the Singapore Armed Forces of such servicemen;
- (b) any pension, allowance, gratuity, compensation or other benefit in respect of the death of or injuries received by any such serviceman in and which are attributable to service;
- (c) any subsidy, rebate or other benefit in respect of medical services rendered to such servicemen; and
- (d) any allowance, subsidy or other benefit to such former servicemen after their retirement from the Singapore Armed Forces.

(2) The following provisions shall apply to the SAVER Plan established under this section:

- (a) no payments, allowance or other benefit payable under the SAVER Plan (whether on death, retirement or resignation of a serviceman or otherwise), and no contribution by the Government made under the

SAVER Plan and no interest thereon shall be assignable or transferable, or liable to be garnished, attached, sequestered or levied upon for or in respect of any debt or claim whatsoever, other than —

- (i) a debt due to the Government; or
 - (ii) an order of court for the payment of periodical sums of money towards the maintenance of the wife or former wife or minor child (whether legitimate or not) of the serviceman to whom the payment, allowance or other benefit has been granted;
- (b) no contribution by the Government made under the SAVER Plan and no interest thereon shall be subject to the debts of a serviceman, nor shall such contributions and interest pass to the Official Assignee on the bankruptcy of the serviceman, but if the serviceman is adjudicated a bankrupt or is declared insolvent by a court of law, such contribution and interest shall be deemed excluded from the property of the bankrupt for the purposes of the Bankruptcy Act (Cap. 20); and
- (c) subject to the provisions of any regulations made under this section, all moneys paid or payable under the SAVER Plan on the death of a serviceman shall be deemed to be subject to a trust in favour of the persons entitled thereto under the will or intestacy of such deceased serviceman and shall not be deemed to form part of his estate or be subject to the payment of his debts but shall be deemed to be property passing on his death for the purposes of the Estate Duty Act (Cap. 96).

(3) The Armed Forces Council shall, in making any regulations under this section, provide —

- (a) for servicemen who, immediately prior to 1st January 1998, are eligible for any pension, gratuity or other allowance under any regulations made under section 205 to opt to join the SAVER Plan and for the terms and conditions of such an option; and
- (b) that any such serviceman who opts to join the SAVER Plan shall remain eligible to benefits not less in value than the amount of any pension, gratuity or other allowance for which he would have been granted under the regulations made under section 205 if he retired or ceased contract service on medical grounds not due to causes within