Immigration (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 33/1995

Read the first time: 27th September 1995

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Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

Immigration (Amendment) Bill

An Act to amend the Immigration Act (Chapter 133 of the 1995 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 Immigration (Amendment) Act 1995 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 Immigration Act is amended by deleting the definition of "employ" and substituting the following definition:
 - ""employ" means to engage or use the service of any person, whether under a contract of service or otherwise, with or without remuneration;".

Amendment of section 6

- **3.** Section 6(3) of the Immigration Act is amended by deleting paragraph (a) and substituting the following paragraph:
 - "(a) in the case of an offence under subsection (1), shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months and shall also, subject to section 231 of the Criminal Procedure Code [Cap. 68], be punished with caning with not less than 3 strokes, or where by virtue of that section he is not punishable with caning, he shall, in lieu of caning, be punished with a fine not exceeding \$6,000;".

Amendment of section 8

4. Section 8(7) of the Immigration Act is amended by deleting the words "sections 24, 25" in the first line and substituting the words "sections 24, 25, 25A".

Amendment of section 15

- 5. Section 15(3) of the Immigration Act is amended by deleting paragraph (b) and substituting the following paragraph:
 - "(b) in the case where he remains unlawfully for a period exceeding 90 days, shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months and shall also, subject to section 231 of the

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Criminal Procedure Code [Cap. 68], be punished with caning with not less than 3 strokes, or where by virtue of that section he is not punishable with caning, he shall, in lieu of caning, be punished with a fine not exceeding \$6,000.".

Amendment of section 57

- **6.** Section 57 of the Immigration Act is amended
 - (a) by deleting the words "\$2,000" and "6 months" in sub-paragraph (iv) of subsection (1) and substituting the words "\$4,000" and "one year", respectively;
 - (b) by deleting subsection (1A) and substituting the following subsection:
 - "(1A) Where, in the case of any offence under subsection (1)(e), it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that the defendant has at the same time employed more than 5 immigration offenders, the defendant shall be punished, subject to section 231 of the Criminal Procedure Code [Cap. 68], with caning in addition to the punishment prescribed for that offence.";
 - (c) by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:
 - "(2A) Where a body corporate is guilty of an offence under this Act for which a period of mandatory imprisonment or mandatory caning is prescribed, the body corporate shall, in lieu of imprisonment or caning, be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than \$50,000 and not more than \$100,000.";
 - (d) by deleting subsection (8) and substituting the following subsection:
 - "(8) Where an immigration offender is found at any premises or place, other than premises used solely for residential purposes, the occupier of the premises or place shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have employed him knowing that he is an immigration offender."; and
 - (e) by inserting, immediately after subsection (10), the following subsection:
 - "(11) In this section and section 57B, "immigration offender" means a person who has acted in contravention of section 6(1), 15 or 36 or the regulations.".

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New section 57B