

Interpretation (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 4/1993

Read the first time: 18th January 1993

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Expenditure of Public Money

Interpretation (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 4/1993

Read the first time on 18th January 1993.

An Act to amend the Interpretation Act (Chapter 1 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 Interpretation (Amendment) Act 1993 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

New section 9A

2. The Interpretation Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 9, the following section:

“Purposive interpretation of written law and use of extrinsic materials

9A.—(1) In the interpretation of a provision of a written law, an interpretation that would promote the purpose or object underlying the written law (whether that purpose or object is expressly stated in the written law or not) shall be preferred to an interpretation that would not promote that purpose or object.

(2) Subject to subsection (4), in the interpretation of a provision of a written law, if any material not forming part of the written law is capable of assisting in the ascertainment of the meaning of the provision, consideration may be given to that material —

- (a) to confirm that the meaning of the provision is the ordinary meaning conveyed by the text of the provision taking into account its context in the written law and the purpose or object underlying the written law; or
- (b) to ascertain the meaning of the provision when —
 - (i) the provision is ambiguous or obscure; or
 - (ii) the ordinary meaning conveyed by the text of the provision taking into account its context in the written law and the purpose or object underlying the written law leads to a result that is manifestly absurd or unreasonable.

(3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (2), the material that may be considered in accordance with that subsection in the interpretation of a provision of a written law shall include —

- (a) all matters not forming part of the written law that are set out in the