

Public Utilities (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 20/1991

Read the first time: 7th May 1991

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Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

Public Utilities (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 20/1991

Read the first time on 7th May 1991.

An Act to amend the Public Utilities Act (Chapter 261 of the 1990 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.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Public Utilities (Amendment) Act 1991 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

(2) The Minister may appoint different dates for the coming into operation of the different provisions of this Act.

Amendment of section 14

2. Section 14 of the Public Utilities Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by deleting the words “, with the approval of the Minister,” in subsections (6) and (7).

Repeal and re-enactment of section 17

3. Section 17 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Board may form companies

17. The Board may —

(a) form or participate in the formation of any company for the purpose

of carrying out all or any of the functions of the Board;

- (b) with the approval of the Minister, form or participate in the formation of any company for such other purposes as may be approved by the Minister.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 33

4. Section 33 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Investment of funds

33. The Board may from time to time invest any of its funds not immediately required to be expended in the meeting of the obligations or in the discharge of the functions of the Board —

- (a) in any of the securities in which trust funds may, under any written law for the time being in force relating to trustees, be invested except that the Minister may require the Board to invest in any such securities as he may direct; or
- (b) with the approval of the Minister, in such other securities as the Board thinks fit.”.

Amendment of section 37

5. Section 37(1) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “Director of Finance” in the fifth line and substituting the words “chief executive officer”.

Amendment of section 45

6. Section 45 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the word “includes” in the ninth line of the definition of “electrical installation”, the words “a supply installation and any”.

New Part VA

7. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after Part V, the following Part:

“PART VA

GAS SUPPLY AND SAFETY AND

LICENSING OF GAS SERVICE WORKERS

Interpretation

63A. In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires —

“authorised officer” means an officer authorised by the Board for the purposes of this Part;

“gas” means gas supplied by the Board;

“gas fitting” includes any pipe, fitting, conveyance, valve, regulator or any other device used or to be used for the control and use of gas;

“gas installation” means an arrangement of gas fitting for utilisation of gas;

“gas main” means any pipe vested in and belonging to and under the control of the Board and used for the conveyance of gas but does not include a gas service pipe;

“gas service pipe” means the pipe between the gas main of the Board and a primary meter control for the use of gas on the premises of a consumer;

“gas service work” means any work carried out on any gas installation and includes the designing, installation, construction, erection, repair, addition, alteration or maintenance of any gas installation or any part thereof;

“gas supply system” means the gas mains, risers, gas service pipes, gas fittings and other related equipment for the purpose of supplying gas to consumers;

“gas tightness” means the freedom from leak when a gas supply system or gas installation or gas fitting is tested at the appropriate test pressure;

“hotwork” means any work involving the use of a local source of ignition and includes welding, gas-cutting, grinding, chipping and any process capable of generating heat, sparks or both, which may be capable of igniting flammable vapour or any other combustible material;

“licence” means a licence issued under this Part authorising the holder thereof to carry out such gas service work as is specified in the licence and “licensed” shall have a corresponding meaning;

“licensed gas service worker” means a person who holds a valid licence to

carry out the gas service work specified in the licence.

Safety requirements

63B.—(1) No person shall carry out any work in relation to a gas fitting in such a manner that gas may escape unless precautions are taken to prevent any escape of gas from being a danger to any person or property.

(2) No person shall connect a gas installation to a source of gas supply without ensuring that every outlet is sealed with the appropriate fitting and the gas installation is tested for gas tightness.

(3) Any person who disconnects a gas fitting shall, with the appropriate fitting, seal off every outlet of every pipe to which it is connected.

(4) No person carrying out work in relation to a gas fitting which involves exposing any part of the gas installation which contains or has contained flammable gas shall smoke or use any source of ignition unless the gas installation has been purged so as to remove all such gas or has otherwise been made safe from risk of fire or explosion.

(5) No person searching for an escape of gas from a gas fitting shall use any source of ignition unless the source of ignition is incorporated as part of an instrument designed for detection of gas.

(6) Where a person carries out any work in relation to a gas fitting which might affect the gas tightness of the gas supply system, he shall immediately thereafter test the system for gas tightness on the nearest valves upstream and downstream in the system.

(7) No person shall use any naked flame or carry out any hotwork in the vicinity where gas is known to be leaking.

(8) Any person who fails to comply with or contravenes any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$250 for every day or part thereof during which the offence continues after conviction.

No building or structure over any gas main or gas service pipe

63C.—(1) No person shall build, erect or construct any building or structure or shall permit to be built, erected or constructed any building or structure over any existing gas main or gas service pipe.