

Public Utilities (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 13/1988

Read the first time: 29th June 1988

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Expenditure of Public Money

Public Utilities (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 13/1988

Read the first time on 29th June 1988.

An Act to amend the Public Utilities Act (Chapter 261 of the 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 1988 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 2

2. Section 2 of the Public Utilities Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Chairman”, the following definition:

“ “chief executive officer” means the chief executive officer of the Board and includes any temporary chief executive officer;”;

- (b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “electricity”, the following definition:

“ “electricity cable” means a length of insulated single conductor (solid or stranded), or of two or more such conductors, which are laid together underground, whether or not such conductor or conductors are provided with an overall covering for mechanical protection;”;

- (c) by deleting the definition of “General Manager”.

Amendment of section 4

3. Section 4 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “All” in the first line of subsection (2) and substituting the words “Subject to subsection (2A), all”;

- (b) by deleting the words “General Manager” wherever they appear in subsection (2) and substituting in each case the words “chief executive officer”; and

- (c) by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(2A) All debentures, stock, bonds and other similar instruments issued by the Board under the provisions of this Act may be sealed with the common seal of the Board in the presence of the Director of Finance appointed under section 13 and any officer of the Board authorised by the Board in that behalf, who shall sign every such

debenture, stock, bond or other similar instrument to which the common seal is affixed, and such signing shall be sufficient evidence that the common seal was duly and properly affixed and that it is the lawful seal of the Board.”.

Amendment of section 5

4. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsections (1) and (2) and substituting the following subsections:

“(1) The Board shall consist of —

(a) a Chairman; and

(b) not less than 5 but not more than 11 members,

all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister on such terms and conditions as he may determine.

(2) The Minister may appoint the chief executive officer to be a member of the Board.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 13

5. Section 13 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Appointment of officers and employees

13.—(1) The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister, appoint a chief executive officer on such terms and conditions as the Board may determine.

(2) The chief executive officer shall —

(a) be known by such designation as the Board may determine;

(b) subject to the directions of the Board on matters of policy, be charged with the direction of the business of the Board, its administration and organisation, and the administrative control of its employees; and

(c) not be removed from office without the consent of the Minister.

(3) The Minister shall consult the Public Service Commission before granting his approval under subsection (1) or before giving his consent under subsection (2)(c).

(4) The Board shall appoint and employ a Director of Finance, a Director for the Electricity Department, a Director for the Water Department and a Director for

the Gas Department.

(5) The Board may, from time to time by notification in the *Gazette*, change the designation of any of the posts specified in subsection (4).

(6) If the chief executive officer or any person appointed to any post specified in subsection (4) is temporarily absent from Singapore or temporarily incapacitated by illness or for any other reason temporarily unable to perform his duties, the Board may appoint any person to act in his place during such temporary absence or other incapacity.”.

Amendment of section 14

6. Section 14 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “The first such list shall contain posts for all the persons transferred to the service of the Board under section 42.” in subsection (1); and
- (b) by deleting the words “General Manager” in subsection (5) and substituting the words “chief executive officer”.

Amendment of section 65

7. Section 65 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (2), the following subsection:

“(3) Where an offence is committed against this section by any person who is the agent or employee of another person, that other person shall be liable under this Act in the same manner and to the same extent as if he had personally committed the offence unless he can prove that the offence was committed without his knowledge and that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.”.

New Part VIA

8. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after Part VI, the following Part:

“PART VIA

CABLE DETECTION WORK

Definitions