

Abortion (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 20/1980

Read the first time: 31st October 1980

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Expenditure of Public Money

Abortion (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 20/1980

Read the first time on 31st October 1980.

An Act to amend the Abortion Act, 1974 (No. 24 of 1974) and to make consequential amendments to the Penal Code (Chapter 103 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. This Act may be cited as the Abortion (Amendment) Act, 1980, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of long title

2. The long title of the Abortion Act, 1974 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the principal Act) is amended by deleting the words “registered medical practitioners” and substituting the words “authorised medical practitioners”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 2

3. Section 2 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor: —

“Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“approved institution” means any institution, hospital, maternity home, clinic or other place for the time being approved by the Minister for the purposes of this Act;

“authorised medical practitioner” means any medical practitioner who is authorised under any regulations made under this Act to carry out treatment to terminate pregnancy;

“Government hospital” means any hospital, maternity home or clinic under the control of the Minister;

“law relating to abortion” means sections 312, 313, 314 and 315 of the Penal Code (Cap. 103);

“medical practitioner” means any person registered under the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 218).”.

Amendment of section 3

4. Section 3 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsections (1), (2) and (3) and substituting the following subsections: —

“(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall be guilty of an offence under the law relating to abortion when a pregnancy is terminated by an authorised medical practitioner acting on the request of a pregnant woman and with her written consent.

(2) Except as provided by section 11, every treatment to terminate pregnancy shall be carried out by an authorised medical practitioner in a Government hospital or in an approved institution.

(3) No treatment to terminate pregnancy shall be carried out by an authorised medical practitioner unless the pregnant woman —

- (a) is a citizen of Singapore or is the wife of a citizen of Singapore;
- (b) is the holder, or is the wife of a holder, of an employment pass or a work permit pass issued under the Immigration Act (Cap. 81); or
- (c) has been resident in Singapore for a period of at least four months immediately preceding the date on which such treatment is to be carried out,

but this subsection shall not apply to any treatment to terminate pregnancy which is immediately necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman.”.

Amendment of section 4

5. Section 4 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “a registered medical practitioner” in paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and substituting the words “an authorised medical practitioner”.

Repeal of section 9

6. Section 9 of the principal Act is repealed.

Amendment of section 11

7. Section 11 of the principal Act is amended —