



REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

BILLS SUPPLEMENT

Published by Authority

NO. 3]

MONDAY, JANUARY 10

[2022

First published in the *Government Gazette*, Electronic Edition, on 10 January 2022 at 5 pm.

Notification No. B 3 — The Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Bill is published for general information. It was introduced in Parliament on 10 January 2022.

Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 3/2022.

Read the first time on 10 January 2022.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966 and to make a related amendment to the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures for Solemnization and Registration of Marriages) Act 2020 (Act 23 of 2020).

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 is the Administration of Muslim Law (Amendment) Act 2022 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966 (called in this Act the principal Act) is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Appeal Board”, the following definition:

““attend” includes the appearance by any person using any electronic means of communication permitted by the Syariah Court, an Appeal Board, a Kadi or a Naib Kadi;”;

(b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Chief Executive”, the following definition:

““child of the parties” means any child of the parties to a marriage (including a purported marriage that is annulled), and includes any legally adopted child;”;

(c) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “daerah masjid”, the following definition:

““dependent child of the parties” means a child of the parties who is below 21 years of age;”;

(d) by inserting, immediately after the words “a certificate” in the definition of “halal certificate”, the words “or other form of signification”;

(e) by deleting the definition of “jawatankuasa daerah” and substituting the following definition:

““jawatankuasa masjid” means a committee of a daerah masjid appointed under rules made under section 86(1);”;

and

- (f) by deleting the words “Syariah Court” in the definition of “Register of Divorces” and substituting the words “registrar of the Syariah Court”.

New section 35B

3. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 35A, the following section:

“Oral hearing not needed generally

35B.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), the Court or an Appeal Board may decide any matter in its jurisdiction without hearing oral arguments, other than a matter prescribed by any rules made under section 145.

(2) Subsection (1) does not allow any part of a proceeding where oral evidence is given (including any part of a trial of an action) to be conducted without an oral hearing, unless all the parties consent.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), the Court or an Appeal Board may, in any matter that the Court or Appeal Board may decide without hearing oral arguments, direct that the matter be heard in an asynchronous manner by exchange of written correspondence with the party or parties using such means of communications as directed by the Court or Appeal Board.

(4) The Court or an Appeal Board must not hear a matter in an asynchronous manner if to do so would be inconsistent with the duty of the Court or Appeal Board to ensure that the proceedings are conducted fairly to all parties.

(5) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the power of the Court or an Appeal Board to hear oral arguments before deciding any matter that may be decided without hearing oral arguments.”.

Amendment of section 43A

4. Section 43A of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting subsections (1) to (4) and substituting the following subsections: