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Women's Charter (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 43/2021.

Read the first time on 1 November 2021.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Women's Charter, to make related amendments to certain other Acts and to repeal the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures for Solemnization and Registration of Marriages) Act 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 Women’s Charter (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(1) of the Women’s Charter is amended —

(a) by deleting the definition of “Conciliation Officer” and substituting the following definition:

““conciliation officer” means a conciliation officer appointed under section 139C(1);”;

(b) by deleting the words “sections 13, 17, 20 and 59” in paragraph (a) of the definition of “court” and substituting the words “sections 20, 21A and 56”;

(c) by deleting the definition of “Deputy Registrar”;

(d) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “incapacitated husband”, the following definitions:

““licensed solemniser” means a person licensed under section 22(2) to solemnise marriages;

“marriage licence” means a marriage licence issued by the Registrar under section 17;”;

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

““notice of marriage” means a notice of marriage under section 14;”;

(f) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “owner”, the following definition:

““permanent resident of Singapore” means a person who holds an entry permit under section 10 of the Immigration Act 1959 or a re-entry permit under section 11 of that Act;”;

(g) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “prostitution”, the following definition:

““record”, in relation to the State Marriage Register, includes —

- (a) a certificate of marriage created under section 30(2)(a); and
 - (b) a certificate of marriage contained in the State Marriage Register before the date of commencement of section 19 of the Women’s Charter (Amendment) Act 2022;”; and
- (h) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “solemnisation”, the following definition:
- ““special marriage licence” means a special marriage licence granted by the Minister under section 21;”.

Amendment of section 3

3. Section 3 of the Women’s Charter is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) It is declared that section 52 applies for the purposes of determining a woman’s domicile for the purposes of subsection (1).”; and
- (b) by deleting the words “Part 10” in subsection (2) and substituting the words “Parts 10 and 10A”.

New section 3A

4. The Women’s Charter is amended by inserting, immediately after section 3 in Part 1, the following section:

“Reckoning of age

3A. In reckoning the age of a person for the purposes of this Act —

- (a) the person is taken to have attained a particular age expressed in years on the corresponding anniversary of his or her birth (ignoring any fraction of a day);