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Notification No. B 42 — The Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Bill is published for general information. It was introduced in Parliament on 1 October 2018.

Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 42/2018.

Read the first time on 1 October 2018.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Legal Aid and Advice Act (Chapter 160 of the 2014 Revised Edition) and to make consequential amendments to the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 161 of the 2009 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 is the Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Act 2018 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 Legal Aid and Advice Act (called in this Act the principal Act) is amended —

(a) by deleting the words “referred to in Part I of the First Schedule” in the definition of “court” and substituting the words “mentioned in section 5(1) or (1A)”;

(b) by deleting the definition of “Grant of Aid” and substituting the following definition:

““Grant of Aid” means a document issued under section 8 stating that legal aid is granted to a person (whether on a provisional basis or otherwise);”;

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

““legal advice” has the meaning given by section 20;”.

Amendment of section 3

3. Section 3 of the principal Act is amended —

(a) by deleting subsections (3) and (4) and substituting the following subsections:

“(3) The Director of Legal Aid may —

(a) appoint such number of public officers of such qualifications and experience as the Director of Legal Aid considers appropriate, for the purpose of assisting him, and the Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors of Legal Aid in

carrying out any of their duties under this Act; and

- (b) assign to those appointed public officers such duties as the Director of Legal Aid considers appropriate for the purpose mentioned in paragraph (a).

(4) Despite any other written law, for the purposes of this Act, the following persons have the right to appear and plead in all courts of justice in Singapore according to the law in force in those courts:

- (a) the Director and every Deputy Director or Assistant Director of Legal Aid;

- (b) a public officer who is appointed under subsection (3), and is assigned under that subsection any duty that requires the public officer to appear and plead in those courts.”; and

- (b) by inserting, immediately after the words “Legal Aid” in the section heading, the word “, etc.”.

Amendment of section 4

4. Section 4 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) The Director may appoint a solicitor to a panel mentioned in subsection (1) for a term of 3 years, or such longer or shorter period as the Director may specify in any particular case, beginning on such date as the Director may specify in the solicitor’s letter of appointment.”.

Amendment of section 5

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

“(1) Subject to this Part, legal aid may be given to a citizen or permanent resident of Singapore in relation to any civil