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Small Claims Tribunals (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 23/2018.

Read the first time on 17 May 2018.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Small Claims Tribunals Act (Chapter 308 of the 1998 Revised Edition) and to make consequential amendments to certain other Acts.

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 Small Claims Tribunals (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 Small Claims Tribunals Act (called in this Act the principal Act) is amended —

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

““Community Mediation Centre” means a Community Mediation Centre established under section 3 of the Community Mediation Centres Act (Cap. 49A);”;

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

““court-appointed mediator” means an individual who is appointed by the Presiding Judge of the State Courts to be a mediator for the purposes of this Act;”;

(c) by deleting the definition of “prescribed limit” and substituting the following definitions:

““prescribed extended limit” means \$30,000 or such other sum as the Minister may, after consultation with the Chief Justice, prescribe by order in the *Gazette*;

““prescribed limit” means \$20,000 or such other sum as the Minister may, after consultation with the Chief Justice, prescribe by order in the *Gazette*;”;

(d) by deleting the definitions of “Referee” and “Registrar” and substituting the following definition:

““Registrar” means the registrar, a deputy registrar or an assistant registrar for the tribunals;”;

- (e) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “rules”, the following definition:

“ “specified claim” means a claim specified in the Schedule;”;

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

“ “tribunal magistrate” means a tribunal magistrate designated under section 4(2) or appointed under section 4(3)(a);”;

- (g) by inserting, immediately after the words “defect in goods” in the definition of “work order”, the words “or any damage to property,”; and

- (h) by renumbering the section as subsection (1) of that section, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following subsection:

“(2) For the purposes of this Act, the value of a claim relating to a contract means —

(a) in the case where the nature of the claim is for the rescission of the contract, the value of the contract;

(b) in the case where the nature of the claim is for the recovery of a progress payment due under the contract, the value of the contract; and

(c) in any other case, the quantum of the claim.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 4

3. Section 4 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor: