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Audit (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 33/2017.

Read the first time on 11 September 2017.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Audit Act (Chapter 17 of the 1999 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 Audit (Amendment) Act 2017 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

New section 4A

2. The Audit Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 4, the following section:

“Follow-the-dollar audits

4A.—(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the Auditor-General may audit and report on an individual or a person in relation to —

(a) the giving by any public authority, the Supreme Court, any subordinate court or Parliament of —

(i) a grant, a subsidy, an advance of money or a loan, a guarantee for the performance of an obligation or an indemnity; or

(ii) financial assistance as a result of the taking of an interest in any property or person;

(b) a supply of any goods or services (or both) under an agreement to which any public authority, the Supreme Court, any subordinate court or Parliament is party, or under a relevant subcontract relating to the public authority, Supreme Court, subordinate court or Parliament; or

(c) the collection or disbursement of money for or on behalf of any public authority, the Supreme Court, any subordinate court or Parliament.

(2) An audit under this section must be limited to whether the terms and conditions applicable in respect of any of the following have been complied with:

(a) the receipt by an individual or person of a grant, a subsidy, an advance of money or a loan, a guarantee,

an indemnity or financial assistance mentioned in subsection (1)(a);

(b) a supply by an individual or person of goods or services (or both) mentioned in subsection (1)(b);

(c) the collection or disbursement of money mentioned in subsection (1)(c) by an individual or person. 5

(3) An audit under this section may be undertaken by the Auditor-General only if the Minister, where satisfied that it is in the public interest that an audit under this section ought to be undertaken, directs the Auditor-General to undertake the audit. 10

(4) For the purpose of subsection (1)(b), a contract is a relevant subcontract in relation to a public authority, the Supreme Court, any subordinate court or Parliament if the performance of the contract fulfils, or contributes to the fulfilment of, an obligation to supply any goods or services (or both) to the public authority, Supreme Court, subordinate court or Parliament (as the case may be) in another contract.”. 15

Amendment of section 5

3. The Audit Act is amended by renumbering section 5 as subsection (1) of that section, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following subsection: 20

“(2) Without affecting subsection (1), in an audit under section 4A of an individual or a person, the Auditor-General must in his audit make such examination as he considers necessary to ascertain whether all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the terms and conditions applicable in respect of any of the following have been complied with: 25

(a) the receipt by the individual or person of a grant, a subsidy, an advance of money or a loan, a guarantee, an indemnity or financial assistance, as mentioned in section 4A(1)(a); 30

(b) a supply by the individual or person of any goods or services (or both) under an agreement or a relevant subcontract mentioned in section 4A(1)(b);