

Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 5/2008

Read the first time: 28th February 2008

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Expenditure of Public Money

Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 5/2008

Read the first time on 28th February 2008.

An Act to amend the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 137 of the 2003 Revised Edition) and to make related amendments to the Biological Agents and Toxins Act (Chapter 24A of the 2006 Revised Edition) and the Requisition of Resources Act (Chapter 273 of the 1985 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 may be cited as the Infectious Diseases (Amendment) Act 2008 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Infectious Diseases Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “and an Assistant Director of Medical Services” in the definition of “Director”;
- (b) by deleting the definitions of “food establishment” and “Health Officer”

and substituting the following definition:

“ “Health Officer” means a Health Officer appointed by the Director-General or the Director under section 4;”;

- (c) by deleting the word “germs” in the definition of “infected” and substituting the words “micro-organism or agent”;
- (d) by deleting the words “19, 47, 55 and 73(1)(g)” in paragraph (b) of the definition of “infectious disease” and substituting the words “17, 17A, 19, 55, 57A and 59A”;
- (e) by deleting the words “19(2), 21(3), 25(1)(k), 26, 47, 52, 54 and 58(1)” in paragraph (a) of the definition of “Minister” and substituting the words “17A, 19(7) and (8), 21(6) and (7), 25(1)(k), 26, 47, 52, 54, 57A, 58(1) and 59A(1)(b)”;
- (f) by inserting, immediately after the words “the environment” in paragraph (b) of the definition of “Minister”, the words “and water resources”; and
- (g) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Minister”, the following definition:

“ “minor” means a person who is below the age of 21 years;”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 4

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 Section 4 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Health Officers

4.—(1) The Director-General or the Director may, subject to such conditions or restrictions as he thinks fit, appoint any —

- (a) public officer;
- (b) officer of any statutory body; or
- (c) employee of a prescribed institution,

to be a Health Officer for the purposes of this Act or any particular provision of this Act.

(2) The Director-General or the Director may, subject to such conditions or restrictions as he thinks fit, delegate to any Health Officer all or any of the powers conferred on him by this Act.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 7

4. Section 7 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Public health surveillance programmes, etc.

7.—(1) The Director may, from time to time, institute public health surveillance programmes or undertake epidemiological investigations or surveys of people, animals or vectors in order to determine the existence, prevalence or incidence, or to determine the likelihood of a possible outbreak, of —

- (a) any infectious disease; or
- (b) any other disease which the Minister, by notification in the *Gazette*, declares to be a disease to which this section applies.

(2) For the purpose of any public health surveillance programme, epidemiological investigation or survey under subsection (1), the Director may require any person —

- (a) to furnish him, within such time as he may specify, with —
 - (i) such information as he may require; and
 - (ii) any sample of any substance or matter in the possession or control of that person, whether taken pursuant to this Act or otherwise, as he may consider necessary or appropriate; and
- (b) to submit to such medical examination as he thinks fit.

(3) If a person who is required by the Director under subsection (2) to furnish the Director with any information or sample, or to submit to any medical examination, fails, without reasonable excuse, to do so, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) The Director may send any sample obtained under subsection (2)(a)(ii) for such test, examination or analysis as he may consider necessary or expedient.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 8

5. Section 8 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Medical examination and treatment

8.—(1) The Director may require any person who is, or is suspected to be, a