

Infectious Diseases (Amendment No. 2) Bill

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Bill No: 10/2003

Read the first time: 24th April 2003

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Infectious Diseases (Amendment No. 2) Bill

Bill No. 10/2003

Read the first time on 24th April 2003.

An Act to amend the Infectious Diseases Act (Chapter 137 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 may be cited as the Infectious Diseases (Amendment No. 2) Act 2003 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 definition of “isolation” and substituting the following definition:

“ “isolation”, in relation to a person or group of persons, means the separation of that person or group of persons from any other persons, other than —

- (a) the health staff in charge of the care and isolation of that person or group of persons; and
(b) such other persons as the Director or the Director-General (as the case may be) may allow;”;

- (b) by inserting, immediately after “7(1),” in the definition of “Minister”, “10(1), 17(1) and (2),”.

Amendment of section 8

3. Section 8 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting subsections (1) and (2) and substituting the following subsection:

“(1) The Director may require any person who is, or is suspected to be, a case or carrier or contact of an infectious disease to submit to medical examination or medical treatment at such times and at such hospital or other place as the Director may determine.”;

- (b) by deleting paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(b) the Director may order the removal of that person to any hospital or other place where the person may be detained and (if necessary) isolated until he has been medically examined or treated.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of sections 9 and 10

4. Sections 9 and 10 of the principal Act are repealed and the following sections substituted therefor:

“Post-mortem examination

9. Where any person has died whilst being, or suspected of being, a case or carrier or contact of an infectious disease, the Director may order a post-mortem examination of the body of that person for the purpose of —

- (a) determining the cause or circumstances of the death of that person; or
- (b) investigating into any outbreak or suspected outbreak of, or preventing the spread of, that disease.

Director may require information from medical practitioners, etc.

10.—(1) The Director may, for the purpose of investigating into any outbreak or suspected outbreak of an infectious disease, preventing the spread of an infectious disease, or treating any person who is, or is suspected to be, a case or carrier or contact of an infectious disease —

- (a) require any medical practitioner to obtain from his patient such information as the Director may reasonably require for that purpose and transmit such information to the Director; and
- (b) with the approval of the Minister, prescribe by order any general or specific measures or procedures for that purpose for compliance by any medical practitioner, hospital, medical clinic, clinical laboratory or healthcare establishment.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with a requirement or an order referred to in subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) A patient of a medical practitioner who fails to provide the medical practitioner or a person acting on his behalf with any information sought from the patient pursuant to a requirement under subsection (1)(a) that is within the patient's knowledge shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) A medical practitioner shall comply with a requirement under subsection (1)(a) to transmit information to the Director notwithstanding any restriction on the disclosure of information imposed by any written law, rule of law, rule of professional conduct or contract; and he shall not by so doing be treated as being in breach of any such restriction notwithstanding anything to the contrary in that law, rule or contract.

(5) In this section, “clinical laboratory”, “healthcare establishment” and “medical clinic” have the same meanings as in the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act (Cap. 248).”.

Repeal and re-enactment of sections 14 and 15

5. Sections 14 and 15 of the principal Act are repealed and the following sections substituted therefor:

“Wakes and disposal of corpses

14.—(1) Where any person has died whilst being, or suspected of being, a case or carrier or contact of an infectious disease, the Director may by order —

- (a) prohibit the conduct of a wake over the body of that person or impose such conditions as he thinks fit on the conduct of such wake; or
- (b) impose such conditions as he thinks fit for the collection, removal and disposal of the body of that person.

(2) If any person contravenes any order under subsection (1) —

- (a) that person shall be guilty of an offence; and
- (b) any Health Officer may take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that the order is complied with, including entering any premises at any time without warrant and with such force as may be necessary to collect, remove and dispose of the body of the deceased person.

(3) Any costs and expenses incurred by a Health Officer under subsection (2)(b) shall be borne by the person in default and may be recovered as a debt due to the Government.

Isolation of certain persons

15.—(1) The Director may order any person who is, or is suspected to be, a case or carrier or contact of an infectious disease to be detained and isolated in a hospital or other place for such period of time and subject to such conditions as the Director may determine.

(2) The Director may order any person who is, or is suspected or continues to be suspected to be, a case or carrier or contact of an infectious disease, or who has recently recovered from or been treated for such disease, to remain and to be isolated and (if necessary) be treated, in his own dwelling place —

- (a) for such period of time as may be necessary for the protection of the public; and
- (b) subject to such conditions as the Director may consider necessary for this purpose.

(3) If any person against whom an order under subsection (1) or (2) is made —

- (a) fails to proceed to the place in which he is to be isolated within the