

National Science and Technology Board (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 26/2002

Read the first time: 23rd July 2002

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National Science and Technology Board (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 26/2002

Read the first time on 23rd July 2002.

An Act to amend the National Science and Technology Board Act (Chapter 201A of the 1991 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.—(1) This Act may be cited as the National Science and Technology Board (Amendment) Act 2002 and shall, with the exception of sections 6, 8(*b*), 9 and 10, be deemed to have come into operation on 1st January 2002.

(2) Sections 6, 8(*b*), 9 and 10 shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of long title

2. The long title to the National Science and Technology Board Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by deleting the words “National Science and Technology Board” and substituting the words “Agency for Science, Technology and Research”.

Amendment of section 1

3. Section 1 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “National Science and Technology Board” and substituting the words “Agency for Science, Technology and Research”.

Amendment of section 2

4. Section 2 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the definition of “Board” and substituting the following definition:

“ “Agency” means the Agency for Science, Technology and Research established under section 3;” and

- (b) by deleting the definition of “Council”.

Amendment of section 3

5. Section 3 of the principal Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “National Science and Technology Board” in the 2nd line and substituting the words “Agency for Science, Technology and Research”;
- (b) by re-numbering the section as subsection (1) of that section, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following subsection:

“(2) The Agency may perform any of its functions or carry out any of its duties under the business name of A*STAR, or such other business name as the Minister may, from time to time by notification in the *Gazette*, specify.”; and

- (c) by deleting the words “National Science and Technology Board” in the marginal note and substituting the words “Agency for Science, Technology and Research”.

New section 3A

6. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 3, the following section:

“Common seal

3A.—(1) The Agency shall have a common seal and such seal may from time to time be broken, altered or made anew as the Agency thinks fit.

(2) All deeds and other documents requiring the seal of the Agency shall be sealed with the common seal of the Agency in the presence of —

- (a) the Chairman or a Deputy Chairman of the Agency; and
- (b) an employee of the Agency who is authorised by resolution or otherwise in writing (either generally or specially) to act in that behalf,

and shall be signed by these persons.

(3) Such signing shall be sufficient evidence that the common seal of the Agency has been duly and properly affixed and that the seal is the lawful common seal of the Agency.

(4) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the common seal of the Agency affixed to any document and shall presume that it was duly affixed.

(5) The Agency may, by resolution or otherwise in writing, appoint an employee of the Agency or any other agent, either generally or specially, to execute or sign on behalf of the Agency any agreement or other instrument not under seal in relation to any matter coming within the powers of the Agency.

(6) Section 12 of the Registration of Deeds Act (Cap. 269) shall not apply to any instrument purporting to have been executed under subsection (2).”.

Amendment of section 5

7. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended —

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

“(1) The functions of the Agency are —

(a) to initiate, promote, stimulate, encourage, facilitate and assist in the development of an environment that is conducive —

(i) to the creation and development of world class research and development capabilities in science (including biomedicine), engineering and technology in Singapore;

(ii) to the development and nurture of scientific talent and technical capability in scientific and technological knowledge, research and development that is desirable to support the private sector and public sector and to the creation of intellectual capital in Singapore; and

(iii) to the commercial application of scientific knowledge or technology in Singapore;

(b) to support, direct, stimulate and undertake research

- and development in the areas of science (including biomedicine), engineering and technology;
- (c) to stimulate, encourage, facilitate, co-ordinate and direct scientific and technological research and development by the Government, educational institutions and research communities within and outside Singapore, and to facilitate co-operation, communication, collaboration and exchange of ideas and knowledge between them;
 - (d) to provide financial assistance for research and development in the areas of science (including biomedicine), engineering and technology;
 - (e) to promote manpower training and development in the areas of science (including biomedicine), engineering and technology;
 - (f) to provide advice and guidance to the Government in the formulation of its policies and laws on all aspects of science (including biomedicine), engineering and technology, and on any matter relating to or affecting the commercial application of scientific knowledge or technology;
 - (g) to establish, develop and manage public institutes and research institutes in the areas of science (including biomedicine), engineering and technology;
 - (h) to undertake the promotion of science (including biomedicine), engineering and technology among youths and to create, foster and encourage public awareness and understanding of the importance of science and technology in Singapore;
 - (i) to create, develop, apply for, acquire and hold intellectual property and rights and enter into arrangements for the commercial application of any such intellectual property and rights on such terms as to royalties or otherwise as the Agency thinks fit; and
 - (j) to represent Singapore internationally in respect of matters relating to science (including biomedicine), engineering and technology.”; and