

Political Donations Bill

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Bill No: 15/2000

Read the first time: 9th May 2000

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Political Donations Bill

Bill No. 15/2000

Read the first time on 9th May 2000.

An Act to regulate donations to political parties and political associations and to candidates and election agents in a parliamentary election or presidential election so as to prohibit foreign donations and restrict anonymous donations thereto and for matters connected therewith, and to make related amendments to the Parliamentary Elections Act (Chapter 218 of the 1999 Revised Edition) and the Presidential Elections Act (Chapter 240A of the 1999 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Political Donations Act 2000 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

(2) The Minister may appoint different dates for the coming into operation of the different provisions of this Act.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“anonymous donation” means a donation which the recipient is (whether because the donation is offered anonymously or by reason of deception or concealment) unable to ascertain the identity of the person giving the donation;

“bequest” includes any form of testamentary disposition;

“candidate” means a person who is nominated as a candidate at an election or at a presidential election, and includes any person (whether or not a member of any political association) who, on or after the date of the issue of a writ for the election or presidential election, as the case may be, is declared, by himself or others, as seeking nomination as a candidate at that election or (as the case may be) presidential election;

“donation report” means a report required to be prepared under section 12, 18, 19 or 21;

“election” has the same meaning as in the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218);

“election agent”, in relation to a candidate, means the person named as his election agent under section 62(1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act or section 43(1) of the Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A);

“gift” includes bequest;

“market value”, in relation to any property, means the price which that property might reasonably be expected to fetch on a sale in the open market;

“nomination day” means the day of nomination at an election or presidential election, as the case may be;

“organisation” includes any body corporate (other than a body established by written law) and any combination of persons or other unincorporated association;

“permissible donor” means —

- (a) an individual who is a citizen of Singapore and is not less than 21 years of age; or
- (b) a Singapore-controlled company which carries on business wholly or mainly in Singapore;

“political association” means —

- (a) a political party or an organisation which has as one of its objects or activities the promotion or procuring of the election to Parliament or to the office of President of a candidate or candidates endorsed by the organisation; or
- (b) an organisation (not being a branch of any organisation) whose objects or activities relate wholly or mainly to politics in Singapore and which is declared by the Minister, by order in the *Gazette*, to be a political association for the purposes of this Act;

“presidential election” means an election under the Presidential Elections Act (Cap. 240A);

“principal election agent” has the same meaning as in the Presidential Elections Act;