

Public Utilities (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 29/1999

Read the first time: 3rd August 1999

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Expenditure of Public Money

Public Utilities (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 29/1999

Read the first time on 3rd August 1999.

An Act to amend the Public Utilities Act (Chapter 261 of the 1996 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 Public Utilities (Amendment) Act 1999 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(1) of the Public Utilities Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

- (a) by deleting the definition of “earth works” and substituting the following definitions:

“Earth” means the conductive mass of the Earth whose electric potential at any point is conventionally taken as zero;

“earthworks” includes —

- (a) any act of excavating earth, rock or other material (by whatever means) in connection with —
- (i) any works for or relating to the construction, reconstruction, extension, renovation, alteration, demolition or repair of any building, road, railway, bridge, viaduct, flyover, sewer or sewage works;
 - (ii) any works for or relating to the laying, inspecting, repairing or renewing of any mains, pipes, cables, fittings or other apparatuses;

- (iii) any soil investigation works; or
 - (iv) such other works as are usually undertaken by a person carrying on business as a contractor in the construction industry or as a professional civil or structural engineer;
- (b) any act of boring, dredging, jacking, levelling, piling or tunnelling on or under any premises or street by any mechanical means; and
- (c) the driving or sinking of any earth rod, casing or tube into the ground;”;
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the definitions of “grievous hurt” and “hurt” , the following definition:
 - “ “high voltage” means a voltage exceeding 1000V a.c. or 1500V d.c. between conductors, or 600V a.c. or 900V d.c. between each conductor and Earth;”;
- (c) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “licensed”, the following definition:
 - “ “low voltage” means a voltage not exceeding 1000V a.c. or 1500V d.c. between conductors, or 600V a.c. or 900V d.c. between each conductor and Earth;”;
- (d) by deleting paragraph (a) in the definition of “supply” and substituting the following paragraph:
 - “(a) in relation to electricity, means the supply of electricity through electric lines, and includes —
 - (i) the supply to any person or premises in Singapore of electricity which is generated outside Singapore; and
 - (ii) the supply to any person or premises outside Singapore of electricity which is generated in Singapore;”.

Amendment of section 6

3. Section 6 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (3) and substituting the following subsection:

“(3) In addition to the functions and duties imposed by this section, the Board may —

- (a) whether by itself or in association with any other person or organisation, provide to any person in Singapore or elsewhere consultancy, advisory, technical, managerial and other specialist services relating to the generation, production, transmission and supply of water, electricity and gas; and
- (b) undertake such other functions as the Minister may assign to the Board and, in so doing —
 - (i) the Board shall be deemed to be fulfilling the purposes of this Act; and
 - (ii) the provisions of this Act shall apply to the Board in respect of such functions.”.

New section 32A

4. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 32, the following section:

“Removal of obstruction over existing water main, etc.

32A.—(1) Where the Board is of the opinion that any structure, object or any accumulation of any substance that exists above or in the vicinity of any water main or connecting pipe belonging to the Board hinders or obstructs or is likely to hinder or obstruct access to such water main or connecting pipe, the Board may, by notice in writing direct —

- (a) the person to whom the structure, object or accumulation of substance belongs;
- (b) the person who caused the structure, object or accumulation of substance to be where it exists; or
- (c) the owner or occupier of the premises on which the structure, object or accumulation of substance exists,

to remove the structure, object or accumulation of substance within such time as may be specified in the notice.

(2) Where the person on whom a notice under subsection (1) has been served fails to comply with it —

- (a) he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both; and
- (b) the Board may —
 - (i) take all steps as it thinks necessary to secure the removal of the structure, object or accumulation of substance; or
 - (ii) relocate or divert the water main or connecting pipe,

and recover any costs reasonably incurred by it from such person.”.

Amendment of section 47

5. Section 47 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (3), the following subsection:

“(3A) It shall be the duty of a public electricity licensee authorised to generate, transmit or supply electricity to ensure that it will not do or omit to do any act which will adversely affect, directly or indirectly, the security and stability of the electricity supplied by it or by any other person to consumers.”.

Amendment of section 50

6. Section 50 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (4), the following subsection:

“(4A) Where a public electricity licensee is subject to price regulation under the conditions of its licence, it shall be the duty of the licensee to comply with any direction which the Board may give to it from time to time for the purpose of regulating the prices to be charged by the licensee to any person to whom it supplies or transmits electricity.”.

Amendment of section 69

7. Section 69 of the principal Act is amended —

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

“(2) All such works, including the upper surface or covering thereof, shall be constructed of such materials and shall be maintained by the public electricity licensee in such manner as not to