

Women's Charter (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 5/1996

Read the first time: 18th January 1996

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Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

Women's Charter (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 5/1996

Read the first time on 18th January 1996.

An Act to amend the Women's Charter (Chapter 353 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 Women's Charter (Amendment) Act 1996 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 Women's Charter is amended —

- (a) by deleting the definition of “Po Leung Kuk Fund”; and
- (b) by deleting the definition of “register of marriages” and substituting the following definition:

“ “register of marriages” means the State Marriage Register kept under this Act;”.

Amendment of section 10

3. Section 10(2) of the Women's Charter is amended by deleting the words “applicable to the parties thereto and, where a marriage is solemnized under such licence, the marriage shall be deemed to be valid” in the sixth, seventh and eighth lines and substituting the words “which would have been applicable to the parties thereto if this Act had not been enacted and a marriage solemnized under such a licence shall be valid”.

New section 11A

4. The Women's Charter is amended by inserting, immediately after section 11, the following section:

“Avoidance of marriages between persons of same sex

11A.—(1) A marriage solemnized in Singapore or elsewhere between persons who, at the date of the marriage, are not respectively male and female shall be

void.

(2) It is hereby declared that, subject to sections 5, 9, 10, 11 and 21, a marriage solemnized in Singapore or elsewhere between a person who has undergone a sex re-assignment procedure and any person of the opposite sex is and shall be deemed always to have been a valid marriage.

(3) For the purpose of this section —

- (a) the sex of any party to a marriage as stated at the time of the marriage in his or her identity card issued under the National Registration Act [Cap. 201] shall be conclusive evidence of the sex of the party; and
- (b) a person who has undergone a sex re-assignment procedure shall be identified as being of the sex to which the person has been re-assigned.

(4) Nothing in subsection (2) shall validate any such marriage which had been declared by the High Court before the commencement of the Women's Charter (Amendment) Act 1996 to be null and void on the ground that the parties were of the same sex.”.

Amendment of section 15

5. Section 15 of the Women's Charter is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after the word “serially” at the end of subsection (1), the words “, by electronic media or other means”; and
- (b) by deleting subsection (2) and substituting the following subsection:

“(2) The Registrar shall also cause a computer print-out summary of all notices filed during the day to be displayed in an electronic terminal in a conspicuous place in his office and shall keep the same so displayed until he issues a marriage licence under section 16, or until 3 months shall have elapsed.”.

Amendment of section 26

6. Section 26 of the Women's Charter is amended —

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

“(1) The Registrar shall keep a State Marriage Register as prescribed by this Act or the rules made thereunder.”; and

- (b) by deleting subsections (2) and (4).

Amendment of section 27

7. Section 27 of the Women's Charter is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “local marriage register and also in the certificate of marriage attached to the marriage register” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “certificate of marriage”; and
- (b) by deleting the words “both the local marriage register and” in the first and second lines of subsection (2).

Amendment of section 28

8. Section 28 of the Women's Charter is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “local marriage register and also in the certificate of marriage attached to the marriage register” in subsection (2) and substituting the words “certificate of marriage”; and
- (b) by deleting the words “both the local marriage register and” in the first and second lines of subsection (3).

Amendment of section 42

9. Section 42 of the Women's Charter is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “and he shall thereupon cause the entry in the local marriage register to be corrected in the same manner” in the seventh, eighth and ninth lines of subsection (1); and
- (b) by deleting the words “and the local marriage register” in subsection (2).

New Part VIA

10. The Women's Charter is amended by inserting, immediately after section 60, the following Part:

“PART VIA

PROTECTION OF FAMILY

Definitions

60A. In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires —

“applicant” means the person who applies for a protection order or, where the application is made by a person referred to in section 60B(10), the