

Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 3/1991

Read the first time: 3rd January 1991

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Expenditure of Public Money

Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 3/1991

Read the first time on 3rd January 1991.

An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 161 of the 1990 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 Legal Profession (Amendment) Act 1991 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 13

2. Section 13 of the Legal Profession Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended by deleting subsection (2) and substituting the following subsection:

“(2) Subject to this section and section 14, the prescribed period of pupillage shall be 6 months.”.

Amendment of section 14

3. Section 14 of the principal Act is amended —

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

“(a) with an advocate and solicitor in active practice in Singapore of not less than 5 years’ standing who for a total of not less than 5 out of the 7 years immediately preceding the relevant date has been in such practice or has been a legal officer or both;

(b) with any legal officer in Singapore who is an advocate and solicitor of not less than 5 years’ standing who for 5 out of the 7 years immediately preceding the relevant date has been a legal officer or has been in active practice in Singapore or both; or”; and

(b) by deleting subsection (2) and substituting the following subsection:

“(2) In any case where subsection (1)(c) applies, pupillage with a

legal officer shall be counted as equal to pupillage with an advocate and solicitor.”.

Amendment of section 21

4. Section 21 of the principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (1) and substituting the following subsection:

“(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act, the court may, for the purpose of any one case where the court is satisfied that it is of sufficient difficulty and complexity and having regard to the circumstances of the case, admit to practise as an advocate and solicitor any person who —

- (a) holds Her Majesty’s Patent as Queen’s Counsel;
- (b) does not ordinarily reside in Singapore or Malaysia but who has come or intends to come to Singapore for the purpose of appearing in the case; and
- (c) has special qualifications or experience for the purpose of the case.”.

Amendment of section 25

5. Section 25 (1) of the principal Act is amended by deleting paragraph (b) and substituting the following paragraph:

- “(b) a certificate from the Council or such other evidence as the Registrar may require that —
- (i) he is not in arrears in respect of any contribution to the Compensation Fund, subscription or levy lawfully due to the Society under the provisions of this Act;
 - (ii) he has paid all the contributions and subscriptions payable prior to the issue of a practising certificate pursuant to sections 46 and 75; and
 - (iii) he has complied with or is exempt from the rules relating to professional indemnity made under section 75A;”.

Amendment of section 26

6. Section 26 of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (1), any solicitor who has held