

# **Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill**

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**Bill No: 12/1984**

***Read the first time: 29th June 1984***

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## **Legal Profession (Amendment) Bill**

### **Bill No. 12/1984**

*Read the first time on 29th June 1984.*

An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act (Chapter 217 of the Revised Edition).

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

### **Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Legal Profession (Amendment) Act 1984.

### **Amendment of section 2**

2. Section 2 of the Legal Profession Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “or” at the end of paragraph (b) of the definition of “qualified person”; and
- (b) by inserting, at the end of paragraph (c) of the definition of “qualified person”, the word “or”, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraph:
  - “(d) is in possession of such other degree or qualification as may be declared by the Minister under section 5A and has obtained a certificate from the Board under that section;”.

### **New section 5A**

3. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 5, the following section:

#### **“Power of Minister and Board as to recognition of foreign qualifications**

**5A.**—(1) The Minister may, on the advice of the Board, by notification in the *Gazette* declare any degree or qualification to be sufficient to qualify the holder thereof for admission as an advocate and solicitor subject to his obtaining a certificate under this section.

(2) No holder of any degree or qualification declared under subsection (1) shall be deemed to be a qualified person unless he satisfies the Board that he has

attained a sufficient standard to be a qualified person and has obtained a certificate to that effect from the Board.

(3) The Board may, before granting any certificate under subsection (2), impose such conditions or requirements as it thinks fit to be complied with by an applicant who is the holder of a declared degree or qualification.”.

### **Amendment of section 9**

4. Section 9 (1) of the principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the words “section 13” in paragraph (b), the words “or Hong Kong practitioner under section 13A”.

### **New section 13A**

5. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 13, the following section:

#### **“Admission of Hong Kong practitioners**

**13A.**—(1) Subject to this section, a Hong Kong practitioner who, for a continuous period of not less than 3 years immediately preceding his petition for admission, has been in active practice in Hong Kong as a barrister or solicitor may be admitted as an advocate and solicitor without being required to serve any period of pupillage or to attend any course of instruction or to pass any examination.

(2) A Hong Kong practitioner shall not be admitted as an advocate and solicitor under subsection (1) unless either the Board or the Attorney-General certifies that by reason of his qualifications and experience he is a fit and proper person to be admitted as an advocate and solicitor.

(3) Section 15 shall apply with the necessary modifications to any petition for admission under this section as it applies to a petition for admission under section 13(2).

(4) The following provisions shall apply to a Hong Kong practitioner who is admitted as an advocate and solicitor under this section:

- (a) he shall not practise as an advocate and solicitor unless he is a partner or associate of or is employed by an advocate and solicitor of at least 12 years’ standing;
- (b) if he has practised as an advocate and solicitor in accordance with the restriction under paragraph (a) for a period of at least 2 years and has during that period resided in Singapore for at least 12 months in the