

Small Claims Tribunals Bill

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Bill No: 10/1984

Read the first time: 29th June 1984

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Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

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Bill No. 10/1984

Read the first time on 29th June 1984.

An Act to make provision for the establishment, jurisdiction and powers of Small Claims Tribunals and the appointments, powers and duties of Referees in such tribunals and the administration of justice therein; and to make consequential amendment to the Subordinate Courts Act (Chapter 14 of the 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. This Act may be cited as the Small Claims Tribunals Act 1984 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

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

“claim” means a claim lodged with a tribunal under section 15;

“claimant” means a person who lodges a claim with a tribunal and includes any person who becomes a party to the proceedings on any claim in the capacity of a claimant;

“court” means any court of competent jurisdiction in Singapore;

“party” means a claimant or respondent and any person joined as third party;

“Referee” means a person appointed as such under section 4;

“Registrar” means the Registrar of Small Claims Tribunals appointed under section 14 and includes the Deputy Registrar and an Assistant Registrar;

“Registry” means the Registry of Small Claims Tribunals established under section 13;

“respondent” means any person against whom a claim is made and any person

who becomes a party to the proceedings on that claim in the capacity of a respondent;

“rules” means the rules made by the Rules Committee pursuant to section 69(1) of the Subordinate Courts Act (Cap. 14);

“tribunal” means a Small Claims Tribunal constituted under section 4 of the Subordinate Courts Act;

“work order” means an order to rectify a defect in goods or to make good any deficiency in the performance of services, by doing such work or attending to such matters (including the replacement of goods or parts thereof) as may be specified in the order.

PART II

ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION OF TRIBUNALS

Establishment of tribunals

3. The President may under section 4 of the Subordinate Courts Act constitute one or more Small Claims Tribunals as he thinks fit to exercise the jurisdiction in respect of claims created by this Act.

Appointments and qualification of Referees

4.—(1) A tribunal shall be presided over by a Referee appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

(2) No person shall be appointed to be a Referee unless he is a qualified person within the meaning of the Legal Profession Act (Cap. 217).

(3) Every person appointed as a Referee shall hold office for such term as may be specified in the instrument of his appointment, and may from time to time be re-appointed.

(4) Any appointment of a Referee made under subsection (3) may at any time be revoked by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

Jurisdiction of tribunal

5.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a tribunal shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any claim relating to a dispute arising from any contract for the sale of goods or the provision of services.