

Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Bill

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Bill No: 35/1979

Read the first time: 11th December 1979

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Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Bill

Bill No. 35/1979

Read the first time on 11th December 1979.

An Act to provide for the control, licensing and inspection of private hospitals, medical clinics and clinical laboratories, to prohibit trading in human blood, and for purposes connected therewith, and to repeal the Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Act (Chapter 163 of the 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 Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act, 1979, 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 —

“clinical laboratory” means any premises used or intended to be used for any type of examination of the human body or of any matter derived therefrom for the

purpose of providing information for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of any disease or for the assessment of the health of any person, or for ascertaining the cause of death or the result of any medical or surgical treatment given to any person, but does not include any such premises —

- (a) which are maintained by the Government or the University of Singapore;
- (b) which form part of the premises of a licensed private hospital; or
- (c) which are maintained by a medical practitioner or dentist as part of his medical clinic for the exclusive use of his practice;

“dentist” means a person who is duly registered under the Dentists Registration Act (Cap. 215);

“Director” means the Director of Medical Services;

“licence” means a licence issued under this Act to use any premises as a private hospital, medical clinic or clinical laboratory, and “licensed” shall be construed accordingly;

“maternity home” means any premises used or intended to be used for the reception of pregnant women or of women immediately after childbirth;

“medical clinic” means any premises used or intended to be used by a medical practitioner, a dentist or any other person —

- (a) for the diagnosis or treatment of persons suffering from, or believed to be suffering from, any disease, injury or disability of mind or body; or
- (b) for curing or alleviating any abnormal condition of the human body by the application of any apparatus, equipment, instrument or device requiring the use of electricity, heat or light,

but does not include any such premises —

- (i) which are maintained by the Government or the University of Singapore; or
- (ii) which form part of the premises of a licensed private hospital;

“medical practitioner” means a person who is duly registered under the Medical Registration Act (Cap. 218);

“nursing home” means any premises other than a maternity home used or intended to be used for the reception of, and the provision of nursing for, persons suffering or convalescing from any sickness, injury or infirmity;

“private hospital” means any premises (other than a Government hospital or a hospital maintained by the University of Singapore) used or intended to be used for the reception, lodging and treatment and care of persons who require medical treatment or suffer from any disease, and includes a maternity home and a nursing home.

Buying and selling of human blood

3.—(1) No person shall —

- (a) buy or offer to buy; or
- (b) sell or offer to sell,

human blood or the right to take blood from the body of another person.

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Licence for private hospital, medical clinic and clinical laboratory

4.—(1) No premises shall be used as a private hospital, medical clinic or clinical laboratory except under the authority of and in accordance with the terms or conditions of a licence issued by the Director.

(2) If the private hospital, medical clinic or clinical laboratory is not licensed or is used otherwise than in accordance with the terms and conditions of its licence, every person having the management or control thereof shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Application for licence

5.—(1) An application for the issue of a licence shall be in such form as may be prescribed.

(2) On receipt of an application, the Director may in his discretion issue a licence subject to such terms and conditions as he may think fit to impose.

(3) The Director may refuse to issue a licence if —

- (a) in the case of an application for a licence for a private hospital, the Director is not satisfied as to the character and fitness of the applicant to be the licensee of a private hospital or, where the applicant is a body corporate as to the character and fitness of the members of the board of directors or committee or board of trustees or other governing body of the

body corporate;

- (b) in the opinion of the Director, the premises of the private hospital, medical clinic or clinical laboratory are unclean or insanitary, or inadequately equipped; or
- (c) in the opinion of the Director, the nursing or other staff of the private hospital, medical clinic or clinical laboratory is inadequate for the purposes thereof.

(4) On the issue of a licence, the licensee shall pay a fee of such amount as may be prescribed.

(5) A licence shall continue in force for a period of two years from the date of its issue, unless it has been previously revoked, but may be renewed by the grant of a new licence.

Kinds of licensed private hospitals

6.—(1) Every licensed private hospital shall, according to the tenor of the licence issued in respect thereof, be of one of the following kinds, namely: —

- (a) a maternity hospital;
- (b) a medical hospital;
- (c) a surgical hospital;
- (d) a psychiatric hospital;
- (e) a convalescent hospital;
- (f) a children's hospital;
- (g) a hospital licensed for any two or more of the abovementioned purposes;
or
- (h) such other kind of hospital as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, specify.

(2) Every licence to use any premises as a private hospital shall specify the kind of private hospital for which it is issued, and the purposes for which the licensed private hospital may be maintained.

(3) A licensed private hospital shall not be used for any purpose other than the purposes in respect of which the licence is granted, and purposes reasonably incidental thereto.

(4) If a licensed private hospital is used in any manner contrary to the provisions of