

Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Bill

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Bill No: 21/1972

Read the first time: 22nd March 1972

Long Title

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Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Bill

Bill No. 21/1972

Read the first time on 22nd March 1972.

An Act to make provision for the use of the bodies of deceased persons or parts thereof for purposes of medical or dental education, research, advancement of medical or dental science, therapy and transplantation, and for other purposes connected therewith; and to repeal the Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Act (Chapter 160 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 Medical (Therapy, Education and Research) Act, 1972, 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 —

“deceased person” includes a still-born infant or foetus;

“Director” means the Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health, Singapore and includes the Deputy Director of Medical Services in charge of the Hospitals Division of the Ministry of Health and also includes the Superintendent of a Government hospital authorised by the said Deputy Director of Medical Services in writing to act on his behalf;

“donor” means an individual who makes a gift of all or part of his body;

“part” in relation to a human body includes organs, tissues, eyes, bones, arteries, blood, other fluids and other portions of a human body.

PART II

ANATOMICAL GIFTS

Person may donate his body

3. Any person of sound mind and eighteen years of age or above may give all or any part of his body for any of the purposes specified in section 7 of this Act, the gift to take effect upon death.

Relatives may donate body of a deceased person. Schedule

4.—(1) Any of the persons specified in the Schedule to this Act, in order of priority stated, when persons in prior classes are not available at the time of death, and in the absence of actual notice of contrary indications by the deceased person, or actual notice of opposition of a member of the same class or a prior class, may give all or any part of

the body of the deceased person for the purposes specified in section 7 of this Act.

(2) The persons authorised by the provisions of subsection (1) of this section may make the gift after death or immediately before death.

When donee should not accept gift

5. The donee of a gift of a body or any part thereof shall not accept the gift if he has actual notice of contrary indications by the deceased person or that a gift by a member of a class is opposed by a member of the same class or a prior class.

Medical examination of body

6. A gift of all or part of a body authorises any examination necessary to assure medical acceptability of the gift for the purposes intended.

Purposes of anatomical gifts, etc.

7.—(1) The following persons may become donees of gifts of bodies or parts thereof for the purposes stated: —

- (a) any approved hospital for medical or dental education, research, advancement of medical or dental science, therapy or transplantation;
- (b) any approved medical or dental school, college or university for medical or dental education, research, advancement of medical or dental science, therapy or transplantation; or
- (c) any specified individual for therapy or transplantation needed by him.

(2) The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, declare a hospital, medical or dental school, college or university to be an approved hospital, medical or dental school, college or university for the purposes of this section.

Mode of executing gift

8. A gift of all or part of a body under the provisions of section 3 of this Act may be made by the donor either in writing at any time or orally in the presence of two or more witnesses during a last illness.

Revocation of gift

9. A gift of a body or any part thereof may be revoked by the donor at any time —

- (a) by a signed statement in writing delivered to the donee;
- (b) by an oral statement made in the presence of two or more persons and