



REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

BILLS SUPPLEMENT

Published by Authority

NO. 47]

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

[2024

First published in the *Government Gazette*, Electronic Edition, on 11 November 2024 at 5.30 pm.

Notification No. B 47 — The Electronic Gazette and Legislation Bill is published for general information. It was introduced in Parliament on 11 November 2024.

Electronic *Gazette* and Legislation Bill

Bill No. 47/2024.

Read the first time on 11 November 2024.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend certain Acts to provide for an authoritative electronic *Gazette* and authoritative electronic versions of revised editions of legislation, to abolish the use of the *Gazette* as an instrument of appointment, and for related purposes.

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 is the Electronic *Gazette* and Legislation Act 2024 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

5 Amendment of Interpretation Act 1965

2. In the Interpretation Act 1965, replace section 48 with —

“The *Gazette*

48.—(1) The *Gazette* is to be published by the authority of any written law or of the Government.

10 (2) The *Gazette* may be published in one or more forms, including on the prescribed website, in any other electronic form and in print.

(3) If a *Gazette* is published in 2 or more forms, that *Gazette* is deemed to be published on the date on which that *Gazette* is first
15 published in any form.

(4) The *Gazette* published in each of the following forms is to be judicially noticed:

(a) the *Gazette* published on the prescribed website on or after the appointed date;

20 (b) the *Gazette* published in print;

(c) any other form of the *Gazette* that is prescribed,

and, for the purpose of paragraph (b), reference may be made to any printed document purporting to be the *Gazette* published by authority and printed by the Government Printer.

25 (5) Subject to subsections (6) and (7), the *Gazette* published in each of the forms mentioned in subsection (4) is, in all courts and for all purposes, prima facie evidence of the matters published therein.

30 (6) To the extent of any inconsistency, a *Gazette* published on the prescribed website on or after the appointed date prevails over that *Gazette* published in any other form on or after that date.

(7) To the extent of any inconsistency, a *Gazette* published in print before the appointed date prevails over that *Gazette* published in any other form before that date.

(8) The Minister charged with the responsibility for Government publications may make regulations to prescribe any matter — 5

(a) required or permitted by this section to be prescribed; and

(b) for the purposes of carrying out this section.

(9) In this section, “appointed date” means the date of commencement of section 2 of the Electronic *Gazette* and Legislation Act 2024.” 10

Amendment of Revised Edition of the Laws Act 1983

3. In the Revised Edition of the Laws Act 1983 —

(a) before section 1, insert — 15

“PART 1
PRELIMINARY”;

(b) before section 3, insert —

“PART 2
LAW REVISION COMMISSION”;

(c) before section 4, insert —

“PART 3
REVISION OF ACTS”;

(d) in section 10(3)(a), after “be”, insert “in electronic form,”;

(e) in section 11(2), (3) and (4), delete “booklet or loose-leaf” wherever it appears; 25

(f) in section 11(2), delete “on the front page”;

(g) delete section 11A;

(h) before section 15, insert —

“PART 4

REVISION OF SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION”;

(i) in section 15(1), after “any manner or form”, insert
5 “(including in electronic form)”;

(j) in section 17(5), after “in any form”, insert “(including in
electronic form)”;

(k) in section 17, delete subsection (6);

(l) in section 17, replace subsection (7) with —

10 “(7) In the preparation of a revised edition of
subsidiary legislation under subsection (5), the
Commissioners —

(a) have the like powers to do all things as are
conferred upon them by section 15(2) and
15 (3); and

(b) may include any notes, indexes,
instructions or other information that they
consider useful.”;

(m) before section 18, insert —

20 “PART 5

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

**Electronic versions of revised editions to be
prima facie evidence of proper law, etc.**

25 **17A.**—(1) A revised edition of any material
published in electronic form under this Act
(including under section 11A(1) as in force before
the appointed date) is, in all courts and for all
purposes, prima facie evidence of the proper law of
Singapore in respect of that material.

30 (2) To the extent of any inconsistency, the revised
edition of any material published in electronic form

under this Act on or after the appointed date prevails over the same revised edition published in print under this Act on or after that date.

(3) To the extent of any inconsistency, the revised edition of any material published in print under this Act before the appointed date prevails over the same revised edition published in electronic form under this Act before that date.

(4) In this section —

“appointed date” means the date of commencement of section 3(m) of the Electronic *Gazette* and Legislation Act 2024;

“material” means any Act, subsidiary legislation, treaty, convention or other instrument.”;

- (n) in section 18(1), replace “indices” with “indexes”;
- (o) delete section 21;
- (p) delete section 22; and
- (q) in section 23(1), replace “printing error” with “publication error”.

Abolition of use of *Gazette* as instrument of appointment, etc.

4.—(1) In the Administration of Muslim Law Act 1966 —

- (a) in section 12, replace “notified” with “published”;
- (b) in section 30, replace subsection (2) with —
 - “(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;
- (c) in section 90, delete subsection (2);
- (d) in section 90(3), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*”;
- (e) in section 90, after subsection (3), insert —

“(4) An appointment under subsection (1), and any cancellation under subsection (3), must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(f) in section 91, delete subsection (4);

(g) in section 91(5), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*”;
and

(h) in section 91, after subsection (5), insert —

“(5A) An appointment under subsection (1), and any cancellation under subsection (5), must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(2) In the Arbitration Act 2001 —

(a) in section 13(9), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(b) in section 13, after subsection (9), insert —

“(10) An appointment under subsection (9) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(c) in section 62(2), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(d) in section 62, after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(3) In the Arms and Explosives Act 1913, in section 4 —

(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;
and

(b) after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(4) In the Arms Offences Act 1973, in section 10 —

(a) renumber the section as subsection (1) of that section;

(b) in subsection (1)(d), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*”;
and

- (c) after subsection (1), insert —
“(2) Any special authorisation under subsection (1)(d) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (5) In the Banking Act 1970, in section 3 —
(a) in subsection (1A), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and 5
(b) after subsection (1A), insert —
“(1B) An appointment under subsection (1A) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (6) In the Building Control Act 1989, in section 3 — 10
(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and
and
(b) after subsection (1), insert —
“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”. 15
- (7) In the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act 2004, in section 19 —
(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by order in the *Gazette*,”; and
(b) after subsection (1), insert —
“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”. 20
- (8) In the Business Trusts Act 2004, in section 97 —
(a) in subsection (1A), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and
(b) after subsection (1A), insert — 25
“(1B) An appointment under subsection (1A) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (9) In the Children and Young Persons Act 1993, in section 68 —
(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(b) in subsection (1), after “to be members of the Review Board”, insert “for a specified period”; and

(c) replace subsection (2) with —

“**(2)** An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(10) In the Consumer Protection (Fair Trading) Act 2003, in section 8 —

(a) in subsection (10), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*.”; and

(b) after subsection (10), insert —

“**(11)** An appointment under subsection (10) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(11) In the Control of Manufacture Act 1959, in section 4 —

(a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*.”; and

(b) after subsection (2), insert —

“**(3)** An appointment under subsection (1), and any authorisation under subsection (2), must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(12) In the Co-operative Societies Act 1979 —

(a) in section 59A(1), delete “in the *Gazette*”;

(b) in section 59A, after subsection (1), insert —

“**(1A)** An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(c) in section 59A(4), delete “in the *Gazette*”;

(d) in section 59A, after subsection (4), insert —

“**(4A)** An order under subsection (4) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(e) in section 94(1), delete “in the *Gazette*”;

(f) in section 94, after subsection (1), insert —

- “(1A) An order under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;
- (g) in section 94(8), delete “in the *Gazette*”;
- (h) in section 94, after subsection (8), insert —
- “(8A) An order under subsection (8) must be published in the *Gazette*.”; 5
- (i) in section 94A(1), delete “in the *Gazette*”;
- (j) in section 94A, after subsection (1), insert —
- “(1A) An order under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”; 10
- (k) in section 94A(8), delete “in the *Gazette*”; and
- (l) in section 94A, after subsection (8), insert —
- “(8A) An order under subsection (8) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (13) In the Copyright Act 2021 — 15
- (a) in section 366(3), replace “made by notification” with “published”; and
- (b) in section 480(6), replace “notified” with “published”.
- (14) In the Credit Bureau Act 2016, in section 5 —
- (a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*”; 20
and
- (b) after subsection (2), insert —
- “(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (15) In the Deposit Insurance and Policy Owners’ Protection Schemes Act 2011, in section 82 — 25
- (a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*”;
and
- (b) after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(16) In the Destitute Persons Act 1989 —

(a) in section 8(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*.”;

5 (b) in section 8, after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(c) in section 10(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*.”; and

10 (d) in section 10, after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(17) In the Education Act 1957 —

(a) renumber section 5 as subsection (1) of that section;

15 (b) in section 5(1), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*.”;

(c) in section 5, after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) Any authorisation under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

20 (d) in section 9(2)(c), replace “section 51” with “section 51(1)”;

(e) in section 38(e), replace “section 51” with “section 51(1)”;

(f) renumber section 51 as subsection (1) of that section;

(g) in section 51(1), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*.”;

(h) in section 51, after subsection (1), insert —

25 “(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(i) in section 53(1), (2) and (4), replace “section 5” with “section 5(1)”;

30 (j) in section 55(1) and (2), replace “section 5” with “section 5(1)”.

(18) In the Environmental Protection and Management Act 1999, in section 3 —

(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”

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(19) In the Environmental Public Health Act 1987, in section 3 —

(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”

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(20) In the Estate Duty Act 1929, in section 4 —

(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(b) in subsection (4), delete “by notification in the *Gazette* or”;

(c) after subsection (4), insert —

“(5) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”

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(21) In the Executive Condominium Housing Scheme Act 1996 —

(a) in section 2(1), in the definition of “developer”, replace “section 4” with “section 4(1)”;

(b) in section 2(3), replace “sections 4” with “sections 4(1)”;

(c) renumber section 4 as subsection (1) of that section;

(d) in section 4(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(e) in section 4, after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”

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(22) In the Financial Advisers Act 2001, in section 75 —

(a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (2), insert —

5 “(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(23) In the Financial Holding Companies Act 2013, in section 61 —

(a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

10 (b) after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(24) In the Financial Services and Markets Act 2022, in section 179 —

15 (a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

20 (25) In the Geographical Indications Act 2014 —

(a) in section 55, in the definition of “authorised officer”, replace paragraph (b) with —

“(b) any officer or class or description of officers appointed under section 55A(2);”;

25 (b) in section 55, in the definition of “senior authorised officer”, replace paragraph (b) with —

“(b) any officer or class or description of officers appointed under section 55A(3);”;

(c) in section 55A, replace the section heading with —

“Administration of this Part”;

(d) renumber section 55A as subsection (1) of that section; and

(e) in section 55A, after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) The Minister may appoint any officer or class or description of officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on an authorised officer by this Part.

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(3) The Minister may appoint any officer or class or description of officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on a senior authorised officer by this Part.

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(4) An appointment under subsection (2) or (3) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(26) In the Goods and Services Tax Act 1993 —

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(a) in section 2(1), in the definition of “Comptroller”, replace “section 4” with “section 4(1)”;

(b) renumber section 4 as subsection (1) of that section;

(c) in section 4(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

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(d) in section 4, after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(27) In the Goods and Services Tax Voucher Fund Act 2012, in section 8 —

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(a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

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(28) In the Housing and Development Act 1959, in section 60 —

(a) in subsection (3), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(b) in subsection (4), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*”;
and

5 (c) after subsection (4), insert —

“(4A) Any authorisation under subsection (3), and any revocation under subsection (4), must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

10 (29) In the Housing Developers (Control and Licensing) Act 1965, in section 3 —

(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;
and

(b) after subsection (1), insert —

15 “(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(30) In the Immigration Act 1959, in section 59 —

(a) renumber the section as subsection (1) of that section;

(b) in subsection (1), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*”;
and

20 (c) after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) Any authorisation of an immigration officer under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(31) In the Income Tax Act 1947 —

25 (a) in section 3(1) and (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(b) in section 3(2), delete “by such or a subsequent notification”;

(c) in section 3(2), delete “in such notification”;

30 (d) in section 3, after subsection (2), insert —

- “(3) An appointment under subsection (1) or (2), and any authorisation under subsection (2), must be published in the *Gazette*.”;
- (e) in section 4(1), delete “by notification in the *Gazette* or”;
- (f) in section 4(2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; 5
and
- (g) in section 4, after subsection (2), insert —
“(2A) Any direction under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (32) In the Industrial Relations Act 1960 — 10
- (a) in section 6(2), replace “notified” with “published”;
- (b) in section 74(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and
- (c) in section 74, after subsection (1), insert —
“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be 15
published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (33) In the Insurance Act 1966, in section 137 —
- (a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and
- (b) after subsection (2), insert — 20
“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (34) In the International Arbitration Act 1994 —
- (a) in section 8(3), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*,”;
- (b) in section 8, after subsection (3), insert — 25
“(4) An appointment under subsection (3) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;
- (c) in section 16(2), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*,”;
- (d) in section 16, after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(e) in section 21(4), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

5 (f) in section 21, after subsection (4), insert —

“(5) An appointment under subsection (4) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(35) In the Intoxicating Substances Act 1987 —

(a) renumber section 14 as subsection (1) of that section;

10 (b) in section 14(1)(b), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(c) in section 14, after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) An appointment under subsection (1)(b) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

15 (d) in section 15(1)(a)(ii), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(e) in section 15, after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1)(a)(ii) must be published in the *Gazette*.”; and

20 (f) in the Schedule, in the Schedule reference, replace “14 and 15” with “14(1) and 15(1)”.

(36) In the Legal Profession Act 1966 —

(a) in section 2A(1)(b), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(b) in section 2A, after subsection (1), insert —

25 “(1A) An appointment under subsection (1), and an assignment under subsection (1)(b), must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(c) in section 36R(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

30 (d) in section 36R, after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(37) In the Mental Capacity Act 2008, in section 35 —

(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

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(b) after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(38) In the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, in section 146 —

(a) renumber the section as subsection (1) of that section;

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(b) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(c) after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

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(39) In the Misuse of Drugs Act 1973 —

(a) renumber section 16 as subsection (1) of that section;

(b) in section 16(1)(a)(ii), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(c) in section 16, after subsection (1), insert —

20

“(2) An appointment under subsection (1)(a)(ii) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(d) in section 31(4)(b) and (6), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(e) in section 31, after subsection (6), insert —

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“(6A) An appointment under subsection (4)(b) or (6) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(f) in section 31A(4), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(g) in section 31A, after subsection (4), insert —

30

“(4A) An appointment under subsection (4) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(40) In the National Cadet Corps Act 1972, in section 5 —

(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment or nomination under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(41) In the Payment and Settlement Systems (Finality and Netting) Act 2002, in section 19 —

(a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(42) In the Payment Services Act 2019, in section 4 —

(a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(43) In the Payroll Tax Act 1965, in section 12 —

(a) in subsection (2), delete “by notification in the *Gazette* or”;

(b) in subsection (3), delete “by notification in the *Gazette*”; and

(c) after subsection (3), insert —

“(3A) A direction under subsection (3) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

- (44) In the Planning Act 1998, in section 5 —
- (a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and
 - (b) after subsection (1), insert —
 - “(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”. 5
- (45) In the Police Force Act 2004, in section 18 —
- (a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and
 - (b) after subsection (1), insert — 10
 - “(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (46) In the Public Entertainments Act 1958, in section 3 —
- (a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and 15
 - (b) after subsection (1), insert —
 - “(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (47) In the Registered Designs Act 2000 —
- (a) in section 68A, in the definition of “authorised officer”, 20
 - replace paragraph (b) with —
 - “(b) any officer or class or description of officers appointed under section 68B(2);”;
 - (b) in section 68A, in the definition of “senior authorised officer”, replace paragraph (b) with — 25
 - “(b) any officer or class or description of officers appointed under section 68B(3);”;
 - (c) in section 68B, replace the section heading with —
 - “**Administration of this Part**”;
 - (d) renumber section 68B as subsection (1) of that section; and 30

(e) in section 68B, after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) The Minister may appoint any officer or class or description of officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on an authorised officer by this Part.

(3) The Minister may appoint any officer or class or description of officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on a senior authorised officer by this Part.

(4) An appointment under subsection (2) or (3) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(48) In the Regulation of Imports and Exports Act 1995 —

(a) in section 2(1), in the definition of “authorised officer”, replace paragraph (d) with —

“(d) any officer or class or description of officers appointed under section 2A(3);”;

(b) in section 2(1), in the definition of “senior authorised officer”, replace paragraph (d) with —

“(d) any officer or class or description of officers appointed under section 2A(4);”;
and

(c) in section 2A, after subsection (2), insert —

“(3) The Minister may appoint any officer or class or description of officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on an authorised officer by this Act.

(4) The Minister may appoint any officer or class or description of officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on a senior authorised officer by this Act.

(5) An appointment under subsection (3) or (4) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

- (49) In the Requisition of Resources Act 1985, in section 4 —
- (a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and
 - (b) after subsection (1), insert —
 - “(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”. 5
- (50) In the Revised Edition of the Laws Act 1983, in section 3 —
- (a) in subsection (4), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and
 - (b) after subsection (6) (as inserted by section 12(d) of the Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Act 2024), insert —
 - “(7) An appointment under subsection (1) or (4) must be published in the *Gazette*.”. 10
- (51) In the Sand and Granite Quarries Act 1970 — 15
- (a) in section 2, in the definition of “Licensing Officer”, replace “section 3” with “section 3(1)”;
 - (b) renumber section 3 as subsection (1) of that section;
 - (c) in section 3(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and 20
 - (d) in section 3, after subsection (1), insert —
 - “(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.
- (52) In the Secondhand Goods Dealers Act 2007 —
- (a) in section 2(1), in the definition of “Licensing Officer”, replace “section 3” with “section 3(1)”;
 - (b) renumber section 3 as subsection (1) of that section;
 - (c) in section 3(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and 25
 - (d) in section 3, after subsection (1), insert — 30

“(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”

(53) In the Securities and Futures Act 2001, in section 320 —

(a) in subsection (1A), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (1A), insert —

“(1B) An appointment under subsection (1A) must be published in the *Gazette*.”

(54) In the Singapore Armed Forces Act 1972 —

(a) in section 99(1)(a)(iv), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(b) in section 99, after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1)(a)(iv) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(c) in section 182A, in the definition of “Bail Officer”, replace “, by order in the *Gazette*,” with “under section 182AA(1)”;

(d) after section 182A, insert —

“Appointment of Bail Officer

182AA.—(1) The Armed Forces Council may appoint any officer or senior military expert to exercise the power to release a person subject to military law on bail or bond.

(2) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”

(55) In the Stamp Duties Act 1929, in section 3 —

(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”; and

(b) after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”

(56) In the Trade Marks Act 1998 —

(a) in section 53A, after subsection (5), insert —

“(5A) The Minister may appoint any officer or class or description of officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on an authorised officer by this section.

5

(5B) An appointment under subsection (5A) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(b) in section 53A(6), in the definition of “authorised officer”, replace paragraph (d) with —

10

“(d) any officer or class or description of officers appointed under subsection (5A);”;

(c) in section 81, in the definition of “authorised officer”, replace paragraph (b) with —

“(b) any officer or class or description of officers appointed under section 81A(2);”;

15

(d) in section 81, in the definition of “senior authorised officer”, replace paragraph (b) with —

“(b) any officer or class or description of officers appointed under section 81A(3);”;

20

(e) in section 81A, replace the section heading with —

“Administration of this Part”;

(f) renumber section 81A as subsection (1) of that section; and

(g) in section 81A, after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) The Minister may appoint any officer or class or description of officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on an authorised officer by this Part.

25

(3) The Minister may appoint any officer or class or description of officers to exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed on a senior authorised officer by this Part.

30

(4) An appointment under subsection (2) or (3) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(57) In the Trust Companies Act 2005, in section 73 —

(a) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;
and

(b) after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(58) In the Undesirable Publications Act 1967, in section 18 —

(a) in subsection (1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(b) in subsection (2), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;
and

(c) after subsection (2), insert —

“(2A) An appointment under subsection (1) or (2) must be published in the *Gazette*.”.

(59) In the Women’s Charter 1961 —

(a) renumber section 176 as subsection (1) of that section;

(b) in section 176(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(c) in section 176(1), delete “by that notification”;

(d) in section 176, after subsection (1), insert —

“(2) An appointment of an officer under subsection (1), and the powers conferred and duties imposed on the officer, must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(e) in section 178(1), delete “, by notification in the *Gazette*,”;

(f) in section 178, after subsection (1), insert —

“(1A) An appointment under subsection (1) must be published in the *Gazette*.”;

(g) in section 180A(1)(i), replace “section 176” with “section 176(1)”; and

- (h) in section 180A(1)(j), replace “section 178” with “section 178(1)”.

Related and consequential amendments

5.—(1) In the Compulsory Education Act 2000, in section 2, in the definition of “Director-General”, replace “section 5” with “section 5(1)”. 5

(2) In the Evidence Act 1893 —

(a) in section 39(d), replace “printed paper” with “document”;
and

(b) in section 80(1)(a) and (b), after “printed”, insert “or published”. 10

(3) In the Interpretation Act 1965 —

(a) in section 2(1), replace the definition of “*Gazette*” or “*Government Gazette*” with —

““*Gazette*” or “*Government Gazette*” means the *Republic of Singapore Government Gazette*, and includes any supplement thereto and any *Gazette Extraordinary*.”; 15

(b) in section 2(1), replace the definition of “*Government Printer*” with — 20

““*Government Printer*” means any person authorised by the Government to print or otherwise publish written laws, Bills, the *Gazette*, documents of the Government and other official documents.”;

(c) in section 2, delete subsection (6); 25

(d) in section 8(2), replace “printed” with “purporting to be printed or published”; and

(e) in section 9A(3)(a), replace “as printed” with “as purporting to be printed or published”.

(4) In the Organised Crime Act 2015, in section 41(3)(b), replace “section 4” with “section 4(1)”. 30

(5) In the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act 1962 —

(a) in section 34, in the section heading, after “**Printing**”, insert “**or publishing**”;

5 (b) in section 34, replace “prints” with “prints or publishes”;

(c) in section 34, replace “printed” wherever it appears with “printed or published”; and

(d) in section 40, replace “printed” wherever it appears with “printed or published”.

10 (6) In the Patents Act 1994, in section 88(5)(a), replace “printed by the Government Printers” with “printed or published by the Government Printer”.

(7) In the Registration of Deeds Act 1988, in section 5(1)(c), replace “printed” with “purporting to be printed or published”.

15 (8) In the Singapore Armed Forces Act 1972, in section 99(1)(a)(ii), replace “section 16(a)(ii)” with “section 16(1)(a)(ii)”.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend various Acts to —

(a) provide for the *Gazette* published on the prescribed website to be the authoritative version of the *Gazette*, and to provide for the administration of the electronic *Gazette*;

(b) provide for electronic versions of revised editions of legislation to be authoritative;

(c) abolish the use of the *Gazette* as an instrument of appointment; and

(d) make related and consequential amendments.

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 replaces section 48 of the Interpretation Act 1965 to consolidate and update the law relating to the *Gazette*. The new section 48 will require judicial notice to be taken of the *Gazette* published on the prescribed website, the *Gazette* published in print, and any other form of the *Gazette* that may be prescribed. The

Gazette published in each of these forms will be prima facie evidence of its contents, such as legislation, appointments and decisions made under statutory powers. As from the commencement date, the *Gazette* published on the prescribed website will prevail over other versions of the *Gazette* published on or after that date in the event of any inconsistency.

Clause 3 amends the Revised Edition of the Laws Act 1983.

- (a) The amendments provide for revised editions of legislation to be published electronically without the need to first publish in print (as is now required by the existing section 11A(1)).
- (b) A new section 17A provides for electronic versions of revised editions of legislation published on or after the commencement date to prevail over print versions if there is any inconsistency. Both versions will still be prima facie evidence of the proper law of Singapore.
- (c) The amendments also delete provisions and language that are peculiar to printed versions of revised legislation, or premised on the primacy of printed versions. This includes references to the revised edition as being in booklet or loose-leaf form, front page requirements, requirements to deposit sealed copies, and provisions on the sale of printed copies.

Clause 4 amends various Acts to abolish the use of the *Gazette* as an instrument of appointment or authorisation. In general, requirements to make appointments by way of *Gazette* notification will be replaced by directory requirements for the relevant appointments to be published in the *Gazette* after they are made. This is more consistent with the function of the *Gazette* as a public record.

Clause 5 makes related and consequential amendments.

- (a) The definition of “*Gazette*” in section 2(1) of the Interpretation Act 1965 is amended to reflect the fact that the *Gazette* includes content that is not published by the order of the Government; the amended definition will simply refer to the *Gazette* as published by the Government Printer.
- (b) The definition of “Government Printer” in section 2(1) of the Interpretation Act 1965 is replaced to expressly include the Government Printer’s responsibility for publishing the *Gazette*, among other materials. The definition will no longer refer to persons purporting to be the Government Printer; where it is necessary to make such references, this will be done by substantive provisions.
- (c) Section 2(6) of the Interpretation Act 1965 is deleted as it is incorporated into the new section 48 inserted by clause 2.

- (d) Amendments are made to various Acts that contain references to materials printed by the Government Printer. These materials could be published in the electronic form of the *Gazette* as well, and the references are amended accordingly. Where appropriate the references are also amended to include materials purporting to be published by the Government Printer; this is so that users do not have to investigate the provenance of these materials.
- (e) Other amendments are made to various Acts in consequence of clause 4.

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

This Bill will not involve the Government in any extra financial expenditure.
