

# Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments and Repeal) Bill

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**Bill No. 7/2005.**

*Read the first time on 18th April 2005.*

A BILL

*intituled*

An Act to amend certain statutes of the Republic of Singapore and to repeal the Government Hospitals Act (Chapter 119 of the 1985 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 Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments and Repeal) Act 2005 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

### 5 **Amendment of Bankruptcy Act**

2. Section 83 of the Bankruptcy Act (Cap. 20, 2000 Ed.) is amended by deleting subsections (9) and (10) and substituting the following subsections:

10 “(9) The court shall cause to be made such record of the examination as the court thinks proper and any record so made may thereafter be used in evidence against the person in the course of whose examination the record was made.

15 (10) Any record made under subsection (9) shall, at all reasonable times and upon payment of the prescribed fee, be made available to any creditor for review at the court premises.”.

### **Amendment of Companies Act**

3. The Companies Act (Cap. 50, 1994 Ed.) is amended —

(a) by deleting subsection (2) of section 285 and substituting the following subsection:

20 “(2) The Court may examine him on oath concerning the matters mentioned in subsection (1) either by word of mouth or on written interrogatories and may cause to be made a record of his answers, and any such record may be used in evidence in any legal proceedings against him.”; and

25 (b) by deleting subsection (7) of section 286 and substituting the following subsection:

“(7) The record of the examination —

(a) may be used in evidence in any legal proceedings against the person examined; and

30 (b) shall, at all reasonable times, be made available to any creditor or contributory for review at the court premises.”.

### **Repeal of Government Hospitals Act**

4. The Government Hospitals Act (Cap. 119, 1985 Ed.) is repealed.

### **Amendment of Government Proceedings Act**

5. The Government Proceedings Act (Cap. 121, 1985 Ed.) is amended —

(a) by deleting the sub-heading immediately above section 17 and substituting the following sub-heading:

*“Subordinate Courts”;*

(b) by deleting the words “District Court” wherever they appear in section 17(1) and (2) and in the marginal note and substituting in each case the words “subordinate court”; and

(c) by deleting the words “District Court” in the 2nd line of section 25(1) and substituting the words “subordinate court”.

### **Amendment of Housing Developers (Control and Licensing) Act**

6. The Housing Developers (Control and Licensing) Act (Cap. 130, 1985 Ed.) is amended —

(a) by deleting the word “or” at the end of paragraph (c) of the definition of “housing developer” in section 2;

(b) by deleting the comma at the end of paragraph (d) of the definition of “housing developer” in section 2 and substituting the word “; or”, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraph:

*“(e) limited liability partnership,”;*

(c) by deleting the full-stop at the end of the definition of “licensed housing developer” in section 2 and substituting a semi-colon, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following definitions:

““limited liability partnership” and “limited liability partnership agreement” have the same meanings as in section 2(1) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005 (Act 5 of 2005);

“manager”, in relation to a limited liability partnership, has the same meaning as in section 2(1) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005.”;

(d) by deleting subsections (2) and (3) of section 4 and substituting the following subsections:

“(2) A housing developer that desires to carry out or undertake housing development in Singapore may apply to the Controller in the prescribed form for a licence and shall supply —

(a) if a company, a copy of the memorandum of association and articles of association or other instrument under which the company is incorporated;

(b) if a group of persons or a partnership, a copy of any agreement between those persons or the partnership agreement, as the case may be;

(c) if a society, the rules or by-laws of the society;

(d) if a limited liability partnership, a copy of its limited liability partnership agreement or, in the absence of such agreement in writing, any other document which sets out the mutual rights and duties of the partners of the limited liability partnership;

(e) a copy of the latest balance-sheet of the partnership, society, company or limited liability partnership or, in the case of a person or group of persons, the balance-sheet, if any, relating to any housing development undertaken by the person or group of persons; and

(f) such other information as may be required by the Controller.

(3) Any copy of any memorandum, articles of association, agreement, partnership agreement, limited liability partnership agreement or other document to that effect, rules or by-laws of a society or balance-sheet which is supplied to the Controller under subsection (2) shall be duly verified by a statutory declaration by the following person:

(a) in the case of a company, by a senior officer of the company;

- (b) in the case of a partnership, by a partner;
- (c) in the case of a society, by the president or the secretary or person holding a position analogous to that of president or secretary;
- 5 (d) in the case of a person or group of persons, by that person or by any person in the group of persons; and
- (e) in the case of a limited liability partnership, by its manager.”;
- (e) by deleting the words “or society” in section 5(b) and  
10 substituting the words “, society or limited liability partnership”;
- (f) by deleting the word “or” at the end of section 5(c)(ii);
- (g) by inserting, immediately after sub-paragraph (iii) of section 5(c), the following sub-paragraph:
  - 15 “(iv) a limited liability partnership, as manager or in a position analogous to that of manager; or”;
- (h) by deleting the comma at the end of paragraph (c) of section 8(1) and substituting a semi-colon, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraph:
  - 20 “(d) if a limited liability partnership, in the limited liability partnership agreement or other document to that effect,”;
- (i) by inserting, immediately after the words “co-operative societies, societies” in the 2nd line of section 25(1), the words “, limited liability partnerships”; and
- 25 (j) by inserting, immediately after the word “society” in the 2nd line of section 27(1), the words “, limited liability partnership”.

### **Amendment of Medicines Act**

- 7. Section 20(5) of the Medicines Act (Cap. 176, 1985 Ed.) is amended  
30 by deleting the words “subsection (1), (2) or (3)” and substituting the words “subsection (1), (2), (3) or (3A)”.

### **Amendment of Planning Act**

**8.** The Planning Act (Cap. 232, 1998 Ed.) is amended —

(a) by deleting subsection (4) of section 5 and substituting the following subsections:

5           “(3A) Without prejudice to subsections (2) and (3), the competent authority may, with the approval of the Minister, authorise generally or specially any person to perform any or all of the functions conferred on the competent authority by sections 27 and 31, subject to the direction and control of the  
10           competent authority.

(4) Any officer or person who is authorised (whether generally or specially) under subsection (2) or (3A) to perform the functions of the competent authority under this Act shall be deemed to be —

15           (a) a public officer for the purposes of this Act; and

(b) a public servant within the meaning of the Penal Code (Cap. 224).”;

(b) by inserting, immediately after the words “The competent authority may,” in section 27(1), the words “with such assistants and workmen as are necessary,”;

(c) by inserting, immediately after the words “the competent authority may” in the 12th line of section 31(1), the words “, with such assistants and workmen as are necessary,”;

(d) by deleting the words “an officer authorised under section 5(2)” in section 51(1)(a) and substituting the words “any officer or person authorised under section 5(2) or (3A)”;

(e) by deleting the words “officer authorised under section 5(2)” in section 55 and substituting the words “officer or person authorised under section 5(2) or (3A)”.

### **Amendment of Police Force Act 2004**

**9.** The Police Force Act 2004 (Act 24 of 2004) is amended by repealing section 65 and substituting the following section:

**“Intelligence officers**

**65.**—(1) An intelligence officer shall be —

- 5 (a) deemed to be a police officer for the purposes of any written law and shall have the powers, protection and immunities of a police officer of a rank corresponding to his grade;
- (b) entitled to such protection and privilege under section 25 as if he were a police officer; and
- 10 (c) deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Penal Code (Cap. 224) when carrying out his functions and duties as a police officer.

(2) Section 25 shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to an intelligence officer as if the references in that section to a police officer were references to an intelligence officer.

15 (3) Apart from this section and section 25, this Act shall not apply to any intelligence officer.

(4) In this section, “intelligence officer” means —

- (a) a public officer who is appointed to the Intelligence Service; or
- 20 (b) a person who is employed by the Internal Security Department,

and who is designated by the Minister as an intelligence officer for the purposes of this section.”.

**Amendment of Residential Property Act**

**10.** The Residential Property Act (Cap. 274, 1985 Ed.) is amended —

- 25 (a) by inserting, immediately after paragraph (a) of the definition of “approved purchaser” in section 2(1), the following paragraph:
- “(aa) a Singapore limited liability partnership;”;
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the word “company,” in paragraph (d) of the definition of “approved purchaser” in section 2(1), the words “limited liability partnership,”;
- 30 (c) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Controller of Housing” in section 2(1), the following definition:

““converted entity”, in relation to sections 9 and 26, means a converted foreign company, converted foreign limited liability partnership or converted society;”;

(d) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “converted foreign company” in section 2(1), the following definition:

““converted foreign limited liability partnership” means any Singapore limited liability partnership which, being the owner of an estate or interest in any residential property, whether purchased or acquired before, on or after 11th April 2005, ceases to be a Singapore limited liability partnership and becomes a foreign limited liability partnership by reason of its placing, allowing or having in its list of partners —

(a) any individual who is not a citizen;

(b) any limited liability partnership which is not a Singapore limited liability partnership; or

(c) any company which is not a Singapore company;”;

(e) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “foreign company” in section 2(1), the following definition:

““foreign limited liability partnership” means any limited liability partnership other than a Singapore limited liability partnership;”;

(f) by deleting the word “or” at the end of paragraph (c) of the definition of “foreign person” in section 2(1), and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraph:

“(ca) any foreign limited liability partnership or any converted foreign limited liability partnership; or”;

(g) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “land” in section 2(1), the following definitions:

““limited liability partnership” means any limited liability partnership, whether registered in Singapore under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005 (Act 5 of 2005) or otherwise;

“manager”, in relation to a limited liability partnership, means any person (whether or not a partner of the

limited liability partnership) who is concerned in or takes part in the management of the limited liability partnership;”;

(h) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “owner” in section 2(1), the following definition:

““partner”, in relation to a limited liability partnership, means any person who has been admitted as a partner in the limited liability partnership in accordance with the agreement expressed or implied between the partners of the limited liability partnership or between the limited liability partnership and its partners which determines the mutual rights and duties of the partners and their rights and duties in relation to the limited liability partnership;”;

(i) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Singapore company” in section 2(1), the following definitions:

““Singapore entity”, in relation to sections 9 and 26, means a Singapore company, Singapore limited liability partnership or Singapore society;

“Singapore limited liability partnership” means a limited liability partnership registered in Singapore under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005 (Act 5 of 2005) where —

(a) all the partners of the limited liability partnership are citizens;

(b) in the case of a partner of the limited liability partnership being another limited liability partnership, such other limited liability partnership is registered in Singapore under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005 and all the partners of such other limited liability partnership are citizens;

(c) in the case of a partner of the limited liability partnership being a company, all the members and directors of such company are citizens;”;

- (j) by inserting, immediately after subsection (1) of section 9, the following subsection:

“(1A) No Singapore limited liability partnership which is the owner of any estate or interest in any residential property, whether purchased or acquired before, on or after 11th April 2005 shall become a converted foreign limited liability partnership without first seeking and obtaining the written approval of the Minister, in the manner provided in section 26, for such conversion and for the retention of all its estate or interest in all or in one or more of its residential properties which such Singapore limited liability partnership intends should remain vested in the converted foreign limited liability partnership upon such conversion.”;

- (k) by deleting subsections (3), (4) and (5) of section 9 and substituting the following subsections:

“(3) If the written approval sought under subsection (1), (1A) or (2) is granted in respect of such conversion and for the retention of all or one or more of the residential properties in respect of which the Singapore entity sought approval, it shall, either before it becomes a converted entity or within a period of 2 years of the date of its becoming a converted entity, transfer to any citizen or approved purchaser all its estate or interest —

(a) in such of its residential properties in respect of which it has not been granted approval for retention under section 26; and

(b) in all its other residential properties, if any, in respect of which it did not seek approval for such retention.

(4) If the written approval sought under subsection (1), (1A) or (2) is granted neither in respect of such conversion nor for the retention of all of the residential properties in respect of which the Singapore entity sought approval, the Singapore entity shall not become a converted entity; but if it becomes a converted entity in contravention of this subsection and of subsection (1), (1A) or (2), the converted entity shall, within a period of one year of the date of its becoming a converted

entity, transfer to any citizen or approved purchaser all its estate or interest in every residential property owned by it.

(5) If any Singapore entity becomes a converted entity, without first seeking and obtaining the written approval required under subsection (1), (1A) or (2), the converted entity shall, within a period of one year of the date of its becoming a converted entity —

(a) transfer all its estate or interest in all its residential properties to any citizen or approved purchaser, other than such part of its estate or interest in respect of which it has been granted approval for retention as provided in paragraph (b); and

(b) seek and obtain the approval of the Minister under section 25 for the retention of such part of its estate or interest in its residential properties as are not transferred as provided in paragraph (a).”;

(l) by deleting subsections (10) and (11) of section 9 and substituting the following subsections:

“(10) Subsections (6) to (9) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the procedure for the disposal of any estate or interest in residential property owned by a converted foreign limited liability partnership or a converted society as those subsections apply to the procedure for the disposal of any estate or interest in residential property owned by a converted foreign company; and sections 5(8) to (10), 6(1) and 6(6) to (12) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the procedure for the sale by the Controller of any estate or interest in residential property owned by a converted entity as those provisions apply to the procedure for the sale by the Controller of any estate or interest in residential property owned by a foreign company.

(11) A mortgagee or chargee who, on or after 1st October 1976, grants a loan or advance on a current account for a fixed term exceeding 6 months, secured by a mortgage or charge of any estate or interest in any residential property owned by a Singapore entity may, notwithstanding any prior agreement made between the mortgagee or chargee and his respective

mortgagor or chargor for the repayment of that loan or advance, call for the earlier repayment of such loan or advance or any part thereof, by giving 3 months' prior notice in writing to his mortgagor or chargor, if such mortgagor or chargor, having represented itself as a Singapore entity, to the mortgagee or chargee at the date of the creation of such mortgage or charge, thereafter, without the written consent of the mortgagee or chargee, becomes a converted entity.”;

(m) by deleting the marginal note to section 9 and inserting the following section heading:

**“Position of Singapore entities with residential properties wishing to become or becoming converted entities”;**

(n) by inserting, immediately after section 10, the following section:

**“Vesting of residential properties in Singapore limited liability partnerships**

**10A.—**(1) Notwithstanding anything in any written law relating to limited liability partnerships, a Singapore limited liability partnership which intends to acquire any estate or interest in any residential property shall, prior to the vesting of the estate or interest in that property in the limited liability partnership, file with the Controller a list of its partners containing the particulars of their nationality and such other particulars as the Controller may require.

(2) The Controller may, if he is satisfied that the requirements of subsection (1) are complied with by a Singapore limited liability partnership, issue to the limited liability partnership a certificate stating that the limited liability partnership may acquire and retain residential properties subject to the provisions of this Act.

(3) Any Singapore limited liability partnership which contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.”;

(o) by inserting, immediately after section 12, the following section:

**“Singapore limited liability partnership to file statutory declaration**

5 **12A.**—(1) Any Singapore limited liability partnership which —

(a) owns any estate or interest in any immovable property in Singapore; or

(b) is the holder of a certificate issued by the Controller under section 10A(2),

10 shall file with the Controller on or before 1st July of each year a statutory declaration made by the manager or a partner of the limited liability partnership furnishing the particulars of the nationality of all its partners and such other particulars as the Controller may require.

15 (2) Any Singapore limited liability partnership which contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.”;

(p) by inserting, immediately after section 13, the following section:

20 **“Registrar may refuse to register instrument of transfer in favour of Singapore limited liability partnership**

25 **13A.** The Registrar may refuse to register an instrument of transfer of an estate or interest in any residential property in favour of a Singapore limited liability partnership unless he is satisfied that all the partners of the limited liability partnership are either citizens, Singapore limited liability partnerships or Singapore companies.”;

(q) by inserting, immediately after section 14, the following sections:

30 **“Disposal of residential property of limited liability partnership**

**14A.** Notwithstanding any approval given by the Minister or the issue of a certificate by the Controller, the Controller may, if he subsequently discovers that a limited liability partnership owns any residential property in respect of which the Minister

has not granted any approval under section 25 or 26 for the limited liability partnership to purchase, acquire or retain the property or that the limited liability partnership had made a misrepresentation to the Controller, as the case may be, obtain the Minister's direction to require the limited liability partnership to dispose of the residential property and section 9(6) to (12) shall apply, with the necessary modifications, to the manner of disposal of the residential property and the rights of a mortgagee or chargee (if any) of the residential property.

### **Conversion of Singapore company to Singapore limited liability partnership**

**14B.**—(1) Any certificate issued by the Controller under section 10 to a Singapore company and which is in force immediately before the date of registration of the conversion of the Singapore company to a Singapore limited liability partnership shall continue in force on and after that date as if it were a certificate issued by the Controller to the Singapore limited liability partnership under section 10A(2).

(2) The Singapore limited liability partnership referred to in subsection (1) shall, as soon as practicable after the date of registration of the conversion thereto, notify the Controller of the conversion and of the particulars of the Singapore limited liability partnership, including the nationality of its partners and such other particulars as the Controller may require.

(3) The Controller may, if he is satisfied that the requirements of subsection (2) are complied with by a Singapore limited liability partnership, issue to the Singapore limited liability partnership a fresh certificate stating that the limited liability partnership may acquire and retain residential properties subject to the provisions of this Act and upon the issuance of the fresh certificate to the Singapore limited liability partnership, the certificate referred to in subsection (1) shall be deemed cancelled.

**Conversion of foreign company or converted foreign company to foreign limited liability partnership**

5           14C.—(1) Any approval granted by the Minister under section 25 or 26 to a foreign company or a converted foreign company to purchase, acquire or retain residential property and which is valid immediately before the date of registration of the conversion of the foreign company or the converted foreign company to a foreign limited liability partnership shall continue in force on and after that date as if it were an approval granted by the Minister to the foreign limited liability partnership; and —

10                   (a) if the approval was granted subject to conditions, the foreign limited liability partnership shall comply with all the conditions imposed as if the approval had been granted to the foreign limited liability partnership instead of the foreign company or the converted foreign company; and

15                   (b) if any undertaking in writing was given by the foreign company or the converted foreign company, such undertaking in writing shall be deemed to be an undertaking in writing given by the foreign limited liability partnership and shall be enforceable against the foreign limited liability partnership as if it had been given by the foreign limited liability partnership instead of the foreign company or the converted foreign company.

20                   (2) The foreign limited liability partnership referred to in subsection (1) shall, as soon as practicable after the date of registration of the conversion thereto, notify the Controller of the conversion and of the particulars of the foreign limited liability partnership, including the nationality of its partners and such other particulars as the Controller may require.”;

25                   (r) by deleting subsection (6) of section 25 and substituting the following subsection:

30                               “(6) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers of the Minister under subsection (4), he may grant approval, with or

without conditions, to an applicant, being a foreign company or a foreign limited liability partnership which —

(a) in the opinion of the Minister —

(i) is of economic benefit to Singapore; or

(ii) makes or is able to make an adequate economic contribution to Singapore; and

(b) intends to purchase or acquire, or retain any interest in, residential property for the purpose of occupation as a dwelling-house by its executives, managers, partners, employees or other personnel and their families and not for any other purpose.”;

(s) by deleting paragraph (b) of section 25(7) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(b) a foreign company or a foreign limited liability partnership, will use the residential property for occupation as a dwelling-house by its executives, managers, partners, employees or other personnel and their families and not for any other purpose.”;

(t) by inserting, immediately after the words “foreign company” in section 25(8), the words “or foreign limited liability partnership”;

(u) by deleting paragraph (b) of section 25(9) and substituting the following paragraph:

“(b) Every applicant referred to in subsection (6) shall furnish a statutory declaration as to whether the applicant owns residential property in Singapore, and if so shall state full particulars thereof; and such statutory declaration shall —

(i) where the applicant is a foreign company, be made by a director, manager or secretary thereof or a person holding an analogous position; and

(ii) where the applicant is a foreign limited liability partnership, be made by a manager or partner thereof or a person holding an analogous position.”;

(v) by deleting subsection (1) of section 26 and substituting the following subsection:

“*(1)* Any Singapore entity which, pursuant to section 9, intends to seek the prior written approval of the Minister for its conversion to a converted entity, and for the retention of all its estate or interest in all or in one or more of its residential properties which the Singapore entity intends should remain vested in the converted entity upon such conversion, shall make application to the Controller, in such form as he may require, for the grant of approval for such conversion and for such retention.”;

*(w)* by deleting paragraph *(a)* of section 26(3) and substituting the following paragraph:

“*(a)* the conversion of the Singapore entity to a converted entity; and”;

*(x)* by deleting the marginal note to section 26 and inserting the following section heading:

**“Application for approval by Singapore entity with residential properties to become converted entity and for retention of its residential properties”;**

*(y)* by deleting subsection (11) of section 31 and substituting the following subsection:

“(11) In this section, “housing developer” means —

*(a)* any person who is not a citizen of Singapore;

*(b)* a foreign company, a converted foreign company, a foreign limited liability partnership, a converted foreign limited liability partnership, a society or a converted society;

*(c)* a Singapore company which has not complied with section 10(1) and (2);

*(d)* a Singapore society which has not complied with section 16(1) and (2); or

(e) a Singapore limited liability partnership which has not complied with section 10A(1),

who or which constructs or intends to construct dwelling-houses for sale to citizens or approved purchasers or flats comprised in buildings containing 6 or more storeys (including the ground floor), whether or not such person, company, limited liability partnership or society is licensed or required to be licensed as a housing developer under the Housing Developers (Control and Licensing) Act (Cap. 130).”;

(z) by deleting the marginal reference “Cap. 130.” to section 31(11);

(za) by inserting, immediately after the word “company,” in section 32(1)(a), the words “limited liability partnership,”;

(zb) by inserting, immediately after subsection (2) of section 32, the following subsection:

“(2A) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, where a foreign limited liability partnership is able to satisfy the Minister that more than 50% of the total voting power in the foreign limited liability partnership is controlled by —

(a) partners who are citizens;

(b) partners who are “resident in Singapore” within the meaning of the Income Tax Act and who pay the tax imposed under that Act; or

(c) partners mentioned in both paragraphs (a) and (b),

the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette* and subject to such conditions as he may consider necessary, exempt the foreign limited liability partnership from all or any of the provisions of this Act.”;

(zc) by deleting subsection (3) of section 36 and substituting the following subsection:

“(3) If the person committing an offence under this Act is a company, a limited liability partnership, a society, an association or other organisation or body, every individual who at the time the offence was committed was a director, partner, general manager, manager, president, secretary or other officer of the company, limited liability partnership, society,

association, organisation, or body concerned in the management of the company, limited liability partnership, society, association, organisation or body or who was purporting to act in any such capacity, as well as the company, limited liability partnership, society, association, organisation or body, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.”; and

(*zd*) by inserting, immediately after the word “company,” in section 38(*a*), the words “limited liability partnership,”.

### **Amendment of Supreme Court of Judicature Act**

**11.** Section 46(2) of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Cap. 322, 1999 Ed.) is amended by deleting the words “, in respect of a shorthand transcript,”.

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## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to make certain miscellaneous housekeeping amendments to certain statutes of the Republic of Singapore and to repeal the Government Hospitals Act (Cap. 119).

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 amends section 83 of the Bankruptcy Act (Cap. 20) to remove the requirement for the record of an examination to be in writing and to be read over to and signed by the person examined before the record may be used in evidence against such person. The amendment also clarifies that such record must, at all reasonable times and upon payment of the prescribed fee, be made available to any creditor for review at the court premises.

Clause 3 makes 2 amendments to the Companies Act (Cap. 50).

Firstly, section 285(2) is amended to remove the requirement for the answers of a person being examined on oath under that section to be reduced to writing and signed by the person so examined before a record of such answers may be used in evidence in any legal proceedings against such person.

Secondly, section 286(7) is amended to remove the requirement for the record of an examination to be reduced in writing and read over to or by and signed by the person examined under that section.

Clause 4 repeals the Government Hospitals Act. The Government Hospitals Act was introduced in February 1960 to empower the Minister to prescribe fees and make

disbursements in respect of Government hospitals. With the restructuring of the last 2 Government hospitals in October 2000, the Act is obsolete and no longer relevant.

Clause 5 makes technical amendments to sections 17 and 25 of the Government Proceedings Act (Cap. 121) to clarify, for the avoidance of doubt, that the Magistrate's Court has jurisdiction, in accordance with the Subordinate Courts Act (Cap. 321), to hear civil proceedings by and against the Government.

Clause 6 amends the Housing Developers (Control and Licensing) Act (Cap. 130) to allow limited liability partnerships to be licensed as housing developers. The amendments are necessary to give effect to the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005 (Act 5 of 2005).

Clause 7 amends section 20(5) of the Medicines Act (Cap. 176) to apply the penalty provided in that provision to an offence under section 20(3A) of the Act.

Clause 8 makes several amendments to the Planning Act (Cap. 232).

Following the corporatisation of the Commercial and Industrial Security Corporation (CISCO) brought about by the CISCO (Dissolution) Act 2005 (Act 3 of 2005), section 5 is amended to allow the officers of CISCO to continue to perform the functions of the competent authority under sections 27 and 31. The amendment allows the competent authority to, with the approval of the Minister, authorise any person, other than any public officer and any officer in the employment of a statutory authority, to perform the functions conferred on the competent authority by sections 27 and 31.

Sections 27(1) and 31(1) are amended to allow the competent authority or authorised persons to bring along assistants and workmen with them when entering premises under those sections.

Sections 51 and 55, relating to the authentication of documents and protection from liability respectively, are also amended as a consequence of the amendment to section 5.

Clause 9 repeals and re-enacts section 65 of the Police Force Act 2004 (Act 24 of 2004) to allow certain persons to be designated by the Minister as intelligence officers and to allow an intelligence officer to exercise the powers of a police officer of a rank corresponding to his grade. The amendment also removes the need for the Minister to prescribe certain matters by notification in the *Gazette*.

Clause 10 amends several provisions of the Residential Property Act (Cap. 274) to give effect to the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005. The amendments are necessary to allow limited liability partnerships to acquire, hold and otherwise deal with residential property in Singapore.

Clause 11 amends section 46(2) of the Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Cap. 322) to delete the reference to a shorthand transcript as a consequence of the implementation of the Digital Transcription System in the Supreme Court.

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

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

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