Sentencing (Scams) Bill

Bill No. 26/2026.

Read the first time on 3 November 2026.

SENTENCING (SCAMS) ACT 2026

(No. of 2026)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title
2. Sentencing of scam and scam-enabling offences

A BILL

intituled

An Act to state the considerations applicable to the sentencing of scam and scam-enabling offences.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title

1. This Act is the Sentencing (Scams) Act 2026.

Sentencing of scam and scam-enabling offences

2.—(1) The decision of the court in *Mohamed Erzan Taib Zohri v Public Prosecutor and other appeals* [2026] SGHC 183 that reformative training or imprisonment should not be the default sentence for relevant offenders for scam-enabling offences —

(*a*) did not reflect Parliament's intent to deter the commission of scam and scam-enabling offences, including by relevant offenders; and

(*b*) is not binding on, and need not be considered by, any court when considering any sentence to be imposed on a relevant offender for a scam or scam-enabling offence, or when considering any appeal against such a sentence.

(2) In any case where a court (other than a Youth Court) is considering any sentence to be imposed on a relevant offender, or considering any appeal against such a sentence, for a scam or scam-enabling offence, the court should consider reformative training (rather than probation or other rehabilitative options) or imprisonment as primary and default options, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

(3) In this section —

"relevant offender" means a person who was 21 years of age or younger at the time the person committed the offence for which he or she is being sentenced;

"scam or scam-enabling offence" means an offence (whether committed before, on or after the date of commencement of this Act) that perpetrates a scam or enables or facilitates a scam to be committed, and includes an abetment of, or a conspiracy or attempt to commit, such an offence.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to set out the considerations applicable to the sentencing of scam and scam-enabling offences, and in particular, to declare the effect of a court decision on the sentencing of offenders for scam and scam-enabling offences committed when the offender was aged 21 years or younger.

Clause 1 sets out the short title. The Bill will come into operation on the day the Act is published in the *Gazette*.

Clause 2(1)(*a*) declares that the decision of the court in the case of *Mohamed Erzan Taib Zohri v Public Prosecutor and other appeals* [2026] SGHC 183 that reformative training or imprisonment should not be the default sentence for offenders aged 21 years or younger for scam-enabling offences, did not reflect Parliament's intent to deter the commission of scam and scam-enabling offences as reflected in the enactment of legislation such as the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) (Amendment) Act 2023 (Act 15 of 2023) and the Computer Misuse (Amendment) Act 2023 (Act 16 of 2023). Clause 2(1)(*b*) declares that the decision is not binding on any court as a precedent.

Clause 2(2) reiterates and sets out Parliament's intent that due to the serious impact of scam and scam-enabling offences, in considering any sentence to be imposed on a relevant offender for a scam or scam-enabling offence, the court should consider reformative training (rather than probation or other rehabilitative options) or imprisonment as primary and default options, unless there are exceptional circumstances. The same considerations would apply in an appeal against such a sentence.

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

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