

# **Accounting Standards Bill**

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**Bill No. 27/2007.**

*Read the first time on 16th July 2007.*

## **ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ACT 2007**

**(No. of 2007)**

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A BILL

*i n t i t u l e d*

An Act to establish the Accounting Standards Council to issue accounting standards applicable to companies and other incorporated and unincorporated bodies, to provide for accounting standards applicable to statutory bodies with a public function and for matters connected therewith, and to make consequential and related amendments to the Companies Act (Chapter 50 of the 2006 Revised Edition) and certain other written laws.

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**

- 5     **1.** This Act may be cited as the Accounting Standards Act 2007 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 —

“accounting standard” means —

- 10         (a) an accounting standard made or formulated by the Council under Part III; or
- (b) an accounting standard for statutory bodies established by the Accountant-General under Part IV;

15     “Chairman” means the Chairman of the Council appointed under section 4(1)(a), and includes any temporary Chairman of the Council if so appointed;

20     “company” means any company incorporated under the Companies Act (Cap. 50) or any corresponding previous written law, and includes a foreign company registered under Division 2 of Part XI of that Act in respect of its operations in Singapore;

“Council” means the Accounting Standards Council established under section 3;

“making or formulating”, in relation to any accounting standard, includes amending and revoking the accounting standard;

25     “member”, in relation to the Council, means a member of the Council and includes the Chairman thereof;

“Minister” means the Minister charged with the responsibility for finance;

“statutory body” means a body —

- 30         (a) established or constituted by or under a public Act;
- (b) that has a public function; and

- (c) whose annual report and audited financial statements are required by written law to be presented to Parliament.

## PART II

### ACCOUNTING STANDARDS COUNCIL

#### 5 **Establishment and functions of Accounting Standards Council**

**3.**—(1) There shall be established a body to be known as the Accounting Standards Council whose functions shall be —

- 10 (a) to make or formulate statements of standard accounting practice (referred to in this Act as accounting standards) applicable to companies for the purposes of the Companies Act (Cap. 50); and
- (b) to make or formulate accounting standards applicable to such other entities as are specified in section 8(1).

15 (2) In addition to the functions imposed by subsection (1), the Council may undertake such other functions (not incompatible with those specified in subsection (1)) as the Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, assign to the Council and, in so doing —

- (a) the Council shall be deemed to be fulfilling the purposes of this Act; and
- 20 (b) the provisions of this Act shall apply to the Council in respect of those functions.

#### **Constitution of Council**

**4.**—(1) The Council shall consist of the following members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister:

- 25 (a) a Chairman; and
- (b) at least 10 but not more than 15 other members.

(2) A person shall not be appointed as a member of the Council unless the person's knowledge of, or experience in, business, accounting, law or government or other relevant fields qualifies him for the appointment.

30 (3) The Chairman and other members of the Council shall each hold office for such period (not exceeding 2 years) and on such terms and

conditions as the Minister may determine, and shall be eligible for reappointment.

5 (4) The Minister may appoint any member of the Council to be a temporary Chairman during the temporary incapacity from illness or otherwise, or during the temporary absence from Singapore, of the Chairman.

10 (5) The Minister may, at any time, revoke the appointment of the Chairman or any other member of the Council if he considers such revocation necessary in the interest of the effective performance of the functions of the Council under this Act or in the public interest.

(6) A member of the Council may resign from his office at any time by giving not less than one month's notice in writing to the Minister.

15 (7) If any vacancy occurs in the membership of the Council, the Minister may, subject to subsections (1) and (2), appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

### **Meetings and proceedings of Council**

5.—(1) The Council shall meet for the despatch of business at such times and places as the Chairman may from time to time appoint.

20 (2) At every meeting of the Council, one half of the number of its members shall constitute a quorum.

(3) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Council, but if the Chairman is absent from a meeting —

(a) the temporary Chairman; or

25 (b) if there is no temporary Chairman, such member as the members present may elect,

shall preside at that meeting.

(4) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council may regulate its own proceedings.

### **Appointment of committees and delegation of powers**

30 6.—(1) The Council may, in its discretion, appoint from among its own members or from among other persons such number of committees as it thinks fit for purposes which, in the opinion of the Council, would be more expediently carried out or managed by means of such committees.

(2) The chairman of every committee appointed under subsection (1) shall be a member of the Council.

(3) The Council may, subject to such conditions or restrictions as it thinks fit, delegate —

5       (a) to any of its members; or

      (b) to any committee appointed by it under subsection (1),  
any of the functions or powers of the Council under this Act or any other written law, except the power of delegation conferred by this section.

10       (4) Any function or power delegated under subsection (3) to any member or committee may be performed or exercised by that member or committee in the name and on behalf of the Council.

(5) No delegation under this section shall prevent the performance or exercise of any function or power by the Council.

#### **Directions by Minister**

15       7. The Minister may give to the Council such directions, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as he thinks fit as to the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers, and the Council shall comply with such directions.

### **PART III**

20                               **ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR COMPANIES  
AND OTHER ENTITIES**

#### **Accounting standards**

      8.—(1) Accounting standards made or formulated by the Council may be expressed to apply —

25       (a) to all companies or specified classes or descriptions of companies;

      (b) to all co-operative societies registered under the Co-operative Societies Act (Cap. 62) or specified classes or descriptions of such co-operative societies;

30       (c) to all societies registered under the Societies Act (Cap. 311) or specified classes or descriptions of such societies; and

(d) to all charities registered, and all institutions of a public character approved or deemed approved, under the Charities Act (Cap. 37) or specified classes or descriptions of such charities or institutions of a public character.

5 (2) Such accounting standards may be of general or specially limited application, and differ according to differences in time, place or circumstance.

10 (3) The Council may, from time to time, issue practice directions on the interpretation of the accounting standards made or formulated under this Part and on matters relating to them and their use in Singapore.

15 (4) An accounting standard that was in force under section 200A of the Companies Act (Cap. 50) immediately before the date of commencement of subsection (1)(a), and any practice directions issued by the Accounting Standards Committee under that section, shall continue in force after that date as if it had been made or formulated by the Council under this Part after that date.

#### **Manner of making, etc., accounting standards**

**9.**—(1) In making or formulating accounting standards, the Council shall have the following objects:

- 20 (a) the development of accounting standards that require the provision of financial information that —
- 25 (i) assist directors of companies and officers of other entities referred to in section 8(1) to discharge their duties and obligations in relation to financial reporting under the Companies Act or any other written law;
  - (ii) is relevant to assessing performance, financial position, financing and investment;
  - (iii) is relevant and reliable;
  - (iv) facilitates comparability; and
  - 30 (v) is readily understandable; and
- (b) to maintain investor confidence in the Singapore economy (including its capital markets).



(2) In making and formulating accounting standards, the Council —

(a) shall have regard to the suitability of a proposed accounting standard for different types of entities referred to in section 8(1);

5 (b) may apply different accounting requirements to the different types of entities; and

(c) shall ensure that there are appropriate accounting standards for each type of entity that must comply with accounting standards.

10 (3) A failure to comply with this Part in relation to the making or formulation of an accounting standard shall not affect the validity of the standard.

### **Evidence of text of accounting standards**

**10.**—(1) Where an accounting standard is made or formulated by the Council under this Part, the Council shall —

15 (a) publish a notice of the making or formulation of the accounting standard in such manner as will secure adequate publicity for such making or formulation;

(b) specify in the notice referred to in paragraph (a) —

(i) the date of such making or formulation;

20 (ii) the class or description of company or other entity specified in section 8(1) or otherwise in respect of which the accounting standard is made or formulated; and

(iii) the place at and the time during which the accounting standard which is the subject of the notice may be inspected; and

25 (c) ensure that, so long as the accounting standard remains in force, copies of that accounting standard, and of all amendments to that accounting standard, are available for inspection by members of the public free of charge, and for purchase by members of the public at a reasonable price.

30 (2) No accounting standard, no amendment thereto and no revocation thereof shall have any force or effect as an accounting standard under this Act or for the purposes of any other written law until the notice relating thereto is published in accordance with subsection (1).

(3) Without affecting any other method of proof, in any proceedings under any written law —

- 5 (a) the production of a document purporting to be a copy of a notice published by the Council under subsection (1)(a) shall be proof of such a notice until the contrary is proved; and
- 10 (b) the production of a document purporting to be an accounting standard made or formulated by the Council as in force at a specified time, or an amendment or a revocation by the Council of such an accounting standard, and to be the subject of a notice under subsection (1)(a), and that is certified by the Chairman under his hand to be a true copy of or extract from any accounting standard made or formulated, amended or revoked by the Council, shall be proof, until the contrary is proved, that —
- 15 (i) the specified accounting standard or the amendment thereto was in force at that time or the revoked accounting standard was not in force, as the case may be; and
- (ii) the text set out in the document is the text of the accounting standard.

#### PART IV

#### 20 ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR STATUTORY BODIES

##### **Accountant-General to establish accounting standards**

**11.**—(1) The Accountant-General may establish one or more accounting standards about the following:

- 25 (a) the statements of standard accounting practice applicable to statutory bodies; and
- (b) the content of financial statements and annual reports required to be prepared by statutory bodies.

30 (2) Before establishing an accounting standard under subsection (1), the Accountant-General shall have regard to relevant accounting standards issued by the Council under this Act or by any appropriate professional bodies.

(3) The Accountant-General may establish an accounting standard under this Part —

(a) by issuing the text of an accounting standard, which may or may not be an accounting standard made or formulated by the Council under Part III; or

5 (b) by modifying the text of any accounting standard referred to in paragraph (a) to the extent necessary to take account of the legal or institutional environment for statutory bodies.

(4) An accounting standard established under subsection (1) shall apply to such periods as may be specified in the standard.

### **Statutory bodies to comply with accounting standards**

10 **12.** The accounts and financial statements of every statutory body specified in the First Schedule shall be prepared in compliance with such accounting standards as are established under this Part and notified in writing to the statutory body by the Accountant-General.

## **PART V**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Amendment of First Schedule**

**13.**—(1) The Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, amend the First Schedule.

20 (2) Every order made under subsection (1) shall be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.

#### **Rules**

**14.** The Minister may make rules for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act, including rules for or with respect to all or any of the following matters:

25 (a) the holding of meetings by the Council, the notice to be given of such meetings and the proceedings thereat, the keeping of minutes, and the custody, production and inspection of such minutes;

30 (b) the opening, keeping, closing and auditing of the Council's accounts.

## Consequential and related amendments to other Acts

15. The provisions of the Acts specified in the first column of the Second Schedule are amended in the manner set out in the second column thereof.

### FIRST SCHEDULE

Sections 12 and 13(1)

#### STATUTORY BODIES

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Statutory body</i>	<i>Act under which established or constituted</i>
1. Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority	Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority Act (Chapter 2A)
2. Agency for Science, Technology and Research	Agency for Science, Technology and Research Act (Chapter 5A)
3. Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority	Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority Act (Chapter 5)
4. Building and Construction Authority	Building and Construction Authority Act (Chapter 30A)
5. Casino Regulatory Authority of Singapore	Casino Control Act 2006 (Act 10 of 2006)
6. Central Provident Fund Board	Central Provident Fund Act (Chapter 36)
7. Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore	Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore Act (Chapter 41)
8. Civil Service College	Civil Service College Act (Chapter 45)
9. Competition Commission of Singapore	Competition Act (Chapter 50B)
10. Defence Science and Technology Agency	Defence Science and Technology Agency Act (Chapter 75A)
11. Economic Development Board	Economic Development Board Act (Chapter 85)
12. Energy Market Authority of Singapore	Energy Market Authority of Singapore Act (Chapter 92B)

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Statutory body</i>	<i>Act under which established or constituted</i>
13. Health Promotion Board	Health Promotion Board Act (Chapter 122B)
14. Health Sciences Authority	Health Sciences Authority Act (Chapter 122C)
15. Housing and Development Board	Housing and Development Act (Chapter 129)
16. Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore	Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore Act (Chapter 137A)
17. Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore	Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore Act (Chapter 138A)
18. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies	Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Act (Chapter 141)
19. Institute of Technical Education, Singapore	Institute of Technical Education Act (Chapter 141A)
20. Intellectual Property Office of Singapore	Intellectual Property Office of Singapore Act (Chapter 140)
21. International Enterprise Singapore Board	International Enterprise Singapore Board Act (Chapter 143B)
22. Jurong Town Corporation	Jurong Town Corporation Act (Chapter 150)
23. Land Transport Authority of Singapore	Land Transport Authority of Singapore Act (Chapter 158A)
24. Majlis Ugama Islam, Singapura	Administration of Muslim Law Act (Chapter 3)
25. Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore	Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Act (Chapter 170A)
26. Media Development Authority of Singapore	Media Development Authority of Singapore Act (Chapter 172)
27. Nanyang Polytechnic	Nanyang Polytechnic Act (Chapter 191A)
28. National Arts Council	National Arts Council Act (Chapter 193A)
29. National Council of Social Service	National Council of Social Service Act (Chapter 195A)

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Statutory body</i>	<i>Act under which established or constituted</i>
30. National Environment Agency	National Environment Agency Act (Chapter 195)
31. National Heritage Board	National Heritage Board Act (Chapter 196A)
32. National Library Board	National Library Board Act (Chapter 197)
33. National Parks Board	National Parks Board Act (Chapter 198A)
34. Ngee Ann Polytechnic	Ngee Ann Polytechnic Act (Chapter 207)
35. People's Association	People's Association Act (Chapter 227)
36. Preservation of Monuments Board	Preservation of Monuments Act (Chapter 239)
37. Public Transport Council	Public Transport Council Act (Chapter 259B)
38. Public Utilities Board	Public Utilities Act (Chapter 261)
39. Republic Polytechnic	Republic Polytechnic Act (Chapter 270)
40. Science Centre Board	Science Centre Act (Chapter 286)
41. Sentosa Development Corporation	Sentosa Development Corporation Act (Chapter 291)
42. Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises	Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises Act (Chapter 298)
43. Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board	Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board Act (Chapter 299A)
44. Singapore Labour Foundation	Singapore Labour Foundation Act (Chapter 302)
45. Singapore Land Authority	Singapore Land Authority Act (Chapter 301)
46. Singapore Polytechnic	Singapore Polytechnic Act (Chapter 303)
47. Singapore Sports Council	Singapore Sports Council Act (Chapter 305)

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Statutory body</i>	<i>Act under which established or constituted</i>
48. Singapore Totalisator Board	Singapore Totalisator Board Act (Chapter 305A)
49. Singapore Tourism Board	Singapore Tourism Board Act (Chapter 305B)
50. Singapore Workforce Development Agency	Singapore Workforce Development Agency Act (Chapter 305D)
51. Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board	Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board Act (Chapter 303A)
52. Temasek Polytechnic	Temasek Polytechnic Act (Chapter 323A)
53. Urban Redevelopment Authority	Urban Redevelopment Authority Act (Chapter 340).

## SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 15

### CONSEQUENTIAL AND RELATED AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ACTS

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
(1) Companies Act (Chapter 50, 2006 Ed.)	
(a) Section 4(1)	Delete the definition of “Accounting Standards” and substitute the following definition:  ““Accounting Standards” means the accounting standards made or formulated by the Accounting Standards Council under Part III of the Accounting Standards Act 2007 and applicable to companies and to foreign companies in respect of their operations in Singapore for the purposes of this Act;”.
(b) Section 200A	Repeal.

*First column**Second column*

(c) Section 201

Insert, immediately after subsection (19), the following subsection:

“(20) The requirements of this section as to the form and content of a company’s accounts or consolidated accounts being in compliance with the Accounting Standards shall not apply to any company that is registered as a charity or approved as an institution of a public character under the Charities Act (Cap. 37) to the extent that that Act requires that company’s accounting records and statements of accounts for any financial year to comply with the accounting standards applicable to charities to the exclusion of the Accounting Standards and other accounting standards.”.

(2) Financial Procedure Act  
(Chapter 109, 1992 Ed.)

Section 2B(2)

Delete the words “in relation to the accounts of the Government”.

(3) Societies Act  
(Chapter 311, 1985 Ed.)

Section 34(1)

Insert, immediately after paragraph (f), the following paragraphs:

“(fa) to require the accounts and financial statements of registered societies to be in compliance with —

- (i) accounting standards that are made or formulated by the Accounting Standards Council under Part III of the Accounting Standards Act 2007 and applicable to societies; or



*First column*

*Second column*

- (ii) other requirements substituted by the Minister in lieu of compliance with the accounting standards applicable to societies;
- (fb) to provide for relief from the requirements of such accounting standards applicable to societies;
- (fc) to provide that the regulations made under paragraph (fa) shall not apply to any society that is registered as a charity or approved as an institution of a public character under the Charities Act (Cap. 37) to the extent that that Act requires the society's accounts and financial statements for any financial year to comply with the accounting standards applicable to charities to the exclusion of other accounting standards;".

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## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill has the following 2 objects:

- (a) to establish the Accounting Standards Council (the Council) in place of the Council on Corporate Disclosure and Governance under the Companies Act (Cap. 50), to issue accounting standards applicable to companies and other incorporated and unincorporated bodies; and
- (b) to require statutory bodies to prepare their accounts and financial statements in accordance with accounting standards specially established by the Accountant-General for statutory bodies, so as to facilitate the Parliament's oversight over these bodies.

The Bill also makes consequential and related amendments to the Companies Act, the Financial Procedure Act (Cap. 109) and the Societies Act (Cap. 311).

### PART I

#### PRELIMINARY

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 defines the standard terms used in the Bill. A “company” is defined to mean any company incorporated under the Companies Act (Cap. 50) or any corresponding previous written law, and includes any foreign company registered under that Act in respect of its operations in Singapore. A “statutory body” is defined as a body that is established or constituted by or under a public Act to discharge public functions and whose annual report and audited financial statements must be presented to Parliament. The “Minister” is defined as the Minister for Finance.

## PART II

### ACCOUNTING STANDARDS COUNCIL

Clause 3 establishes the Council, whose main functions are to make or formulate accounting standards for companies for the purposes of the Companies Act, and accounting standards for other entities like societies, charities and co-operative societies. The Minister may, in future, assign to the Council additional functions not incompatible with the functions specified in the Bill, such as setting accounting standards for other types of entities like trade unions.

Clause 4 sets out the constitution of the Council. The Council will consist of a Chairman, and at least 10 but not more than 15 other members. All Council members will be appointed by the Minister. The Chairman and other members of the Council will each hold office for such period (not exceeding 2 years) and on such terms and conditions as the Minister may determine. Council members will each be eligible for reappointment.

Clause 5 deals with the meetings and proceedings of the Council in general.

Clause 6 empowers the Council to appoint from among its own members or from among other persons who are not members such number of committees as it thinks fit for purposes which would be more expediently carried out or managed by means of such committees.

Clause 7 empowers the Minister to give to the Council directions, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Bill, as to the performance of the Council’s functions and the exercise of its powers, and the Council must comply with those directions.

## PART III

### ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR COMPANIES AND OTHER ENTITIES

Clause 8 outlines the basic functions of the Council. Like the existing Council on Corporate Disclosure and Governance under the Companies Act, the Council will make and formulate accounting standards for all companies for the purposes of the Companies Act or for specified classes or descriptions of such companies. However, the Council will have a larger role in that it can also make or formulate accounting standards for all co-operative societies registered under the Co-operative Societies Act (Cap. 62) or specified classes or descriptions of such co-operative societies, for all societies registered under the Societies Act (Cap. 311) or specified classes or

descriptions of such societies, and for all charities registered and all institutions of a public character approved or deemed approved under the Charities Act (Cap. 37) or specified classes or descriptions of such charities or institutions of a public character.

Clause 8 also preserves the accounting standards that have been prescribed by the Council on Corporate Disclosure and Governance and in force under section 200A of the Companies Act (Cap. 50) on the eve of the day clause 8(1)(a) becomes operative. These existing accounting standards will continue in force as if made or formulated by the Council.

Clause 9 states the objects the Council must have in mind when making or formulating accounting standards.

Clause 10 is an evidentiary provision. The clause provides for the manner in which the accounting standards are to be made or formulated (which includes amending and revocation thereof) in order for the accounting standards to have full force or effect. The Council must publish a notice of the making or formulation of the accounting standard in such manner as will secure adequate publicity for such making or formulation. The notice must state important details like the date of such making or formulation, the class or description of company or other entity specified in clause 8(1) or otherwise in respect of which the accounting standard is made or formulated, and the place at and the time during which the accounting standard which is the subject of the notice may be inspected. Finally, the Council has to ensure that, so long as the accounting standard remains in force, copies of that accounting standard, and of all amendments to that accounting standard, are available for inspection by members of the public free of charge, and for purchase by members of the public at a reasonable price. These procedures will apply in lieu enacting the accounting standards as regulations published in the Government *Gazette*.

As for proving the text of the accounting standards in any proceedings under any written law, the production of a document that purports to be an accounting standard made or formulated by the Council as in force at a specified time (or an amendment thereto or a revocation thereof), purporting to be the subject of a notice of the Council and that is certified by the Council's Chairman under his hand to be a true extract from any accounting standard made or formulated, amended or revoked by the Council, will, until the contrary is proved, be proof that the specified accounting standard or the amendment thereto was in force at that time or the revoked accounting standard was not in force, as the case may be, and the text set out in the document is proof of the text of the accounting standard. Clause 10 does not affect any other method of proof.

#### PART IV

##### ACCOUNTING STANDARDS FOR STATUTORY BODIES

Clause 11 empowers the Accountant-General to establish one or more accounting standards for statutory bodies. Unlike companies and other corporations, statutory bodies are accountable to Parliament, whose priorities and interests in the matter are distinctly different from ordinary shareholders. Parts of the accounting standards for companies and corporations are unsuitable or inadequate for statutory bodies because these standards were formulated with profit-making entities in mind. Nevertheless, the

accounting standards for companies and corporations remain relevant. Hence, before establishing the accounting standards for statutory bodies, the Accountant-General must have regard to relevant accounting standards made or formulated by the Council or by any appropriate professional bodies.

Clause 12 requires every statutory body specified in the First Schedule to comply with the accounting standards established by the Accountant-General under clause 11 when preparing its accounts and financial statements. The accounting standards which the statutory body must comply with will be notified to it in writing by the Accountant-General.

## PART V

### MISCELLANEOUS

Clause 13 allows the Minister to amend the First Schedule by an order published in the *Gazette*. This will facilitate inclusion in the First Schedule of new statutory bodies which may be established in the future, or deletion of statutory bodies which have been dissolved.

Clause 14 empowers the Minister to make rules for carrying out the purposes and provisions of the Bill, including rules for or with respect to proceedings and meetings of the Council.

Clause 15 (read with the Second Schedule) makes consequential and related amendments to various Acts.

The First Schedule lists the statutory bodies which will be required to comply with the accounting standards specially established by the Accountant-General for statutory bodies.

The Second Schedule contains the consequential and related amendments to various Acts.

Section 200A of the Companies Act (Cap. 50), which sets up the Council on Corporate Disclosure and Governance, is repealed. Section 201 of the Companies Act is amended to make it clear that it will not apply to any company that is registered as a charity or approved as an institution of a public character under the Charities Act (Cap. 37) to the extent that the Charities Act (which will be amended separately in future) requires the company's accounting records and statements of accounts to comply with the accounting standards applicable to charities. This is to avoid over-regulating entities which are both a company and a charity or an approved institution of a public character.

Section 2B(2) of the Financial Procedure Act (Cap. 109), which relates to the duties of the Accountant-General, is amended by removing the existing limit on the Accountant-General to duties in relation to the accounts of the Government.

The regulation-making power under section 34 of the Societies Act (Cap. 311) is amended to empower the Minister in charge of the Societies Act to make regulations to require the accounts and financial statements of registered societies to be in compliance with accounting standards that are made or formulated by the Accounting Standards

Council under Part III of the Accounting Standards Bill 2007 and applicable to societies, or to be in compliance with other requirements in lieu of compliance with those accounting standards. Regulations to provide for relief from the requirements of such accounting standards applicable to societies may also be made. These regulations will also provide that any society that is registered as a charity or approved as an institution of a public character under the Charities Act (Cap. 37) will not be regulated by those regulations to the extent that the Charities Act (which will be amended separately in future) requires the society's accounts and financial statements to comply with the accounting standards applicable to charities. This is to avoid over-regulating entities which are both a society and a charity or an approved institution of a public character.

### EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

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

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