

Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment No. 2) Bill

Bill No. 22/2023.

Read the first time on 3 July 2023.

A BILL

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An Act to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore.

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 Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment No. 2) Act 2023 and comes into operation on a date that the President appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

5 **Amendment of Article 2**

2. In the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore, in Article 2, after clause (7), insert —

10 “(7A) To avoid doubt, where a person is required to take, or take and subscribe, an oath under Article 20(3), 22N(5), 27, 37H(1), 75, 97(1), 105(8), 111B(4) or 111J(4), the person may take, or take and subscribe, the oath (or make an affirmation instead of taking the oath) by appearing before or in the presence of the person administering the oath or affirmation through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the person
15 administering the oath or affirmation to —

- 20 (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking, or taking and subscribing, the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
- (b) confirm the identity of the person taking, or taking and subscribing, the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present; and
- 25 (c) if the oath or affirmation is to be subscribed, verify by inspection the oath or affirmation to be subscribed.

30 (7B) To avoid doubt, where a person is required to take the Oath of Renunciation, Allegiance and Loyalty under Article 122(4), 126(1) or (3) or 127(4), the person may take the oath (or make an affirmation instead of taking the oath) by appearing before the person administering the oath or affirmation through a live video link or live television link created using a remote communication technology that allows the person administering the oath or affirmation to —

- (a) maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present, throughout the process;
- (b) confirm the identity of the person taking the oath or making the affirmation, and any interpreter present; and
- (c) if the oath or affirmation is to be subscribed, verify by inspection the oath or affirmation to be subscribed.”.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore to make provision for the taking of certain oaths mentioned in the Constitution through live video link or live television link.

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 amends Article 2 (Interpretation) —

- (a) to insert a new clause (7A) to clarify that the oaths under Articles 20(3), 22N(5), 27, 37H(1), 75, 97(1), 105(8), 111B(4) and 111J(4) may be taken, or taken and subscribed, through a live video link or live television link that allows the person administering the oath to maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking, or taking and subscribing, the oath, confirm the identity of the person taking, or taking and subscribing, the oath and, if the oath is to be subscribed, verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed; and
- (b) to insert a new clause (7B) to clarify that the Oath of Renunciation, Allegiance and Loyalty under Article 122(4), 126(1) or (3) or 127(4) may be taken through a live video link or live television link that allows the person administering the oath to maintain visual contact and communicate with the person taking the oath, confirm the identity of the person taking the oath and, if the oath is to be subscribed, verify by inspection the oath to be subscribed.

The new clauses (7A) and (7B) will similarly apply when a person chooses to make an affirmation instead of taking an oath, which is permitted under Article 2(7).

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

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