

Singapore Armed Forces and Other Matters Bill

Bill No. 15/2022.

Read the first time on 4 July 2022.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Singapore Armed Forces Act 1972 to establish a digital and intelligence service, to increase the maximum fines that may be imposed by a disciplinary officer or subordinate military court, to provide for the composition of military offences, and for other purposes, to amend the Military Manoeuvres Act 1905 to permit the carrying out of military manoeuvres in catchment areas with the approval of the Public Utilities Board, to amend the Civil Defence Act 1986 and the Police Force Act 2004 to provide for the composition of service and disciplinary offences, and to make related amendments to certain other Acts.

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 Singapore Armed Forces and Other Matters Act 2022 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

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PART 1

AMENDMENT OF SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES ACT 1972

Amendment of section 2

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2. Section 2 of the Singapore Armed Forces Act 1972 (called in this Part the SAF Act) is amended —

(a) by deleting the words “or the Chief of Navy” in the definition of “Service Chief” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “, the Chief of Navy or the Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service”; and

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(b) by deleting the words “or air force” in subsection (2)(c) and substituting the words “, air force, or digital and intelligence service”.

Amendment of section 7

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3. Section 7(1) of the SAF Act is amended by deleting the words “and navy” and substituting the words “, navy, and digital and intelligence service”.

Amendment of section 8

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4. Section 8(1) of the SAF Act is amended by deleting the word “and” at the end of paragraph (f), and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraph:

“(fa) the Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service; and”.

Amendment of section 8B

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5. Section 8B(2) of the SAF Act is amended by deleting the words “or Navy” in paragraph (c) and substituting the words “, Navy, or Digital and Intelligence Service”.

Amendment of section 10A

6. Section 10A of the SAF Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “and a Chief of Navy” in subsection (1) and substituting the words “, a Chief of Navy and a Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service”; 5
- (b) by deleting the words “or the Chief of Navy” in subsections (3) and (4) and substituting in each case the words “, the Chief of Navy or the Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service”; and
- (c) by deleting the section heading and substituting the following section heading: 10

“Appointment of Chief of Defence Force and Service Chiefs”.

Amendment of section 19

7. Section 19 of the SAF Act is amended by deleting subsection (1) 15
and substituting the following subsections:

“(1) Every person subject to military law shall be guilty of an offence if the person —

- (a) strikes or otherwise uses violence to, or offers violence to, a person superior in rank or appointment; or 20

- (b) uses threatening or insubordinate language or gestures to, or behaves with contempt to, a person superior in rank or appointment.

(1A) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1)(a) shall be liable on conviction by a subordinate military court to — 25

- (a) if the offence is committed during active service — imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years or any less punishment authorised by this Act; and 30

(b) in any other case — imprisonment for a term not exceeding 4 years or any less punishment authorised by this Act.

5 (1B) A person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1)(b) shall be liable on conviction by a subordinate military court to —

(a) if the offence is committed during active service — imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or any less punishment authorised by this Act; and

10 (b) in any other case — imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or any less punishment authorised by this Act.”.

Amendment of heading to Part 4

15 **8.** Part 4 of the SAF Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the words “DISCIPLINARY OFFICERS” in the Part heading, the words “AND COMPOSITION OF MILITARY OFFENCES”.

Amendment of section 60

9. Section 60 of the SAF Act is amended —

20 (a) by inserting, immediately before the definition of “detachment”, the following definition:

““authorised composition officer” means a serviceman authorised to compound offences under section 79A(1);”; and

25 (b) by deleting the words “and air force” in the definitions of “formation” and “unit” and substituting in each case the words “, air force or digital and intelligence service,”.

Amendment of section 62

10. Section 62 of the SAF Act is amended by deleting subsection (1) and substituting the following subsection:

“(1) Before an allegation against any person subject to military law (called in this Act the accused) that the person has committed an offence under this Act is further proceeded with, the allegation must —

- (a) be reported in the form of a charge to a disciplinary officer and dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Part; or
- (b) be referred to an authorised composition officer for composition of the offence under section 79A.”.

Amendment of section 66

11. Section 66 of the SAF Act is amended —

- (a) by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) A disciplinary officer must dismiss a charge if the charge relates to an offence that has been compounded under section 79A.”; and

- (b) by deleting the section heading and substituting the following section heading:

“Dismissal of charges”.

Amendment of section 68

12. Section 68 of the SAF Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting “\$1,000” in paragraph (b)(i) and substituting “\$2,000”; and
- (b) by deleting “\$300” in paragraph (b)(ii) and substituting “\$600”.

Amendment of section 69

13. Section 69(1) of the SAF Act is amended —

(a) by deleting “\$1,500” in paragraph (d)(i) and substituting “\$3,000”; and

5 (b) by deleting “\$500” in paragraph (d)(ii) and substituting “\$1,000”.

Amendment of section 70

14. Section 70(1) of the SAF Act is amended —

10 (a) by deleting “\$3,000” in paragraph (b)(i) and substituting “\$6,000”; and

(b) by deleting “\$2,000” in paragraph (b)(ii) and substituting “\$4,000”.

Amendment of section 70A

15 15. Section 70A(1) of the SAF Act is amended by deleting “\$6,000” in paragraph (b) and substituting “\$10,000”.

Amendment of section 70B

16. Section 70B(1) of the SAF Act is amended by deleting “\$6,000” in paragraph (b) and substituting “\$10,000”.

Amendment of section 72

20 17. Section 72 of the SAF Act is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the words “senior military expert of” in subsection (1), the words “or above”; and

(b) by deleting “\$10,000” in subsection (6)(b)(ii) and substituting “\$30,000”.

New section 79A

18. The SAF Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 79 in Part 4, the following section:

“Composition of offences under this Part

79A.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), any serviceman authorised by the Armed Forces Council to compound offences may compound any offence specified in the Schedule that is prescribed as a compoundable offence (called in this section a prescribed offence) by collecting from an accused reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding the lower of the following: 5 10

(a) either —

(i) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is prescribed for the offence; or

(ii) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is authorised to be imposed by a disciplinary officer on the accused for the offence at a summary trial, if lower than the amount in sub-paragraph (i) or if no maximum fine is prescribed; 15 20

(b) \$5,000.

(2) An authorised composition officer must not compound a prescribed offence reasonably suspected to have been committed by an accused who is in the same chain of command as the authorised composition officer. 25

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), an authorised composition officer is not in the same chain of command as an accused by reason only of being in the same formation as the accused.

(4) On payment of the sum of money under subsection (1), no further proceedings are to be taken against the accused in respect of the prescribed offence. 30

(5) All sums collected for the composition of an offence under subsection (1) must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.”.

Amendment of section 111

19. Section 111 of the SAF Act is amended —

(a) by deleting the word “later” in subsection (1) and substituting the word “latest”;

5 (b) by deleting the full-stop at the end of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and substituting a semi-colon, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following paragraphs:

10 “(c) where any police investigation relating to a related civil offence has commenced before the expiry of the default limitation period —

(i) the date on which the investigation ends; or

15 (ii) if proceedings are instituted in a civil court as a result of that investigation — the applicable date under paragraph (d);

20 (d) where proceedings are instituted in a civil court in respect of a related civil offence before the expiry of the default limitation period —

25 (i) if the related civil offence was not alleged to have been committed by the person or the person is not sentenced to imprisonment, detention or reformatory training — the date on which those proceedings end; or

30 (ii) if the person is sentenced to imprisonment, detention or reformatory training — the date on which the person completes the sentence of imprisonment, detention or reformatory training;

- (e) where the person is sentenced to imprisonment, detention or reformatory training for any civil offence before the expiry of the default limitation period — the date on which the person completes the sentence of imprisonment, detention or reformatory training; 5
- (f) where a warrant for the arrest of the person is issued under section 169 before the expiry of the default limitation period but could not be executed within the default limitation period despite all reasonable efforts to do so due to the whereabouts of the accused being unknown — the date the person is arrested.”; and 10 15

(c) by inserting, immediately after subsection (5), the following subsection:

“(6) In this section —

“default limitation period” means the period of 3 years after the later of the dates mentioned in subsection (1)(a) and (b); 20

“related civil offence”, in relation to a person alleged to have committed an offence triable under this Act, means an alleged civil offence, whether alleged to have been committed by that person or another person, arising from the same factual matrix as the alleged offence triable under this Act, which, if tried in a civil court, may result in a finding by the civil court that has a material relevance to a finding at a trial by a subordinate military court of that person for the alleged offence triable under this Act.”. 25 30

Amendment of section 112

20. Section 112 of the SAF Act is amended by deleting subsection (1) and substituting the following subsection:

5 “(1) Subject to subsection (2), every person subject to military law who commits any offence which when committed in Singapore or elsewhere is punishable by any written law of Singapore shall, if charged under this section with any such offence, be liable to be tried by a subordinate military court and on conviction to be punished with either —

10 (a) any punishment that may be awarded to the person under this Act in respect of an act, conduct or neglect to the prejudice of good order or discipline; or

15 (b) any punishment that may be awarded for the offence under that written law, had the person been convicted by a civil court for the offence and, in addition to or in lieu of such punishment, one or more of the punishments specified in section 118(1)(c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (j), (k) and (l), and any punishment which may be imposed under section 118(10), (11), (13) and 20 (14), which is or are not prescribed by the written law for the offence.”.

Amendment of section 118

21. Section 118 of the SAF Act is amended —

25 (a) by deleting “\$10,000” in subsection (7)(a) and substituting “\$30,000”;

(b) by deleting “\$5,000” in subsection (7)(b) and substituting “\$15,000”; and

(c) by inserting, immediately after subsection (16), the following subsection:

30 “(16A) Where a subordinate military court sentences a person to caning under section 112(1), that sentence must not be carried into effect unless confirmed by the Armed Forces Council.”.

Amendment of section 125

22. Section 125(1) of the SAF Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the word “awarded”, the words “under section 112(1) or”.

Amendment of section 129

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23. Section 129 of the SAF Act is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately after the words “an address” in subsection (4), the words “, a fax number or an electronic mail address”; and

(b) by deleting subsection (5) and substituting the following subsection: 10

“(5) When a notice of appeal has been lodged, the registrar of the Military Court of Appeal must cause a copy of the grounds of decision in the case signed by the president of the subordinate military court and a copy of the record of proceedings (called in this subsection the appeal documents) to be served on the appellant or the appellant’s counsel — 15

(a) by delivering the appeal documents at the address mentioned in the notice of appeal to — 20

(i) the appellant;

(ii) where the appellant is not present at the address and the address is a business address — the appellant’s counsel or any other adult person present at the address; or 25

(iii) where the appellant is not present at the address and the address is a residential address — an adult person who is a member of the appellant’s family; 30

- 5 (b) by posting the appeal documents by registered post addressed to the appellant or the appellant’s counsel (as the case may be) at the address mentioned in the notice of appeal;
- (c) by addressing the appeal documents to the appellant or the appellant’s counsel (as the case may be), and transmitting the documents by fax to the fax number mentioned in the notice of appeal;
- 10 (d) by addressing the appeal documents to the appellant or the appellant’s counsel (as the case may be), and transmitting the documents to the electronic mail address mentioned in the notice of appeal; or
- 15 (e) by any other prescribed method.”.

Amendment of section 167

24. Section 167(3) of the SAF Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the words “must be”, the words “released or”.

Amendment of section 205A

25. Section 205A of the SAF Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) The regulations made under subsection (1) may provide that any of the following may be determined by the Armed Forces Council in a General Order made under section 208(1):

- 25 (a) the rate of contribution by the Government under the SAVER Plan or the Premium Plan;
- (b) the conditions under which a contribution by the Government is payable under the SAVER Plan or the Premium Plan to the SAVER-Premium Fund;
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- (c) the conditions under which a superannuation benefit is payable to a serviceman (including to his or her legal personal representatives or dependants if the serviceman is deceased).”.

Amendment of section 205C

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26. Section 205C of the SAF Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting subsection (12); and
- (b) by deleting the words “, auditing and periodic examination” in subsection (13)(c) and substituting the words “and auditing”.

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PART 2

AMENDMENT OF MILITARY MANOEUVRES ACT 1905

Amendment of section 7

27. Section 7 of the Military Manoeuvres Act 1905 is amended by deleting the words “No military manoeuvres” and substituting the words “Except with the Public Utilities Board’s approval, no military manoeuvres”.

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PART 3

RELATED AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ACTS

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Amendment of Interpretation Act 1965

28. Section 2(1) of the Interpretation Act 1965 is amended by inserting, immediately after the definition of “master”, the following definition:

- ““military”, in relation to Singapore’s military, includes the digital and intelligence service of the Singapore Armed Forces;”.

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Amendment of Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act 1906

5 **29.** Section 21(2) of the Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act 1906 is amended by deleting the words “army, navy or air force of Singapore” and substituting the words “Singapore Armed Forces”.

Amendment of Wills Act 1838

10 **30.** Section 27(5) of the Wills Act 1838 is amended by inserting, immediately after the words “air force”, the words “and a serviceman serving in the digital and intelligence service of the Singapore Armed Forces”.

PART 4

AMENDMENT OF CIVIL DEFENCE ACT 1986

15 Amendment of section 70

31. Section 70 of the Civil Defence Act 1986 is amended by deleting subsection (1) and substituting the following subsection:

20 “(1) Before an allegation against a person subject to this Act (called in this Act the accused) that he or she has committed a service offence is further proceeded with, the allegation must —

(a) if the accused is a public officer — be reported in the form of a charge to a disciplinary officer and dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Part; or

(b) if the accused is not a public officer —

25 (i) be reported in the form of a charge to a disciplinary officer and dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Part; or

30 (ii) be referred to a member or public officer authorised by the Commissioner to compound service offences for composition of the offence under section 85A.”.

New section 85A

32. The Civil Defence Act 1986 is amended by inserting, immediately after section 85 in Part 7, the following section:

“Composition of service offences

85A.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), any member or public officer authorised by the Commissioner to compound service offences (called in this section an authorised composition officer), may compound any service offence that is prescribed as a compoundable offence (called in this section a prescribed offence) by collecting from an accused (not being a public officer) reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding the lower of the following: 5

(a) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is authorised to be imposed by a disciplinary officer on the accused for the offence under this Part; 15

(b) \$5,000.

(2) An authorised composition officer must not compound a prescribed offence reasonably suspected to have been committed by an accused who is in the same chain of command as the authorised composition officer. 20

(3) On payment of the sum of money under subsection (1), no further proceedings are to be taken against the accused in respect of the prescribed offence.

(4) All sums collected for the composition of a service offence under this Act must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.”. 25

PART 5

AMENDMENT OF POLICE FORCE ACT 2004

New Division 5 of Part 8

33. The Police Force Act 2004 is amended by inserting, immediately after section 84, the following Division heading and section: 30

*“Division 5 — Miscellaneous***Composition of disciplinary offences**

5 **84A.**—(1) Where a special police officer is alleged to have committed a disciplinary offence that is prescribed as a compoundable offence (called in this section a prescribed offence), the disciplinary officer may, instead of dealing with the special police officer under section 81 or 82 (as the case may be), refer the alleged offence to any police officer or public officer authorised by the Commissioner to compound offences (called in this section an authorised composition officer) for the composition of the offence under this section.

10 (2) Subject to subsection (3), any authorised composition officer may compound a prescribed offence by collecting from a special police officer reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding the lower of the following:

15 (a) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is authorised to be imposed by a disciplinary officer on the special police officer for the offence under this Part;

20 (b) \$5,000.

25 (3) An authorised composition officer must not compound a prescribed offence reasonably suspected to have been committed by a special police officer who is in the same chain of command as the authorised composition officer.

30 (4) On payment of the sum of money under subsection (2), no further proceedings are to be taken against that special police officer in respect of the prescribed offence.

 (5) All sums collected for the composition of a disciplinary offence under this Act must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.”.

PART 6

SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Saving and transitional provisions

34.—(1) Section 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17(*b*), 19, 20 or 21 (as the case may be) does not apply in relation to any offence or military offence committed before the date of commencement of that section, and section 19, 68, 69, 70, 70A, 70B, 72(6), 111, 112 or 118 of the Singapore Armed Forces Act 1972 (as the case may be) as in force immediately before that date applies in relation to that offence or military offence.

(2) For a period of 2 years after the date of commencement of any provision of this Act, the Minister may, by regulations, prescribe such additional provisions of a saving or transitional nature consequent on the enactment of that provision as the Minister may consider necessary or expedient.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend 7 Acts and is divided into 6 Parts.

Part 1 consists of amendments to the Singapore Armed Forces Act 1972 (SAF Act) for the following main purposes:

- (a) to establish a digital and intelligence service;
- (b) to increase the maximum fines that may be imposed by a disciplinary officer or subordinate military court;
- (c) to provide for the composition of military offences;
- (d) to make changes to certain provisions relating to the disciplinary process;
- (e) to make changes to certain provisions relating to the SAVER Plan and Premium Plan.

Part 2 amends the Military Manoeuvres Act 1905 to permit the carrying out of military manoeuvres in catchment areas with the approval of the Public Utilities Board.

Part 3 makes related amendments to the Interpretation Act 1965, the Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act 1906 and the Wills

Act 1838 arising from the establishment of the digital and intelligence service under the SAF Act.

Part 4 amends the Civil Defence Act 1986 to provide for the composition of service offences under that Act committed by members of the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) who are not public officers posted to serve in SCDF.

Part 5 amends the Police Force Act 2004 to provide for the composition of disciplinary offences under that Act committed by special police officers.

Part 6 provides for saving and transitional provisions.

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

PART 1
AMENDMENT OF
SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES ACT 1972

Clauses 2 to 26 amend the SAF Act.

Clause 2 amends the definition of “Service Chief” in section 2(1) to include a reference to the Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service, and inserts a reference to the digital and intelligence service in section 2(2)(c).

Clause 3 amends section 7(1) to provide that the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) has a digital and intelligence service command.

Clause 4 amends section 8(1) to provide that the Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service is a member of the Armed Forces Council.

Clause 5 amends section 8B(2)(c) to include the Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service. Under section 8B(2), business must not be transacted at any meeting of the Armed Forces Council unless the Chairperson of the Council, a Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, and the Chief of Defence or a Service Chief (including the Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service) are present.

Clause 6 amends section 10A to provide for the appointment of the Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service by the President, and various other matters pertaining to the performance of the Chief of Digital and Intelligence Service’s duties.

Clause 7 amends section 19 to increase the punishment that may be awarded for an offence of striking or using or offering violence to a superior officer under section 19(1)(a). If committed during active service, the punishment for the offence is increased from imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years. If committed otherwise than during active service, the punishment for the offence is increased from imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 4 years. The punishment of imprisonment for a term not exceeding

7 years for an offence committed in active service is aligned with the prescribed punishment under section 134 of the Penal Code 1871 for the abetment of an assault by an officer or a serviceman in the SAF or any visiting forces lawfully present in Singapore on any superior officer being in the execution of the superior officer's office.

Clause 8 amends the heading to Part 4 to include a reference to the composition of military offences.

Clause 9 amends section 60 by inserting the definition for a new term "authorised composition officer" and to amend the definitions of "formation" and "unit" to include a reference to the digital and intelligence service.

Clause 10 amends section 62(1) to provide that an allegation that a person subject to military law has committed a military offence may be reported in the form of a charge to a disciplinary officer or be referred to an authorised composition officer for composition of the offence.

Clause 11 amends section 66 to provide that a disciplinary officer must dismiss a charge if it relates to an offence that has already been compounded. The section heading is also amended.

Clauses 12 to 17 amend sections 68, 69, 70, 70A, 70B and 72, respectively, to increase the fine amounts that may be awarded in a summary trial by a disciplinary officer or a Senior Disciplinary Committee as a punishment for military offences.

Clause 17(a) also amends section 72(1) to allow for a charge against a senior military expert above the rank of ME8 to be dealt with summarily by a Senior Disciplinary Committee. The rank of ME8 is currently the highest senior military expert rank available, but a higher rank may be created in the future.

Clause 18 inserts a new section 79A in Part 4 to provide for the composition of military offences specified in the Schedule that are prescribed as compoundable offences. Military offences may be compounded by any serviceman authorised by the Armed Forces Council to compound military offences (authorised composition officer), but an authorised composition officer must not compound an offence reasonably suspected to have been committed by an accused person in the same chain of command as the authorised composition officer. Composition sums collected must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Clause 19 amends section 111 to provide for circumstances in which the limitation of time for trial of a military offence expires at a later time. Currently, section 111(1) provides that the limitation period of 3 years starts from the date the offence was committed or the date that information regarding the offence was reported to a relevant disciplinary officer or military policeman. With the amendments, in cases where there are police investigations into or proceedings instituted in a civil court in respect of a related civil offence (whether committed by the accused person or another person), the limitation period of 3 years

commences only upon the end of those investigations or proceedings, or the date the accused person completes the sentence of imprisonment, detention or reformatory training imposed in those proceedings. If the accused person is sentenced to imprisonment, detention or reformatory training for any civil offence unrelated to the alleged military offence, the limitation period of 3 years will commence only on the date the accused person completes the sentence of imprisonment, detention or reformatory training. Where a warrant of arrest has been issued but could not be executed due to the whereabouts of the accused person being unknown, the 3 years will commence only on the date the accused person is arrested. The new limits in section 111 will also apply to the time limits for summary trials, by virtue of section 78(3).

Clause 20 amends section 112(1) to provide that where a person subject to military law is charged and convicted under that provision for the commission of a civil offence under any written law, the punishment that may be awarded by a subordinate military court for the offence includes the punishment that may be awarded for that civil offence under the written law. As changes have been made to the punishment provisions for civil offences in recent years, the amendment ensures that the punishment that may be imposed by a subordinate military court is aligned with that which may be awarded by a civil court.

Clause 21 amends section 118(7) to increase the fine amounts that may be awarded by a subordinate military court as a punishment for military offences. The clause also inserts a new subsection (16A) which provides that any sentence of caning imposed in relation to an offence under section 112(1) must not be carried into effect unless confirmed by the Armed Forces Council. This is similar to the safeguard in section 118(16) that applies to a sentence of caning imposed in relation to other offences under the SAF Act.

Clause 22 amends section 125(1) to provide that a sentence of caning awarded under section 112(1) is subject to the same provisions in section 125 specifying the mode of execution and protections as are applicable to sentences of caning awarded in respect of offences specified in section 118(16) or 119.

Clause 23 amends section 129(4) and (5) to permit service of the grounds of decision and the record of proceedings to a fax number or an electronic mail address specified by the appellant in an appeal to the Military Court of Appeal.

Clause 24 amends section 167(3) to provide that a person arrested under section 167(1) or (2) may be released instead of being brought before a civil court as soon as possible.

Clause 25 amends section 205A to insert a new subsection (1A) to provide that regulations made under section 205A(1) may provide that certain matters relating to the SAVER Plan or Premium Plan may be determined by the Armed Forces Council in a General Order made under section 208(1).

Clause 26 amends section 205C to delete the requirement in subsection (12) for a periodic examination of the SAVER-Premium Fund to determine the state of the Fund having regard to its prospective liabilities and probable annual provisions required to meet those liabilities. This requirement is no longer relevant following the conversion of the Fund to a “defined contribution” fund in 2006.

PART 2

AMENDMENT OF MILITARY MANOEUVRES ACT 1905

Clause 27 amends section 7 of the Military Manoeuvres Act 1905 to permit the carrying out of military manoeuvres in catchment areas with the approval of the Public Utilities Board.

PART 3

RELATED AMENDMENTS TO OTHER ACTS

Clause 28 amends section 2(1) of the Interpretation Act 1965 to insert a new definition of “military”, so that any reference to this word in relation to Singapore’s military will, unless the context otherwise suggests or it is expressly provided otherwise, include a reference to the digital and intelligence service.

Clause 29 amends section 21(2) of the Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act 1906 to replace the reference to the “army, navy or air force of Singapore” with the “Singapore Armed Forces”.

Clause 30 amends section 27(5) of the Wills Act 1838 to provide that a “soldier” mentioned in section 27 of that Act includes any serviceman serving in the digital and intelligence service of the SAF.

PART 4

AMENDMENT OF CIVIL DEFENCE ACT 1986

Clause 31 amends section 70(1) of the Civil Defence Act 1986 to provide that an allegation that a person subject to that Act (an accused person) and who is not a public officer has committed a service offence may, instead of being reported in the form of a charge to a disciplinary officer, be referred to a member or public officer who is authorised by the Commissioner of Civil Defence to compound service offences for composition of the offence.

Clause 32 inserts a new section 85A in Part 7 of the Civil Defence Act 1986 to provide for the composition of service offences under that Act. Service offences may be compounded by any member or public officer authorised by the Commissioner of Civil Defence to compound service offences (authorised

composition officer), but an authorised composition officer must not compound an offence reasonably suspected to have been committed by an accused person in the same chain of command as the authorised composition officer. Composition sums collected must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

PART 5

AMENDMENT OF POLICE FORCE ACT 2004

Clause 33 inserts a new Division heading for a new Division 5 of Part 8 and inserts a new section 84A to the Police Force Act 2004 to provide for the composition of disciplinary offences under that Act committed by special police officers. Special police officers are full-time national servicemen or operationally ready national servicemen enlisted in the Special Constabulary or volunteers. Disciplinary offences may be compounded by any police officer or public officer authorised by the Commissioner of Police to compound disciplinary offences (authorised composition officer), but an authorised composition officer must not compound an offence reasonably suspected to have been committed by a special police officer in the same chain of command as the authorised composition officer. Composition sums collected must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

PART 6

SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Clause 34 contains saving and transitional provisions.

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

This Bill will involve the Government in extra financial expenditure, the exact amount of which cannot at present be ascertained.
