

**FIFTEENTH PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE
(FIRST SESSION)**

ORDER PAPER SUPPLEMENT

Sup. No. 2

WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2025

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NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS TO BILL

(IN COMMITTEE)

1. ONLINE SAFETY (RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY) BILL
[Bill No. 18/2025]

Clause 3:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

In page 14: after line 12, to insert –

“(n) publication of online material encouraging or promoting suicide or an act of deliberate self-injury;

(o) sexual grooming of any person below 18 years of age or vulnerable adults;”

Consequential Amendment:

In page 14, line 13: to reletter paragraph (n) as paragraph (p).

Clause 9:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

In page 24: after line 21, to insert –

“(5) For the purposes of subsection (1), communication of online material is not “online harassment” if it constitutes, or is part of a course of conduct that constitutes, fair comment on a matter of public interest.”

Clause 11:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

In page 25: after line 27, to insert –

“(4) A person’s conduct does not constitute “non-consensual disclosure of private information” under subsection (1) if, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in the disclosure of the private information outweighs the public interest in maintaining privacy.

(5) Without limiting subsection (4), matters which may constitute a public interest in the disclosure of the information include —

- (a) informing the public on a matter of significant public concern;
- (b) exposing wrongdoing, corruption, or a serious miscarriage of justice;
- (c) the proper administration of government or the conduct of public services;
- (d) open justice;
- (e) protecting public health and safety;
- (f) national security;
- (g) the prevention or detection of serious crime or fraud.”

Clause 19:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

In page 37: after line 26, to insert –

“(6) Communication of online material does not constitute “online instigation of disproportionate harm” under subsection (1) if the communication relates to a matter of public interest.”

Clause 26:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

In page 42, line 28: to leave out “reason to suspect” and insert “reasonable grounds to believe”.

Clause 63:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

In page 75: to leave out lines 22 to 25.

New Clause A:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

“Publication of online material encouraging or promoting suicide or an act of deliberate self-injury

A.— (1) In this Act, “publication of online material encouraging or promoting suicide or an act of deliberate self-injury” means the communication of online material that encourages, promotes, or provides instructions for suicide or an act of deliberate self-injury.

(2) Despite subsection (1), “publication of online material encouraging or promoting suicide or an act of deliberate self-injury” does not include the communication of material that:

- (a) has a legitimate purpose related to science, medicine, education or art which a reasonable person would regard as such; and
- (b) does not pose an undue risk of harm to any person below 16 years of age.

Explanation. — Material has a legitimate purpose related to an academic enquiry, or as an expression related to art which a reasonable person would regard as art.

Illustration

A is a professor at an educational institution. A conducts a study relating to suicide or self-injury and communicates this online as part of A’s work as a professor. A’s communication has a legitimate purpose related to education.”

Note: It is intended that this new clause A be inserted immediately after clause 21.

New Clause B:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

“Sexual grooming of any person below 18 years of age or vulnerable adults

B.— (1) In this Act, “sexual grooming of any person below 18 years of age or vulnerable adults” means the communication of online material by any person of or above 18 years of age (A) with another person (B) on at least one previous occasion —

- (a) A intentionally communicates online material with B which encourages, promotes, or provides instructions of sexual communication or sexual activity;
- (b) B is below 18 years of age or a vulnerable adult; and
- (c) A does not reasonably believe that B is of or above 18 years of age or a vulnerable adult.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) —

- (a) “Sexual communication” means intentional communication for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification or of causing another person (B) humiliation, alarm or distress, and the communication is sexual.
- (b) “Sexual activity” means —
 - (i) intentional engagement of an activity for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification or of causing another person (B) humiliation, alarm or distress, and the activity is sexual; or
 - (ii) For the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification or of causing another person (B) humiliation, alarm or distress, A intentionally causes B to observe an image or recording which is sexual.
- (c) “Vulnerable adult” means an individual who is 18 years of age or older, and by reason of mental or physical infirmity, disability or incapacity, incapable of protecting himself or herself from abuse, neglect or self-neglect.

(3) To avoid doubt, it is not a defence that B consents to the communication of the online material under subsection (1).

(4) Despite subsection (1), “sexual grooming of any person below 18 years of age or vulnerable adults” does not include communication of material that —

- (a) has a legitimate purpose related to science, medicine, education or art which a reasonable person would regard as such; and
- (b) does not pose an undue risk of harm to any person below 18 years of age.”

Note: It is intended that this new clause B be inserted immediately after new clause A.

New Clause C:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

“Appeal to General Division of High Court

C.— (1) An appeal against, or with respect to, a decision or direction of an Appeal Committee on an appeal under section 65 lies to the General Division of the High Court.

(2) An appeal under subsection (1) may be made only on one or more of the following grounds:

- (a) on a point of law; or
- (b) that the online harmful activity did not occur; or
- (c) that it is not technically possible to comply with the decision, direction, or order that is the subject of the decision or direction of the Appeal Committee.

(3) In any appeal under this section, the General Division of the High Court may confirm, vary or set aside the decision or direction of the Appeal Committee and make such further or other order as the Court deems fit.

(4) The procedure for an appeal under this section is to be governed by the Rules of Court.”

Note: It is intended that this new clause C be inserted immediately after clause 67.

New Clause D:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

“Risk Assessment, Reporting, and Accessibility

D.—(1) The Commissioner shall, on an annual basis, cause to be prepared and transmitted to Parliament a report, which must state the particular kinds of activities and content present during the preceding financial year, including the following —

- (a) consolidated information on the number of reports or complaints received by the Commissioner;
- (b) information on the types of complaints and reports from persons affected by online harmful activity as received by the Commission;
- (c) number of directions and orders issued by the Commissioner, the type of directions and orders issued, the classes of material pursuant to which a direction or order was issued (if any), and the time taken from the date of a report and the issue of directions and orders;
- (d) categories of persons or entities who have been issued a direction or order by the Commissioner, which includes an administrator, communicator, online service provider, owner, or prescribed online service provider;
- (e) findings by the Commissioner on the risk assessments and trends relating to online harms;
- (f) steps the Commissioner has taken, and its processes to address privacy concerns in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act 2012; and
- (g) an assessment of the accessibility of recourse provided by online service providers for vulnerable adults.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), “vulnerable adult” means an individual who is 18 years of age or older, and by reason of mental or physical infirmity, disability or incapacity, incapable of protecting himself or herself from abuse, neglect or self-neglect.

(3) In preparing the report under this section, the Commissioner may consult —

- (a) persons (including a public agency) to represent the interests of women and children (generally or with particular reference to online safety matters);
- (b) persons (including a public agency) to represent the interests of vulnerable adults; and
- (c) such other persons as the Commissioner considers appropriate.”

Note: It is intended that this new clause D be inserted immediately after clause 111.

New Clause E:

Ms He Ting Ru (Sengkang):

“E.— (1) For the purposes of the preparation of the report in section 112, the Commissioner shall have the authority to require online service providers to provide and publish publicly accessible information on an annual basis on —

- (a) risk assessments and trends relating to online harms;
- (b) privacy of its users;
- (c) clear procedures for reporting content and making complaints;
- (d) the measures taken or in use to enable users and others to seek recourse on such online platforms for victims; and
- (e) the time taken and remedy granted for such online platforms in response to reports and complaints.”

Note: It is intended that this new clause E be inserted immediately after new clause D.

Consequential Amendments:

Amendments to be made to the numbering of clauses, cross-references, and contents page consequent on the addition of any new clause(s).
