

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

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2025**

No. 10

10.30 am

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PRESENT:

Mr SPEAKER [Mr Seah Kian Peng (Marine Parade-Braddell Heights)]
Mr ABDUL MUHAJIB ABDUL MALIK (Sengkang)
Mr ANG WEI NENG (West Coast-Jurong West)
Mr CAI YINZHOU (Bishan-Toa Payoh)
Mr CHAN CHUN SING (Tanjong Pagar), Coordinating Minister for Public Services and
Minister for Defence
Mr CHEE HONG TAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh), Minister for National Development
Dr CHARLENE CHEN (Tampines)
Ms ELYSA CHEN (Bishan-Toa Payoh)
Mr EDWARD CHIA BING HUI (Holland-Bukit Timah)
Ms EILEEN CHONG PEI SHAN (Non-Constituency Member)
Mr DESMOND CHOO (Tampines Changkat), Minister of State, Ministry of Defence
Dr CHOO PEI LING (Chua Chu Kang)
Mr ERIC CHUA (Queenstown), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Law and
Ministry of Social and Family Development
Mr CHUA KHENG WEE LOUIS (Sengkang)
Mr DARRYL DAVID (Ang Mo Kio)
Mr CHRISTOPHER DE SOUZA (Holland-Bukit Timah)
Mr DINESH VASU DASH (East Coast), Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community
and Youth and Ministry of Manpower
Mr FADLI FAWZI (Aljunied)
Mr FOO CEXIANG (Tanjong Pagar)
Ms GRACE FU HAI YIEN (Jurong East-Bukit Batok), Minister for Sustainability and the
Environment and Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations
Mr GAN KIM YONG (Punggol), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry
Ms GAN SIOH HUANG (Marymount), Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Ms GHOSH SZE KEE (Mountbatten)
Mr GERALD GIAN YEAN SONG (Aljunied)
Ms GOH HANYAN (Nee Soon), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture,
Community and Youth and Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment
Mr GOH PEI MING (Marine Parade-Braddell Heights), Minister of State, Ministry of Home
Affairs and Ministry of Social and Family Development
Dr HAMID RAZAK (West Coast-Jurong West)

Ms HE TING RU (Sengkang)
Mr DAVID HOE (Jurong East-Bukit Batok)
Mr SHAWN HUANG WEI ZHONG (West Coast-Jurong West), Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Manpower
Ms INDRANEE RAJAH (Pasir Ris-Changi), Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Finance, Second Minister for National Development and Leader of the House
Dr JANIL PUTHUCHEARY (Punggol), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and Government Whip
Dr KOH POH KOON (Tampines), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Manpower
Mr KWEK HIAN CHUAN HENRY (Kebun Baru)
Mr GABRIEL LAM (Sembawang)
Mr JACKSON LAM (Nee Soon)
Ms JASMIN LAU (Ang Mo Kio), Minister of State, Ministry of Digital Development and Information and Ministry of Education
Ms CASSANDRA LEE (West Coast-Jurong West)
Mr DESMOND LEE (West Coast-Jurong West), Minister for Education and Minister-in-charge of Social Services Integration
Mr LEE HONG CHUANG (Jurong East-Bukit Batok)
Mr LEE HSIEN LOONG (Ang Mo Kio), Senior Minister
Ms LEE HUI YING (Nee Soon)
Ms VALERIE LEE (Pasir Ris-Changi)
Mr LIANG ENG HWA (Bukit Panjang)
Assoc Prof JAMUS JEROME LIM (Sengkang)
Ms SYLVIA LIM (Aljunied)
Mr SHAWN LOH (Jalan Besar)
Mr LOW WU YANG ANDRE (Non-Constituency Member)
Mr VICTOR LYE (Ang Mo Kio)
Ms MARIAM JAAFAR (Sembawang)
Assoc Prof Dr MUHAMMAD FAISHAL IBRAHIM (Marine Parade-Braddell Heights), Acting Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs
Ms NADIA AHMAD SAMDIN (Ang Mo Kio)
Mr DAVID NEO (Tampines), Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Education
Mr NG CHEE MENG (Jalan Kayu)
Mr NG SHI XUAN (Sembawang)
Ms DIANA PANG LI YEN (Marine Parade-Braddell Heights)
Ms JOAN PEREIRA (Tanjong Pagar)
Ms DENISE PHUA LAY PENG (Jalan Besar)
Ms POH LI SAN (Sembawang West)
Mr PRITAM SINGH (Aljunied), Leader of the Opposition

Ms RAHAYU MAHZAM (Jurong East-Bukit Batok), Minister of State, Ministry of Digital Development and Information and Ministry of Health
Mr SAKTIANDI SUPAAT (Bishan-Toa Payoh)
Mr SHARAEL TAHA (Pasir Ris-Changi)
Mr JEFFREY SIOW (Chua Chu Kang), Acting Minister for Transport and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Finance
Ms HANY SOH (Marsiling-Yew Tee)
Ms SUN XUELING (Punggol), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Transport
Dr SYED HARUN ALHABSYI (Nee Soon)
Mr ALVIN TAN (Tanjong Pagar), Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Trade and Industry
Mr DENNIS TAN LIP FONG (Hougang)
Mr DESMOND TAN (Pasir Ris-Changi), Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office
Mr TAN KIAT HOW (East Coast), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Digital Development and Information and Ministry of Health
Dr TAN SEE LENG (Chua Chu Kang), Minister for Manpower
Mrs JOSEPHINE TEO (Jalan Besar), Minister for Digital Development and Information
Ms TIN PEI LING (Marine Parade-Braddell Heights)
Mr KENNETH TIONG BOON KIAT (Aljunied)
Mr EDWIN TONG CHUN FAI (East Coast), Minister for Law and Second Minister for Home Affairs
Dr WAN RIZAL (Jalan Besar)
Mr LAWRENCE WONG (Marsiling-Yew Tee), Prime Minister and Minister for Finance
Mr XIE YAO QUAN (Jurong Central)
Mr ALEX YAM ZIMING (Marsiling-Yew Tee)
Mr ALEX YEO (Potong Pasir)
Ms YEO WAN LING (Punggol)
Mr MELVIN YONG YIK CHYE (Radin Mas)
Mr ZAQY MOHAMAD (Marsiling-Yew Tee), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and Deputy Leader of the House
Mr ZHULKARNAIN ABDUL RAHIM (Chua Chu Kang)

ABSENT:

Mr BAEY YAM KENG (Tampines), Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Transport
Ms HAZLINA ABDUL HALIM (East Coast)
Ms LOW YEN LING (Bukit Gombak), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Trade and Industry
Mr MASAGOS ZULKIFLI B M M (Tampines), Minister for Social and Family Development
Mr MURALI PILLAI (Jurong East-Bukit Batok), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Ministry of Transport
Miss RACHEL ONG (Tanjong Pagar)

Mr ONG YE KUNG (Sembawang), Coordinating Minister for Social Policies and Minister for Health

Mr K SHANMUGAM (Nee Soon), Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs

Ms SIM ANN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs and Deputy Government Whip

Ms JESSICA TAN SOON NEO (East Coast)

Mr PATRICK TAY TECK GUAN (Pioneer)

Mr VIKRAM NAIR (Sembawang)

Dr VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN (Holland-Bukit Timah), Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr YIP HON WENG (Yio Chu Kang)

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- 2 27 Questions for Oral Answer were answered during Question Time.
 - 3 Revision of Question Time – (Leader of the House) – (with the consent of Speaker and the general assent of Members present) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, “That notwithstanding Standing Order No 22(1), Question Time at this day's Sitting continue until the completion of Question No 27, including relevant supplementary questions thereon.”.
 - 4 Health Information Bill – “to provide for a national electronic records system for the safe and secure contribution, collection, storage and disclosure of health information about individuals, to facilitate the collection, disclosure and use of health and other information about individuals to maintain and improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing, and to make a related amendment to the Human Organ Transplant Act 1987” – presented by the Senior Minister of State (Dr Koh Poh Koon) on behalf of the Coordinating Minister for Social Policies and Minister for Health; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 20/2025].
 - 5 Public Sector (Governance) (Amendment) Bill – “to amend the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018 to provide for directions on the sharing and use of information under the control of Singapore public sector agencies, to make related amendments to the Personal Data Protection Act 2012, and to make consequential amendments to certain other Acts” – presented by the Minister of State (Ms Jasmin Lau) on behalf of the Minister for Digital Development and Information; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 22/2025].
 - 6 National Council of Social Service (Amendment) Bill – “to amend the National Council of Social Service Act 1992, and to make related amendments to the Income Tax Act 1947 and the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018” – presented by the Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Eric Chua) on behalf of the Minister for Social and Family Development; read the first time; to be read a second time on the next available sitting day and to be printed. [Bill No. 21/2025].
 - 7 Corporate and Accounting Laws (Amendment) Bill – read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill – (Second Minister for Finance).

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 to 156 inclusive agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Bill reported, without amendment; read a third time.

- 8 Time Limit for Speeches – (Leader of the House) – (with the consent of Speaker and the general assent of Members present) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, “That the proceedings on the item under discussion be exempted from the provisions of Standing Order 48(3) to allow Minister Edwin Tong and Minister of State Rahayu Mahzam to speak more than once; and Standing Order 48(8) to remove the time limits in respect of Minister Edwin Tong's and Minister of State Rahayu Mahzam's speeches.”.
- 9 Online Safety (Relief and Accountability) Bill – (Minister for Digital Development and Information) – Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”; Debate arising.
- 10 Exempted Business – (Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question put – Resolved, “That the proceedings on the business set down on the Order Paper for today be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order No. 2.”.
- 11 Online Safety (Relief and Accountability) Bill – Debate resumed on Question, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”.

The House immediately resolved itself into a Committee on the Bill – (Minister for Digital Development and Information).

(In the Committee)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:

Amendment proposed:

In page 14, after line 12, by inserting –

“(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;” – (Ms He Ting Ru).

Consequential Amendment proposed, in page 14, line 13, by re-lettering paragraph (n) as paragraph (p). – (Ms He Ting Ru).

Amendments negatived.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 8 inclusive agreed to.

Clause 9:

Amendment proposed, in page 24, after line 21, by inserting –

“(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.” – (Ms He Ting Ru).

Amendment negatived.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Clause 10 agreed to.

Clause 11:

Amendment proposed, in page 25, after line 27, by inserting –

“(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.” – (Ms He Ting Ru).

Amendments negatived.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 18 inclusive agreed to.

Clause 19:

Amendment proposed, in page 37, after line 26, by inserting –

“(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.” – (Ms He Ting Ru).

Amendment negatived.

Clause 19 agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 25 inclusive agreed to.

Clause 26:

Amendment proposed, in page 42, line 28, by leaving out “reason to suspect” and insert “reasonable grounds to believe”. – (Ms He Ting Ru).

Amendment negatived.

Clause 26 agreed to.

Clauses 27 to 62 inclusive agreed to.

Clause 63:

Amendment proposed, in page 75, by leaving out lines 22 to 25. – (Ms He Ting Ru).

Amendment negatived.

Clause 63 agreed to.

Clauses 64 to 111 inclusive agreed to.

New Clause A:

Immediately after clause 21, by inserting –

“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." – (Ms He Ting Ru).

New Clause A negatived.

New Clause B:

Immediately after New Clause A, by inserting –

“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.” – (Ms He Ting Ru)

New Clause B negatived.

New Clause C:

Immediately after clause 67, by inserting –

“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.”
– (Ms He Ting Ru).

New Clause C negatived.

New Clause D:

Immediately after clause 111, by inserting –

“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.” – (Ms He Ting Ru).

New Clause D negatived.

New Clause E:

Immediately after clause D, by inserting –

- “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.” – (Ms He Ting Ru).

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). – (Ms He Ting Ru).

New Clause E negatived.

The Schedule inclusive agreed to.

Bill to be reported.

Bill reported, with amendments; read a third time.

- 12 Adjournment – (Deputy Leader of the House) – Motion made, and Question proposed, “That Parliament do now adjourn.” – Debate arising.

On Question put – Resolved, “That Parliament do now adjourn.”.

Adjourned at 9.31 pm

SEAH KIAN PENG,
Speaker

MEMORANDUM

Pursuant to Standing Order 2(3)(a), Mr Speaker will take the Chair again at 11.30 am on Thursday, 6 November 2025.
