

Police Force (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 32/99.

Read the first time on 11th October 1999.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Police Force Act (Chapter 235 of the 1985 Revised Edition) and to make a related amendment to the Companies Act (Chapter 50 of the 1994 Revised Edition).

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 may be cited as the Police Force (Amendment) Act
5 1999 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

New section 58A

2. The Police Force Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 58, the following section:

“Appointment of Commercial Affairs Officers

58A.—(1) The Minister may appoint such number of persons to be Commercial Affairs Officers as he may think fit. 5

(2) A Commercial Affairs Officer may investigate any suspected offence which appears to him to have been committed under any written law.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2) — 10

(a) a Commercial Affairs Officer shall have all the powers of investigation conferred on police officers in relation to the investigation of offences under the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68) or under such other written law as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, prescribe and shall be deemed to be an officer not below the rank of inspector of police; and 15

(b) section 37 shall apply to a Commercial Affairs Officer as if he were a police officer.

(4) The Commissioner may, in his discretion, confer the powers of an Assistant Superintendent of Police under such written law as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, prescribe, on one or more Commercial Affairs Officers as he may determine. 20

(5) Apart from this section and section 37, this Act shall not apply to a Commercial Affairs Officer.”. 25

Amendment to Companies Act

3. Section 409B of the Companies Act (Cap. 50) is repealed.

Savings

4. Any person who immediately before the date of commencement of this Act held the appointment of a Commercial Affairs Officer referred to in section 409B of the Companies Act (Cap. 50) shall
 5 continue in office and be deemed to have been appointed under section 58A of the Police Force Act (Cap. 235) until his appointment expires or is sooner revoked or terminated.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Police Force Act (Cap. 235) —

- (a) to empower the Minister to appoint Commercial Affairs Officers who may investigate any suspected offences under any written law;
- (b) to confer on Commercial Affairs Officers, for the purposes of investigation, all the powers of investigation of inspectors of police under the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68) or under such other written law as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette* prescribe; and the immunities relating to acts done in obedience to a warrant under section 37 of the Act; and
- (c) to empower the Commissioner to confer the powers of an Assistant Superintendent of Police under such written law as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, prescribe, on one or more Commercial Affairs Officers as he may determine.

This Bill also repeals section 409B of the Companies Act (Cap. 50) which currently provides, amongst other things, that the Commercial Affairs Department is constituted as a department under the Ministry of Finance.

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

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