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Notification No. B 16 — The Evidence (Amendment) Bill is hereby published for general information. It was introduced in Parliament on the 14th day of August 2003.

Evidence (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 16/2003.

Read the first time on 14th August 2003.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Evidence Act (Chapter 97 of the 1997 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 Evidence (Amendment) Act 2003 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 126

2. The Evidence Act is amended by renumbering section 126 as subsection (1) of that section, and by inserting immediately thereafter the following subsection:

“(2) No person who is a member, an officer or an employee of, or who is seconded to, any organisation specified in the Schedule to the Official Secrets Act (Cap. 213) shall be compelled to disclose communications made to him in official confidence when he considers that the public interest would suffer by the disclosure.”.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Evidence Act (Cap. 97) to safeguard official communications made to members, officers and employees of certain specified organisations.

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 amends section 126 by extending the privilege against disclosure of official communications to members, officers and employees of, and persons seconded to, organisations which are specified in the Schedule to the Official Secrets Act (Cap. 213).

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

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