

FACTSHEET ON THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

What the Bill is about

- The Supreme Court of Judicature Act is an act relating to the constitution and powers of the superior courts. It was first enacted in 1970.
- The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill seeks to put in place a framework for the establishment and operation of the Singapore International Commercial Court (“SICC”).

Key features of the framework and legislative amendments in this bill are as follows:

- Structure: The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill will establish the SICC as a division of the High Court. This also means that SICC judgments can be enforced as judgments of the Supreme Court of Singapore.
- Types of cases: The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill will provide for the SICC’s jurisdiction, composition and powers. The SICC will hear international commercial disputes, including those which are governed by foreign law.
- Procedure: Consistent with the international character of the SICC, the Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill will allow parties to seek leave of court to apply the rules of evidence, which they may be more familiar with. The Bill will also allow the Rules of Court to provide, where applicable, for different procedures and practices (for example, the process of discovery) to be followed in the SICC proceedings and appeals.
- Representation: The Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Bill will allow parties to appoint foreign-qualified lawyers to represent them in accordance with the Rules of Court and the new Part IVB of the Legal Profession Act. The circumstances under which a foreign-qualified lawyer may appear in the SICC, namely, in cases with no substantial connection to Singapore or to address the Court on matters of foreign law, will be set out in subsidiary legislation.

**MINISTRY OF LAW
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