

### **OVERVIEW OF KEY PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD (STB) ACT**

This is not an exhaustive list of all proposed changes to the STB Act. Please refer to the draft STB (Amendment) Bill at Annex B-2 for the detailed proposed changes.

<b>Section No.</b>	<b>Current Provision</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment</b>	<b>Reason for Amendment</b>
New Section 19A	Not applicable. New provision.	<p>(2) For the purposes of the definition of “tourist guide” —</p> <p>(a) an individual provides guiding services to a tourist for remuneration if he receives or is reasonably expected to receive any payment or other pecuniary benefit for providing the services, regardless of who makes the payment or provides the other pecuniary benefit or where or when the payment is made or the other pecuniary benefit is provided; and</p> <p>(b) an individual who provides any guiding services to a tourist is presumed, unless the contrary is proved, to provide the services for remuneration if, at the time the services are provided or within a reasonable time before or after the services are provided, the tourist is, has been or will be conveyed, as the</p>	This is a presumption of remuneration to enable STB to follow up on suspected cases of unlicensed guiding more swiftly.

Section No.	Current Provision	Proposed Amendment	Reason for Amendment
		case may be, together with other tourists, in a vehicle with a seating capacity (including the driver) of at least 20 persons.	
New Sections 19H-J	Not applicable. New provisions.	See details under these headers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Powers of inspecting officers”</li> <li>• “Powers to examine and secure attendance, etc.”</li> <li>• “Persons required to furnish evidence as to identity, etc., and power to arrest”</li> </ul>	These are to enhance STB’s investigative powers so that STB can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. search, question and detain suspects who refuse to cooperate with STB during investigations;</li> <li>b. enter and search premises where it reasonably believes that unlicensed guiding has taken place;</li> <li>c. take evidence; and</li> <li>d. question persons who may be linked to suspected cases of unlicensed guiding.</li> </ul>
New Sections 19D and 20	Parts of 19D were previously in Clause 9 of the Singapore Tourism (Licensing and Control of Tourist Guides) Regulations, and are now enhanced.  Section 20 is a new provision.	See details under these headers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Tourist guide badge”</li> <li>• “False or misleading information”</li> </ul>	New unlicensed guiding offences have been added, and existing offences have been updated and moved to the main STB Act. These changes are to keep pace with the modus operandi of unlicensed guiding today.
New Section 19B	Current Clause 3 in the Singapore Tourism (Licensing	<b>Licence required to act as tourist guide</b>	The maximum penalties for these offences have been raised to

Section No.	Current Provision	Proposed Amendment	Reason for Amendment
	<p>and Control of Tourist Guides) Regulations:</p> <p><b>Licence required to act as tourist guide</b></p> <p><b>3.</b> —(1) No person shall act as a tourist guide unless he is in possession of a valid licence granted by the Board under these Regulations authorising him to act as a tourist guide.</p> <p>(2) Any person who contravenes paragraph (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3,000 and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.</p> <p>Current Clause 11 in the Singapore Tourism (Licensing and Control of Tourist Guides) Regulations:</p> <p><b>No employment of person without licence</b></p> <p><b>11.</b> —(1) No person shall employ any person who is not the holder</p>	<p><b>19B.</b>—(1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall —</p> <p>(a) act as, offer any service of or in any way hold himself out to be a tourist guide unless he is in possession of a valid licence authorising him to be a tourist guide; or</p> <p>(b) directly or indirectly employ, engage or otherwise use the services of an unlicensed tourist guide.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(3) Any person who contravenes subsection (1)(a) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, and in the case of a second or subsequent offence, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.</p> <p>(4) Any person who contravenes subsection (1)(b) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.</p>	<p>deter such activities.</p>

Section No.	Current Provision	Proposed Amendment	Reason for Amendment
	<p>of a valid licence granted under these Regulations to act as a tourist guide.</p> <p>(2) Any person who contravenes paragraph (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.</p>		
New Section 25B	Not applicable. New provision.	<p><b>Composition of offences</b></p> <p><b>25B.</b>—(1) The Chief Executive or any officer of the Board authorised by him may, in his discretion, compound any offence under this Act which is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding the lower of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is prescribed for the offence;</li> <li>(b) \$2,000.</li> </ul> <p>(2) On payment of such sum of money, no further proceedings shall be taken against that person in respect of the offence.</p> <p>(3) All sums collected under this section shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.</p>	To empower STB to compound offences for swifter enforcement against offenders.

Section No.	Current Provision	Proposed Amendment	Reason for Amendment
New Section 19E	Not applicable. New provision.	<p><b>Codes of practice, etc.</b></p> <p><b>19E.—</b>(1) The Board may, from time to time, in connection with the provision of tourist guide services by licensees —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) issue one or more codes of practice to apply to licensees or such class of licensees as the Board may specify in the codes of practice; and</li> <li>(b) amend or revoke any code of practice issued under this subsection...</li> </ul>	To empower STB to issue codes of practice that raise the level of professionalism among licensed tourist guides.