

FACTSHEET
**Other Technical Amendments in the
Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) Reform Bill**

S/N	Amendment	Objective
Appeals		
1.	Empower the State Courts, Family Justice Courts and the General Division of the High Court to summarily dismiss appeals, as the Court of Appeal and Appellate Division can already do today.	Align the summary dismissal procedure across the courts.
2.	Allow parties in certain civil matters to, by a signed and written agreement, limit or remove their right to appeal to any appellate court. The courts will however have the powers to hear the appeal if there is any fraud, illegality, or fundamental breach of natural justice in the proceedings below.	Allow more flexibility to manage the costs of resolving disputes and improve court efficiency.
3.	Allow further evidence on appeal only with the permission of the court and on special grounds, for appeals before the General Division of the High Court. This will extend the current law for appeals before the Court of Appeal and Appellate Division, to appeals before the General Division.	Improve court efficiency.
Attorney-General's right to intervene in court proceedings		
4.	Provide a statutory framework for the Attorney-General's existing common law right to intervene in court proceedings to safeguard the public interest.	Clarify the scope of the Attorney-General's right to intervene.
Enhance court process		
5.	Provide for a new process for Applications to Adduce Further Evidence (AAFEs). To safeguard judicial resources, such applications are currently determined by a subset of the appellate coram (i.e., 1 or 2 Judges instead of 3). Under the new process, a party who is dissatisfied with the decision of a subset of an appellate coram may request for the full coram to rehear the AAFE.	Strike a balance between saving judicial resources while affording opportunity to appeal.

Singapore International Commercial Court (SICC)

6.	Clarify that the SICC has jurisdiction: a. over a counterclaim, or an additional plaintiff or defendant, or third or subsequent party joined in a pending action before the SICC, as long as the action (including any counterclaim, third party proceedings or subsequent party proceedings) taken as a whole satisfies the conditions for the SICC's jurisdiction; b. to hear and determine pre-action applications; and c. to hear any proceedings related to international corporate insolvency, restructuring or winding up under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018, or under the Companies Act as in force immediately before 30 July 2020.	Provide greater certainty for SICC users.
7.	Clarify that foreign lawyers with full registration under Section 36P(1) of the Legal Profession Act may appear before the SICC (or the Court of Appeal) in proceedings that are preliminary to any offshore case to be filed in the SICC (or an appeal from an offshore case in the SICC).	Provide greater certainty for lawyers in SICC proceedings.
Other amendments		
8.	Provide for immunity of the Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Assistant Registrars and court-appointed mediators from suit for acts done for the purposes of any mediation, or other alternative dispute resolution process.	Confer protection on judicial officers and court-appointed mediators when they conduct mediation for proceedings in the Supreme Court.
9.	Clarify that the procedural rules made by the Rules Committee of the Supreme Court in respect of all proceedings before the Court of 3 Judges under the Legal Profession Act, will be made in the form of separate Rules under the Legal Profession Act.	Align the procedure for proceedings before the Court of 3 Judges under the Legal Profession Act.
10.	Allow for document-only hearings of interlocutory applications that are before the Court of 3 Judges (for Legal Profession Act matters).	Promote court efficiency.
11.	Empower the Registrar (including Assistant and Deputy Registrars) of the Supreme Court, Family Justice Courts and the State Courts to issue orders	Promote court efficiency.

	requiring prisoners to be produced before the court, instead of requiring such orders to be issued by Judges hearing a matter.	
12.	Provide that arbitral hearings be heard in private by default, with the possibility of such proceedings being heard in open court.	Enhance the confidential nature of arbitral proceedings.
13.	Provide for the engagement of services of Auxiliary Police Officers (APOs) or any security agency, provider of transport and of warehousing, valuer, estate agent, broker, solicitor or any other appropriate person to assist bailiffs and the Sheriff in their duties in the State Courts, Family Justice Courts, and Supreme Court.	Allow the engagement of appropriate persons to assist the bailiff and the Sheriff in their duties.