

Finance (Income Taxes) Bill

Bill No. /2026.

Read the first time on 2026.

A BILL

i n t i t u l e d

An Act to amend the Income Tax Act 1947 and the Multinational Enterprise (Minimum Tax) Act 2024, and to make related amendments to the Goods and Services Tax Act 1993 and the Property Tax Act 1960.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to implement the tax changes in the Government's 2026 Budget Statement in the Income Tax Act 1947 (called the ITA), and to make certain other amendments to the ITA. The Bill also seeks to amend the Multinational Enterprise (Minimum Tax) Act 2024 (called the MMTA), primarily to implement the Side-by-Side Safe Harbour, which is part of the Side-by-Side package as approved by the OECD Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting in January 2026 and the Global Anti-Base Erosion information return exchange framework.

Next, the Bill seeks to make amendments to the Goods and Services Tax Act 1993 and the Property Tax Act 1960 that are related to an amendment to the ITA.

PART 1

AMENDMENT OF INCOME TAX ACT 1947

Part 1 contains amendments to the ITA.

Clause 2 amends section 2A (Purpose of Act) to provide that the new section 92M (corporate tax rebate for year of assessment 2026) (as inserted by clause 30) applies to the tax imposed under the ITA and not the taxes imposed under the MMTA.

Clause 3 amends subsection (4)(a) of section 10 (Charge of income tax) which provides that a part of the balancing charge for a Singapore ship owned by an entity given an exemption for certain shipping incomes, is not to be treated as chargeable income. The amendment extends subsection (4)(a) to a Singapore ship owned by an approved international shipping enterprise as defined in section 13E. This amendment is consequential on the amendment to section 13E (by clause 6), and takes effect from the year of assessment 2027.

Clause 4 amends section 13 (Exempt Income) to exempt from tax any subsidy, allowance or benefit provided by an employer to an employee for the attendance by the employee's child at an early childhood development centre that is operated by or on behalf of the Government, *i.e.*, the Ministry of Education Kindergartens. The amendment takes effect from the year of assessment 2027.

Next, clause 4 amends section 13 to extend by 5 years (till 31 December 2031) the last date on which a contract for a structured product offered by a financial institution must take effect for the tax exemption under subsection (1)(zj) to apply to income from that structured product derived in Singapore by a non-resident person who is not an individual. It also extends (in a case where such contract is renewed, extended or varied) the last date (till 31 December 2031) on which the renewal, extension or variation must take effect for the tax exemption to apply to such income.

Finally, clause 4 amends section 13 to exempt from tax any contribution to a CPF account of an individual, and any cash payment made to an individual, made by the Government under the ComLink+ Package for Employment, as part of the public scheme known as the ComLink+ Progress Packages. The exemption applies to any such contribution and cash payment that is made on or after 1 May 2025.

Clause 5 amends section 13A (Exemption of shipping profits) to exclude the application of the tax exemption under that section to income derived by an approved international shipping enterprise from the operation of Singapore ships and certain other activities with effect from the year of assessment 2027. This amendment complements the new section 13E(1AE) (inserted by clause 6(d)), so that section 13E applies to such income derived by an approved international shipping enterprise.

Clause 5 also deletes the obsolete provisions in section 13A.

Clause 6 amends section 13E (Exemption of international shipping profits) to insert a new subsection (1AE) which extends the tax exemption under that section to income derived by an approved international shipping enterprise as described in section 13A(1), (1B), (1CA), (1CE), (1CF), (1CG), (1CH), (1CI), (1CJ), (1CK) and (1CL). The amendment is made so that such income derived by an approved international shipping enterprise is exempt from tax under section 13E instead of under section 13A.

Next, clause 6 amends section 13E to deal with a case where an approved international shipping enterprise (*X*) had previously derived any income as described in section 13A(1), (1CE) and (1CH) in respect of a ship that was exempt from tax under section 13A, and *X* derives any income in respect of that ship that is exempt from tax under section 13E in the year of assessment 2027 or a subsequent year of assessment. The capital allowances in respect of that ship for that first year of assessment that are to be taken into account under subsection (3) in determining *X*'s exempt income under section 13E for that year of assessment, are to be calculated on the residue of expenditure or reducing values of the assets, after taking into account the capital allowances for each year of assessment in which section 13A had applied, even if no claim for such capital allowances had been made by *X*.

Lastly, clause 6 deletes obsolete provisions in section 13E.

Clause 7 amends section 13R (Exemption of income of not-for-profit organisation) to extend for a period of 5 years (till 31 December 2032) the last date on which a not-for-profit organisation may be approved for the purpose of the tax incentive under that section.

Clause 8 amends section 14B (Further deduction for expenses relating to approved trade fairs, exhibitions or trade missions, maintenance of overseas trade office, or electronic commerce) to insert a new subsection (2AE) which removes

the requirement that a firm or company be approved to be allowed a double tax deduction in respect of certain expenses that are incurred for the provision of services in connection with the use of any right under a master franchise or master intellectual property licence. Such expenses must be incurred during the period between the first day of the basis period for the year of assessment 2027 and 31 December 2030 (both dates inclusive).

Next, clause 8 amends section 14B to provide, in the new subsections (2AF) and (2AG), that an unapproved firm or company that is resident or that has a permanent establishment in Singapore, is allowed a further deduction in respect of certain expenses incurred during the period mentioned in the previous paragraph. These expenses include certain expenses incurred in relation to an overseas trade mission or trade promotion activity, expenses for market feasibility research and expenses to engage a consultant for overseas business development, falling within descriptions set out in rules made under section 7.

Next, clause 8 amends section 14B(2B) to provide for a new cap of \$400,000 on expenditure, for which a deduction may be allowed under subsections (2A), (2AA) and (2AB) and the new subsections (2AE) and (2AF) and section 14H(1A) (as amended by clause 9) to an unapproved firm or company, beginning from the year of assessment 2027. Finally, clause 8 makes edits to section 14B(2AB) and (2AC) to clarify their application.

Clause 9 amends section 14H (Further or double deduction for overseas investment development expenditure) to provide that a firm or company that incurs certain investment development expenditure prescribed by rules made under section 7 during the period between the first day of the basis period for the year of assessment 2027 and 31 December 2030 (both dates inclusive) is allowed a deduction for that expenditure, without the need for the firm or company to be approved.

Clause 9 also amends section 14H to provide for a new cap of \$400,000 on expenditure for which a deduction may be allowed under subsection (1A), section 14B(2A), (2AA) and (2AB) and the new section 14(2AE) and (2AF) to an unapproved firm or company, beginning from the year of assessment 2027.

Clause 10 amends section 14X (Attribution of deductible expenses incurred before commencement of trade, etc.) to make consequential amendments arising from the enactment of the new section 14ZK by clause 13(1).

Clause 11 amends section 14Z (Deduction for expenditure for services or secondment to institutions of a public character) which allows a taxpayer whose employees provided services to, or were seconded to, an institution of a public character (called an IPC), to claim a deduction for any qualifying expenditure thereby incurred. The amendment extends by 3 years (till 31 December 2029) the period in which such qualifying expenditure may be incurred to be allowed a deduction under section 14Z(1). The maximum amount of qualifying expenditure

for which a deduction may be allowed in relation to each IPC remains unchanged at \$100,000 for each year of extension.

Clause 12 amends section 14ZH (Deduction for expenditure incurred in deriving income from providing delivery services) to provide that the maximum amount of gross income that a qualifying individual must derive from performing delivery services by prescribed means in order for the tax treatment under that section to apply (which is currently fixed at \$50,000 per basis period) may be changed by rules made under section 7.

Clause 13 inserts new sections 14ZK (Deduction for qualifying AI expenditure for years of assessment 2027 and 2028) and 14ZL (Deduction for expenditure incurred in deriving income from any trade, business, profession or vocation).

The new section 14ZK allows a deduction for qualifying AI expenditure incurred by a person carrying on a trade or business during the basis period for the year of assessment 2027 or 2028. The deduction to be allowed is calculated by applying a multiplier (300% or 400%) to the lower of S\$50,000 and the amount of the qualifying AI expenditure incurred by the person during the basis period for that year of assessment.

Qualifying AI expenditure is defined in the new section 14ZK(2) as expenditure incurred on —

- (a) the subscription to or licensing of an AI system; or
- (b) the subscription to, or acquisition or licensing of, a qualifying AI business service.

However, any expenditure incurred on physical infrastructure or hardware is not qualifying AI expenditure.

The new section 14ZK(3) and (4) provides for the deductions allowable in cases where qualifying AI expenditure is incurred by an individual through 2 or more firms (excluding a partnership) and by a partnership, respectively.

The new 14ZK(5) and (6) provides that if a person incurs a single expenditure part of which is not qualifying AI expenditure, and there is no readily available evidence which part of that expenditure is qualifying AI expenditure, the person must apportion the expenditure between qualifying AI expenditure and other expenditure in a reasonable manner. This may occur if for example, a person subscribes to a software suite that bundles a software with AI capabilities (such as predictive analysis) with another software without AI capabilities, and incurs a single subscription fee which does not provide a breakdown of the fee that is payable for each of the software. The person would have to apportion the subscription fee incurred when claiming a deduction under the new section 14ZK. The Comptroller may substitute a different apportionment based on his or her best judgment if he or she is not satisfied that it is reasonable in the circumstances.

The new section 14ZK(7) and (9) excludes certain expenditure incurred by a person from being allowed a deduction under the section, *e.g.*, where an allowance under section 19 or 19A has been made in a previous year of assessment to the person in respect of the same AI system.

Under the new section 14ZK(8), any qualifying AI expenditure incurred by a person before the commencement of the person's trade or business is treated as having been incurred on the date of commencement of that trade or business.

The new section 14ZL enables an individual who derives in a basis period chargeable income from one or more trades, businesses, professions or vocations (other than one to which section 14ZA, 14ZB or 14ZH applies), to claim a deduction for outgoings and expenses incurred of an amount that is determined by a prescribed formula, instead of the actual amount. This only applies if there are deductible outgoings and expenses for the income.

The application of the new tax treatment is subject to the following:

- (a) the tax treatment does not apply to income derived by the individual as a partner in a partnership;
- (b) the tax treatment does not apply to any income derived from any particular trade, business, profession or vocation if the gross amount of the income exceeds \$50,000 or any other prescribed amount for the basis period;
- (c) the individual may elect to disapply the tax treatment to his or her income derived in the basis period of a particular year of assessment. The election must be in respect of all of (and not only part of) the individual's income from his or her trade, business, profession or vocation. However, if the individual derives income from more than one trade, business, profession or vocation, he or she may make the election in respect of any one or more of those trades, businesses, professions or vocations.

Clause 14 amends section 15 (Deductions not allowed) to allow a deduction for any payment made on or after 1 January 2026 by a platform operator on behalf of its platform worker to his or her CPF medisave account, where that payment constitutes a voluntary contribution under section 13B of the Central Provident Fund Act 1953. The amendment has effect for the year of assessment 2027 and subsequent years of assessment.

Next, clause 14 makes a consequential amendment to section 15 arising from the new section 14ZK (inserted by clause 13(1)).

Clause 15 amends subsection (9) of section 34G (Modification of provisions for companies redomiciled in Singapore) to allow a redomiciled company (as defined in section 34G(1)) to claim a deduction under the new section 14ZK (inserted by clause 13(1)) for qualifying AI expenditure incurred before the date of its registration under the Companies Act 1967 only if the expenditure was

incurred for the purposes of a trade or business in Singapore, and the company had not carried on such trade or business outside Singapore before that date.

Clause 16 amends section 36B (Registered business trusts) to modify the application of the new section 92M (as inserted by clause 30) to a registered business trust, by replacing the definitions of “employee” and “local employee” in the new section 92M(7) with another definition of “local employee”, being a Singapore citizen or permanent resident who (among other requirements) is an employee and on the payroll of the trustee-manager of the business trust in any part of 2025, and whose sole duty is to assist in managing and operating the business trust.

Clause 17 amends section 37 (Assessable income) to provide that where a body of persons has income subject to tax at different rates of tax for any year of assessment, the Comptroller must apportion the amount of qualifying donations under subsection (3)(b), (c) or (f) among the different rates of tax in a manner that the Comptroller considers reasonable. This amendment takes effect from the year of assessment 2027.

Next, clause 17 amends section 37 to extend by 3 years (till 31 December 2029) the period within which a qualifying donation made by a person under section 37(3)(b), (c), (e) and (f) is entitled to a deduction of 2.5 times the amount or value of the donation.

Next, clause 17 deletes section 37(3)(d) and (3K) as those provisions are obsolete, and makes consequential amendments to other provisions in section 37.

Clause 18 amends section 37A (Adjustment of capital allowances, losses or donations between income subject to tax at different rates) which provides that the deduction of any unabsorbed allowances, losses or donations (called UALD) in respect of any income that is subject to tax at one rate against any income that is subject to tax at a different rate, is to be made in accordance with that section. The amount of UALD that is deductible against chargeable income subject to tax at the higher or lower rate is to be reduced by the application of an “adjustment factor”. The amendment extends section 37A(4), which provides for the manner of deduction of any UALD relating to income of a company that is subject to a lower rate of tax against income that is subject to a higher rate of tax, to a body of persons. Section 37A(7), which applies the treatment in section 37A(4) to a case where a company ceases to derive such income subject to the lower rate of tax during a basis period, is also amended to extend the treatment to a body of persons.

Next, clause 18 deletes the reference in section 37A(10) to section 37(3)(d) which is deleted by clause 17(b).

Clauses 19, 20 and 21 amend sections 37AA, 37AB and 37B, respectively, to delete references in those sections to section 37(3)(d), which is deleted by clause 17(b).

Clause 22 amends section 37Q (Exclusion of expenditure or payment subsidised by capital grant) to make a consequential amendment arising from the enactment of the new section 14ZK (inserted by clause 13(1)).

Clause 23 amends section 43E (Concessionary rate of tax for Finance and Treasury Centre) to extend by 5 years (till 31 December 2031) the last date on which a Finance and Treasury Centre may be approved as an approved Finance and Treasury Centre for the purposes of the tax incentive under that section.

Clause 24 amends section 43I (Concessionary rate of tax for global trading company and qualifying company) to introduce an expanded meaning of “commodities” to include environmental instruments, and to allow regulations prescribing descriptions of environmental instruments as prescribed commodities for the purposes of the tax incentive under the section to take effect from 13 February 2026. Examples of environmental instruments are environmental attribute certificates such as renewable energy certificates, fuel certificates and carbon credits.

Next, clause 24 amends section 43I to extend till 31 December 2031, the last date on which a global trading company may be approved for the purposes of the tax incentive under that section.

Clause 25 amends section 45I (Sections 45 and 45A not applicable to certain payments) which disapplies the withholding tax requirements in sections 45 and 45A to certain payments but only if specified events happen before a certain date. The amendments extend by 5 years (till 31 December 2031) the date for the following:

- (a) the date a payment is made by a bank, merchant bank, finance company or qualifying holder of a capital markets services licence of any income referred to in section 12(6), in a case where the contract under which the payment is made took effect, was extended or renewed before 17 February 2012 or the debt security under which the payment is made was issued before 17 February 2012;
- (b) the date a payment is made by a person approved for the purposes of section 45I of any income referred to in section 12(6), in a case where the contract under which the payment is made took effect, or was extended, renewed or varied before the date of approval of the person, or the debt security under which the payment is made was issued before that date;
- (c) in a case where a payment of any income referred to in section 12(6) is made by a person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) under a contract, the last date by which the contract is to take effect;
- (d) in a case where a payment of any income referred to in section 12(6) is made by a person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) under a contract that

is extended, renewed or varied, the last date by which the extension, renewal or variation is to take effect;

- (e) in a case where a payment of any income referred to in section 12(6) is made by a person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) under a debt security, the last date by which the debt security is to be issued.

Next, clause 25 makes editorial amendments by replacing each reference in section 45I to the date of publication of the Income Tax (Amendment) Act 2022 with the actual date, *i.e.*, 4 November 2022.

Clause 26 amends section 50 (Tax credits) to provide that a written notice by a company to the Comptroller that an excessive amount of credit has been given to the company under an avoidance of double taxation arrangement must be given using the electronic service of the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS).

Clause 27 amends section 76 (Service of notices of assessment and revision of assessment) to provide that a company wishing to dispute its tax assessment must do so using the electronic service of IRAS.

Clause 28 amends section 80 (Hearing and disposal of appeals) so that the timeline for giving a notice of hearing to the parties to an appeal to the Board of Review, is amended from no later than 14 days before the hearing to no later than 35 days before the hearing.

Clause 29 amends section 81 (Appeals to General Division of High Court) to provide that an appeal against the decision of the Board of Review must be filed within 28 days after the decision, instead of 14 days as provided under the Rules of Court 2021, Order 20, Rule 3(2). The documents for an appeal must also be served on all interested parties within 28 days after the Board's decision.

Clause 30 inserts a new section 92M (Remission of tax for companies for year of assessment 2026 and cash grant for companies) to introduce a 50% corporate tax rebate for the year of assessment 2026, as announced in the Government's 2026 Budget Statement, and enhanced in the Ministerial Statement on the Impact of the Middle East Situation on Singapore on 7 April 2026.

The new section 92M(1) provides for a corporate tax rebate for the year of assessment 2026. The rebate is 50% of the tax payable (less a cash grant of \$2,000 made under the new section) or \$40,000 (less the cash grant), whichever is lower. If 50% of the tax payable is less than the cash grant of \$2,000 made to the company, no corporate tax rebate will be given.

The new section 92M(3) provides for a non-taxable cash grant of \$2,000 to be made to a company that has made a contribution to the Central Provident Fund (CPF) in respect of at least one local employee (as defined in the new section 92M(7)) in the calendar year 2025, in accordance with regulation 2(1) of the Central Provident Fund Regulations 1987. However, a company is not qualified for the cash grant if, at the time of disbursement, it is not carrying on a trade or business (including the activity of holding any investments), it is in

liquidation, it is in receivership in respect of all of its properties, or it has ceased to exist.

According to regulation 2(1) of the Central Provident Fund Regulations 1987, all contributions payable by an employer under section 7(1) of the Central Provident Fund Act 1953 must be paid to the CPF Board not later than 14 days after the end of the month in respect of which the contributions are payable. The new section 92M(5) enables the Comptroller to waive such requirement in the case of a late CPF contribution if the Comptroller is satisfied that it is just and equitable to do so.

Clause 31 amends section 93A (Relief in respect of error or mistake) to provide that a company making an application for relief for excessive tax assessment, etc., must do so using the electronic service of IRAS.

Clause 32 amends section 107 (Variable capital companies or VCCs) to apply subsection (11) (which provides that VCCs are not allowed certain deductions) to deductions allowed under the new section 14ZK (inserted by clause 13(1)).

Next, clause 32 amends section 107(28A) to apply the new section 92M (as inserted by clause 30) to a VCC with a modification, namely the replacement of the definitions of “employee” and “local employee” in the new section 92M(7) with a definition of “local employee” which means a Singapore citizen or permanent resident who (among other requirements) is an employee of the VCC and on its payroll for any part of 2025.

Clause 33 amends Part 3 of the Third Schedule to provide that a notice by an umbrella variable capital company to the Comptroller that an excessive amount of credit (attributable to a sub-fund) has been given to it under an avoidance of double taxation arrangement, must be given using the electronic service of IRAS.

Clause 34 amends the Fourth Schedule to insert section 13V (Exemption of certain income of prescribed sovereign fund entity, approved foreign government-owned entity, and prescribed or approved international organisation) as a prescribed section for the purposes of section 105R (Revocation of approval). Section 105R empowers an approving authority to revoke the approval of a taxpayer or a matter for a tax incentive under a section prescribed in the Fourth Schedule in the event of a breach of a condition of approval.

PART 2

AMENDMENT OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISE (MINIMUM TAX) ACT 2024

Part 2 contains amendments to the MMTA.

Clause 35 amends the definition of “GIR” or “GloBE information return” in section 2 (Interpretation) to include as a GIR, an equivalent return made in a foreign jurisdiction for the purposes of a qualified UTPR (Undertaxed Profits Rule), qualified domestic minimum top-up tax, or MTT or DTT (as defined in

section 2(1) of the MMTA). The reason for this is because a return made by the filing entity of a registered MNE group in a foreign jurisdiction may be for the purposes of such matters, other than a qualified IIR (as defined in section 2(1)).

Clause 36 amends section 20 (GloBE Safe Harbours) to include, as entities of an MNE group eligible for a GloBE Safe Harbour, a stateless entity (as defined in paragraph 10 of the First Schedule to the MMTA). This amendment will allow the new Side-by-Side Safe Harbour, which is part of the Side-by-Side package approved by the OECD Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting in January 2026, and will be provided for in the regulations, to apply to stateless entities.

Clause 37 amends section 40 (GloBE information return) which requires a designated local GIR filing entity of a registered MNE group to file with the Comptroller a GIR. No GIR needs to be filed if one has been filed with a competent authority of a foreign jurisdiction pursuant to a qualifying competent authority agreement. The amendment provides that if the Comptroller does not receive that GIR within the time stipulated in that agreement, the Comptroller may require the designated local GIR filing entity of the MNE group to file the GIR for that financial year within a specified time. The designated local GIR filing entity must comply with the requirement, failing which it commits an offence under section 66 (Failure to file GloBE information return and notice) as amended by clause 38.

Clause 39 makes a consequential amendment to section 67 (Penalty for information in GloBE information return or notice known to be false or misleading) arising from the new section 40(4A).

Clause 40 amends section 83 (Application of other ITA provisions) to provide that the secrecy obligation under section 6 of the ITA (as applied by section 83 of the MMTA) does not prevent the disclosure of information to the competent authority of a jurisdiction with whom Singapore has an active exchange relationship as defined by the Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement on the Exchange of GloBE information (called the MCAA), for the purpose of discharging Singapore's obligations under the MCAA.

Clause 41 amends section 84 (Regulations) to empower the Minister to make regulations for the purposes of implementing Singapore's obligations under the MCAA. Such regulations may apply in relation to any information contained in a GIR of a registered MNE group filed under section 40(1) for the financial year beginning on or after 1 January 2025 or a subsequent financial year.

Next, clause 41 also amends section 84 to provide that regulations made under section 84(1)(l) to provide for matters relating to the GloBE Safe Harbours may do so by reference to a webpage that is accessible from a prescribed Internet website of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as amended from time to time. This amendment will allow the new Side-by-Side Safe Harbour (to be provided for in the regulations) to refer to the

prescribed Internet website of the OECD to determine whether a jurisdiction's tax regime is a qualified side-by-side regime for the purpose of the safe harbour.

PART 3

RELATED AMENDMENTS TO GOODS AND SERVICES TAX ACT 1993

Clause 42 amends section 52(1)(b) of the Goods and Services Tax Act 1993 for the same purpose as the amendment to section 80 of the ITA (by clause 28), *viz.*, to provide that the timeline for giving a notice of hearing of an appeal to the Goods and Services Tax Board of Review, is no later than 35 days before the hearing.

Clause 43 amends section 54 of the Goods and Services Tax Act 1993 for the same purpose as the amendment to section 81 of the ITA (by clause 29), *viz.*, to provide that an appeal against a decision of the Goods and Services Tax Board of Review must be filed, and service of the appeal documents must be effected, within 28 days after the Board's decision.

PART 4

RELATED AMENDMENTS TO PROPERTY TAX ACT 1960

Clause 44 amends section 32(1)(b) of the Property Tax Act 1960 for the same purpose as the amendment to section 80 of the ITA (by clause 28) and section 52(1)(b) of the Goods and Services Tax Act 1993 (by clause 42).

Clause 45 amends section 35 of the Property Tax Act 1960 to provide that an appeal against a decision of the Valuation Review Board must be filed within 28 days after the decision, instead of 21 days. The service of the appeal documents must also be effected within 28 days after the Board's decision.

PART 5

SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Clause 46 contains saving and transitional provisions for the amendments to sections 80 and 81 of the ITA and the corresponding related amendments to the Goods and Services Tax Act 1993 and the Property Tax Act 1960.

Clause 46 also enables the Minister, for a period of 2 years after the publication in the *Gazette* of the Finance (Income Taxes) Act 2026, to make saving and transitional provisions by regulations.

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

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