

# STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES ACT 1991

Reprinted as in force on 10 March 2000 (includes amendments up to Act No. 68 of 1999)

**Reprint No. 2C** 

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# Information about this reprint

This Act is reprinted as at 10 March 2000. The reprint shows the law as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before that day (Reprints Act 1992 s 5(c)).

The reprint includes a reference to the law by which each amendment was made—see list of legislation and list of annotations in endnotes.

This page is specific to this reprint. See previous reprints for information about earlier changes made under the Reprints Act 1992. A table of earlier reprints is included in the endnotes.

#### Also see endnotes for information about—

- when provisions commenced
- editorial changes made in earlier reprints.



# **STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES ACT 1991**

## TABLE OF PROVISIONS

Sectio	n	Page
1	Short title	. 3
2	Commencement	. 3
3	Definition	. 3
4	Qualifications for appointment of Magistrates	. 4
5	Appointment of Magistrates	. 4
6	Appointment of acting Magistrates	. 5
7	Jurisdiction and powers of Magistrates	. 6
8	Oaths to be taken by Magistrates	. 6
9	Chief Stipendiary Magistrate	. 7
10	Functions of Chief Stipendiary Magistrate	. 7
10A	Establishment of judicial committee	. 9
10B	Function of judicial committee	. 9
10C	Composition of committee	. 9
10D	Request for review	. 10
10E	Powers of committee on review	. 10
10F	Procedure	. 10
10G	Stay of operation and implementation of determination pending review .	. 10
10H	Magistrate to give Chief Stipendiary Magistrate notice of application	. 11
10I	No further review	. 11
11	Senior Stipendiary Magistrate	. 11
12	Functions of Senior Stipendiary Magistrate	. 12
13	Functions of Magistrates generally	. 12
14	Tenure of office	. 12
15	Suspension of Magistrate	. 13

16	Appeal against suspension of Magistrate	14
17	Removal of Magistrate from office	14
18	Terms and conditions of employment	14
18A	Magistrate may request transfer determination	14
19	Preservation of rights	15
20	Continuation of jurisdiction on retirement	16
21	Judicial notice of office	16
21A	Protection for administrative acts	16
22	Regulations	16
23	Existing Magistrates continue in office	16
24	Transitional provision for Stipendiary Magistrates and Other Acts Amendment Act 1999	17

#### ENDNOTES

1	Index to endnotes	18
2	Date to which amendments incorporated	18
3	Key	19
4	Table of earlier reprints	19
5	List of legislation	19
6	List of annotations	20

## **STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATES ACT 1991**

[as amended by all amendments that commenced on or before 10 March 2000]

# An Act relating to the office of Stipendiary Magistrates, the judicial independence of the magistracy, and for related purposes

#### Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Stipendiary Magistrates Act 1991*.

#### Commencement

**2.(1)** Section 25 commences immediately after the commencement of section 111 of the *Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991*.

(2) The remaining provisions of this Act commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

#### Definition

3. In this Act—

"Chief Judge" means the Chief Judge of the District Court.

"Chief Justice" means the Chief Justice of Queensland.

"clerk of the court" means a clerk of the court within the meaning of the *Justices Act 1886*.

"committee" means the judicial committee established under section 10A.

"reviewable determination" means-

(a) a determination of the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate under section 5(5) or 10(2)(a) about the place at which a magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court, other than a temporary determination; or

(b) a refusal by the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate under section 18A(3)(b) to make a determination requested under section 18A(2).

"temporary determination" has the meaning given by section 10(6).

#### **Qualifications for appointment of Magistrates**

**4.(1)** A person who has not attained the age of 65 is qualified to be appointed as a Magistrate if the person is—

- (a) a barrister or solicitor of the Supreme Court; or
- (b) a barrister, solicitor, barrister and solicitor or legal practitioner of—
  - (i) the Supreme Court of another State or a Territory; or
  - (ii) the High Court;

of at least 5 years standing.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person who—

- (a) immediately before the commencement of this section, was qualified for admission as a barrister or solicitor of the Supreme Court; and
- (b) is admitted as a barrister or solicitor; and
- (c) immediately before the commencement of this section was employed in a Magistrates Courts Office;

is taken to have been a barrister or solicitor from when the person became qualified.

### **Appointment of Magistrates**

**5.(1)** The Governor in Council may appoint as many Magistrates as are necessary for transacting the business of the Magistrates Courts.

(2) Before making a recommendation to the Governor in Council about the appointment of a magistrate, the Minister must first consult with the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate. (3) The appointment of a magistrate must state and has effect to determine—

- (a) the place where the magistrate is first to constitute a Magistrates Court appointed under the *Justices Act 1886*, section 22B(1)(c); and
- (b) the period, not longer than 5 years, the magistrate is to constitute the Magistrates Court at the place.

(4) However, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate and the magistrate may agree that the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at another place for an agreed period before the period mentioned in subsection (3)(b) ends.

(5) Despite subsection (3) and before the period mentioned in subsection (3)(b) ends, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate may, for good reason directly related to the magistrate, determine that the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at a place other than the place mentioned in subsection (3)(a).

Examples of good reasons-

- the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate has disciplined the magistrate under section 10(8) and a transfer is necessary to maintain community confidence in the court
- the magistrate's incompatibility with the local community
- the magistrate's incompatibility with another magistrate at the place is detrimental to the efficient functioning of the court.

(6) The Governor in Council may appoint a Magistrate to be the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate either at the time of the person's appointment as a Magistrate or at any time afterwards.

(7) The Governor in Council may appoint a Magistrate to be the Senior Stipendiary Magistrate either at the time of the person's appointment as a Magistrate or at any time afterwards.

(8) A magistrate is to be appointed under this Act, and not under the *Public Service Act 1996*.

#### **Appointment of acting Magistrates**

**6.(1)** The Governor in Council may appoint a clerk of the court to act as a Magistrate.

(2) The *Public Service Act 1996* does not apply to a clerk of the court while the clerk acts as a Magistrate.

(3) A clerk of the court retains all rights that have accrued to the clerk because of employment as a clerk, or that would accrue in the future to the clerk because of that employment, as if service acting as a Magistrate were a continuation of service as a clerk.

(4) However, for deciding whether remuneration is payable to a clerk of the court while acting as a magistrate, the *Public Service Management and Employment Act 1988* applies to the person.

#### Jurisdiction and powers of Magistrates

**7.** A Magistrate may exercise, throughout the State, all the jurisdiction, powers and functions conferred on a Magistrate, or on 2 justices, by or under any law of the State.

#### Oaths to be taken by Magistrates

**8.(1)** A person appointed under section 5 or 6 must not exercise any powers or functions of a Magistrate unless the person has—

- (a) taken and subscribed the oath prescribed by the regulations or, if not so prescribed, by any other Act; or
- (b) made and subscribed an affirmation in the form of that oath.

(2) An oath or affirmation referred to in subsection (1) may be taken or made before, and may be administered and received by—

- (a) a Supreme Court Judge; or
- (b) a District Court Judge; or
- (c) a Magistrate.

(3) A Magistrate who does not, within 3 months after appointment as a Magistrate, take the oath or make the affirmation referred to in subsection (1) ceases to hold office as a Magistrate when that period ends.

(4) A Magistrate who complies with this section is not required to take an oath or make an affirmation prescribed under any other Act in relation to justices or Magistrates.

#### **Chief Stipendiary Magistrate**

**9.(1)** The Chief Stipendiary Magistrate holds office as Chief Stipendiary Magistrate while the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate is a Magistrate.

(2) With the approval of the Governor in Council, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate may resign office as Chief Stipendiary Magistrate but remain a Magistrate.

#### **Functions of Chief Stipendiary Magistrate**

**10.(1)** The Chief Stipendiary Magistrate is responsible for ensuring the orderly and expeditious exercise of the jurisdiction and powers of Magistrates Courts.

(2) Subject to this Act and to such consultation with Magistrates as the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate considers appropriate and practicable, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate has power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for ensuring the orderly and expeditious exercise of the jurisdiction and powers of Magistrates Courts, including, for example—

- (a) determining the Magistrates who are to constitute Magistrates Courts at particular places appointed under section 22B(1)(c) of the *Justices Act 1886* or who are to perform particular functions; and
- (b) issuing directions with respect to the practices and procedures of Magistrates Courts; and
- (c) allocating the functions to be exercised by particular Magistrates; and
- (d) nominating a Magistrate to be a supervising Magistrate or a coordinating Magistrate for the purpose of the allocation of work of the Magistrates Court.

(3) Subsection (2) does not authorise the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate to promote a Magistrate.

(4) The Chief Stipendiary Magistrate must not make a determination under subsection (2)(a) about the place at which a magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court unless the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate—

- (a) first—
  - (i) consults with the magistrate; and
  - (ii) gives the magistrate written notice of the proposed maximum period that the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place; and
- (b) has sufficient and reasonable regard to the magistrate's personal circumstances and all other relevant considerations.

(5) The Chief Stipendiary Magistrate must give a magistrate written notice of a determination under subsection (2)(a) stating—

- (a) the place the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court; and
- (b) the period the magistrate is to constitute the Magistrates Court at the place; and
- (c) the reasons for the determination.

(6) However, subsection (4) does not apply if—

- (a) because of urgent circumstances, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate makes a determination (a "temporary determination") under subsection (2)(a) about the place at which a magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court; and
- (b) under the temporary determination, the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at the place for no longer than 3 months.

(7) To remove doubt, it is declared that subsection (4) does not affect a condition of appointment or agreement under section 5(3) or (4).

(8) The Chief Stipendiary Magistrate may discipline by way of reprimand a magistrate who, to the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate's satisfaction—

- (a) is seriously incompetent or inefficient in the discharge of the administrative duties of office; or
- (b) is seriously negligent, careless or indolent in the discharge of the administrative duties of office; or

- (c) is guilty of misconduct; or
- (d) is absent from duty without leave or reasonable excuse; or
- (e) wilfully fails to comply with a reasonable direction given by the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate or a magistrate authorised to give the direction; or
- (f) is guilty of conduct unbecoming a magistrate.

(9) If action is contemplated under subsection (8)(d), the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate may appoint a medical practitioner to examine and report on the mental and physical condition of the Magistrate, and may direct the Magistrate to submit to the examination.

(10) If the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate reprimands a Magistrate, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate must immediately submit a written report on the matter to the Minister.

(11) Action taken by the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate under subsection (8) does not affect the operation of sections 15 and 17.

#### Establishment of judicial committee

**10A.** A judicial committee (the "committee") is established.

#### Function of judicial committee

**10B.** The committee's function is to review a reviewable determination on receipt of a written request from a magistrate aggrieved by the determination.

#### **Composition of committee**

10C.(1) The members of the committee for each review are—

- (a) the Chief Justice or a judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the Chief Justice; and
- (b) the Chief Judge or a judge of the District Court nominated by the Chief Judge; and
- (c) a judge of either the Supreme Court or the District Court nominated by the Chief Justice.

#### **Request for review**

**10D.(1)** A magistrate aggrieved by a reviewable determination may request the committee to review the determination.

(2) The request must be given to the committee in writing within 14 days after the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate gives written notice of the reviewable determination to the magistrate.

#### Powers of committee on review

**10E.(1)** The committee must consider the merits of the reviewable determination and either affirm it or substitute its own different determination.

(2) If the committee makes its own determination, that determination has effect.

#### Procedure

**10F.(1)** The committee has full and unfettered discretion to determine its own procedure when conducting a review.

(2) When conducting a review, the committee is not bound—

- (a) by the rules of evidence; or
- (b) to conduct any oral or public hearing; or
- (c) to permit a party to the review to be legally represented.

(3) The committee may conduct a review solely on the basis of the written materials it considers appropriate.

(4) The Chief Justice may issue directions for the procedure for a review.

# Stay of operation and implementation of determination pending review

10G.(1) The operation and implementation of a reviewable

determination, other than a refusal to make a determination under section 18A(3)(b), is stayed if a magistrate, the subject of the reviewable determination, requests the committee to review the determination.

(2) The stay is effective from the time the magistrate gives the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate a copy of the request under section 10H.

#### Magistrate to give Chief Stipendiary Magistrate notice of application

**10H.** A magistrate who requests a review under section 10D is to give a copy of the request to the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate as soon as possible after requesting the review.

#### No further review

10I.(1) A determination made under section 10E—

- (a) is final and conclusive; and
- (b) can not be challenged, appealed against, reviewed, quashed, set aside, or called in question in another way, under the *Judicial Review Act 1991* or otherwise whether by the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity; and
- (c) is not subject to a writ or order of the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or another entity on any ground.

(2) In this section—

#### "determination" includes-

- (a) conduct engaged in to make a determination; and
- (b) conduct related to making a determination; and
- (c) failure to make a determination.

#### Senior Stipendiary Magistrate

**11.(1)** The Senior Stipendiary Magistrate holds office as Senior Stipendiary Magistrate while the Senior Stipendiary Magistrate is a Magistrate.

(2) With the approval of the Governor in Council, the Senior Stipendiary Magistrate may resign office as Senior Stipendiary Magistrate but remain as a Magistrate.

#### **Functions of Senior Stipendiary Magistrate**

12.(1) The Senior Stipendiary Magistrate—

- (a) in addition to exercising functions as a Magistrate, must exercise such other functions as the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate directs; and
- (b) may act as the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate during—
  - (i) a vacancy in the office; or
  - (ii) any period when the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate is absent from duty or from the State or is, for any other reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

#### **Functions of Magistrates generally**

**13.(1)** Every Magistrate must comply with every reasonable direction given to, or requirement made by, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate or by another Magistrate authorised in that behalf by the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate.

(2) A Magistrate must devote the whole of his or her time to the duties of the office of a Magistrate.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to a person appointed to act as a Magistrate if the appointment excludes the operation of subsection (2).

(4) Without limiting subsection (2), a Magistrate must not practise as a barrister or solicitor for fee or reward.

#### **Tenure of office**

14. A person ceases to be a Magistrate if—

- (a) the person resigns by written notice given to the Minister; or
- (b) having attained 55, the person elects to retire by written notice given to the Minister; or

- (c) the person is removed from office; or
- (d) the person attains 65; or
- (e) the person ceases to hold office under section 8(3).

#### **Suspension of Magistrate**

**15.(1)** The Governor in Council may suspend a Magistrate from office.

(2) Notice of the suspension is to be served on the Magistrate and published in the Gazette.

(3) A Magistrate must not be suspended from office unless a Supreme Court Judge, on the application of the Attorney-General without notice to any person, has determined that there are reasonable grounds for believing that proper cause for removal of the Magistrate exists.

(4) There is proper cause to remove the Magistrate if the Magistrate—

- (a) has been convicted of an indictable offence; or
- (b) is mentally or physically incapable of carrying out satisfactorily the duties of office; or
- (c) is incompetent or guilty of serious neglect of duties; or
- (d) is guilty of proved misbehaviour.

(5) If a Magistrate is suspended from office, the Attorney-General must, as soon as practicable, apply to the Supreme Court for a determination whether proper cause exists to remove the Magistrate.

(6) The suspension lapses if—

- (a) the Supreme Court determines under section 16 or 17 that proper cause to remove the Magistrate has not been established; or
- (b) the Governor in Council lifts the suspension.

(7) Notice of the lapsing of the suspension must be served on the Magistrate and published in the Gazette.

(8) The Magistrate is entitled to remuneration in relation to the period of suspension.

#### Appeal against suspension of Magistrate

**16.(1)** A Magistrate who is suspended from office may appeal to the Supreme Court against the suspension.

(2) The appeal may be heard with any application made under section 17.

(3) On the appeal, the Supreme Court must determine whether proper cause, as specified in section 15(4), exists to remove the Magistrate.

#### **Removal of Magistrate from office**

**17.(1)** A Magistrate must not be removed from office unless the Supreme Court determines, on an application under section 15(5) or an appeal under section 16, that proper cause exists to remove the Magistrate.

(2) Notice of the removal must be served on the Magistrate (together with notice of the grounds) and published in the Gazette.

#### Terms and conditions of employment

18.(1) A Magistrate is to be paid—

- (a) salary determined under the *Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act* 1967; and
- (b) such allowances as are determined by the Governor in Council.

(1A) A Magistrate may be promoted only in accordance with a determination of the Governor in Council.

(2) A Magistrate holds office on such terms and conditions not provided for by this Act as are determined by the Governor in Council.

(3) Employment as a Magistrate is not subject to any industrial award or industrial agreement or any determination or rule of an industrial tribunal.

#### Magistrate may request transfer determination

**18A.(1)** This section applies if a magistrate has constituted a Magistrates Court at a place for at least—

(a) for a magistrate appointed under section 5(3) or given a notice under section 10(5)—the period stated in the appointment or

notice; or

- (b) for a magistrate who constitutes a Magistrates Court at a place for a period agreed under section 5(4)—the period agreed; or
- (c) for a magistrate who constitutes a Magistrates Court at a place at the commencement of this section—5 years.

(2) The magistrate may request the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate to determine under section 10(2)(a) that the magistrate is to constitute a Magistrates Court at another place.

(3) Within 28 days of receiving the request, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate must—

- (a) agree to make the determination; or
- (b) refuse to make the determination.

(4) If the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate refuses to make the determination, the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate must give written notice to the magistrate within 14 days of the refusal.

(5) The notice must state the reasons for refusing to make the determination.

(6) To remove doubt, it is declared that for subsection (1)(c) the period that a magistrate constitutes a Magistrates Court at a place includes any period that the magistrate has constituted the court at the place before the commencement of this section.

#### **Preservation of rights**

**19.(1)** This section applies if an officer of the public service is appointed as a Magistrate.

(2) The person retains all rights that have accrued to the person because of employment as such an officer, or that would accrue in the future to the person because of that employment, as if service as a Magistrate were a continuation of service as an officer of the public service.

(3) If the person ceases to be a Magistrate on being appointed to an office of the public service, the person's service as Magistrate is to be regarded as service of a like nature in the public service for the purpose of determining the person's rights as an officer of the public service.

#### Continuation of jurisdiction on retirement

**20.** A person who ceases to be a Magistrate for any reason (other than death or removal from office) is taken to continue to be a Magistrate so far as it is necessary to give a decision in a matter that is partly heard or standing for the decision of the Magistrate.

#### Judicial notice of office

**21.** All courts and persons acting judicially must take judicial notice of the signature in relation to a magisterial act of a person followed by—

- (a) 'Chief Stipendiary Magistrate' or 'CSM'; or
- (b) 'Senior Stipendiary Magistrate' or 'SSM'; or
- (c) 'Stipendiary Magistrate' or 'SM'; or
- (d) 'Acting Stipendiary Magistrate' or 'ASM';

and that the person held the relevant office.

#### Protection for administrative acts

**21A.** A magistrate has, in the performance or exercise of an administrative function or power conferred on the magistrate under an Act, the same protection and immunity as a magistrate has in a judicial proceeding in a Magistrates Court.

### Regulations

**22.** The Governor in Council may make regulations for the purposes of this Act.

#### **Existing Magistrates continue in office**

**23.(1)** A person who immediately before the commencement of this section, is the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, the Senior Stipendiary Magistrate or a Stipendiary Magistrate under the *Justices Act 1886* continues in office as Chief Stipendiary Magistrate, Senior Stipendiary Magistrate or Stipendiary Magistrate, as the case may be, under this Act.

(2) The salary of a person referred to in subsection (1) immediately before the commencement of this section continues to be the salary of the person under this Act until the salary is determined under the *Judges'* Salaries and Pensions Act 1967.

#### **Transitional provision for Stipendiary Magistrates and Other Acts Amendment Act 1999**

**24.(1)** This section applies to a reviewable determination made under section 10(2)(a) between 31 March 1999 and the commencement of section 6 of the *Stipendiary Magistrates and Other Acts Amendment Act 1999* (the "**amending Act**").

(2) A magistrate aggrieved by the determination may request a review under section 10D as if the determination had been made after the commencement of section 6 of the amending Act.

(3) The request must be given to the committee within 14 days of the commencement of this section.

(4) If a magistrate requests a review under subsection (2), the magistrate may not—

- (a) seek a review of the determination under the *Judicial Review Act 1991* or any other Act; or
- (b) challenge or appeal against the determination or ask for it to be reviewed, quashed, set aside, or called in question in another way before the Supreme Court, another court, a tribunal or other entity.

(5) If a magistrate requests a review under subsection (2), after starting a proceeding mentioned in subsection (4)(a) or (b), that proceeding is terminated.

(6) This section expires 1 year after it commences.

## **ENDNOTES**

## 1 Index to endnotes

	Pa	ige
2	Date to which amendments incorporated	18
3	Key	19
4	Table of earlier reprints	19
5	List of legislation	19
6	List of annotations	20

## 2 Date to which amendments incorporated

This is the reprint date mentioned in the Reprints Act 1992, section 5(c). Accordingly, this reprint includes all amendments that commenced operation on or before 10 March 2000. Future amendments of the Stipendiary Magistrates Act 1991 may be made in accordance with this reprint under the Reprints Act 1992, section 49.

#### 3 Key

4

Key to abbreviations in list of legislation and annotations

AIA	=	Acts Interpretation Act 1954	(prev)	=	previously
amd	=	amended	proc	=	proclamation
amdt	=	amendment	prov	=	provision
ch	=	chapter	pt	=	part
def	=	definition	pubd	=	published
div	=	division	R[X]	=	Reprint No.[X]
exp	=	expires/expired	RA	=	Reprints Act 1992
gaz	=	gazette	reloc	=	relocated
hdg	=	heading	renum	=	renumbered
ins	=	inserted	rep	=	repealed
lap	=	lapsed	s	=	section
notfd	=	notified	sch	=	schedule
o in c	=	order in council	sdiv	=	subdivision
om	=	omitted	SIA	=	Statutory Instruments Act 1992
orig	=	original	SIR	=	Statutory Instruments
р	=	page			Regulation 1992
para	=	paragraph	SL	=	subordinate legislation
prec	=	preceding	sub	=	substituted
pres	=	present	unnum	=	unnumbered
prev	=	previous			

## **Table of earlier reprints**

#### TABLE OF EARLIER REPRINTS

[If a reprint number includes a roman letter, the reprint was released in unauthorised, electronic form only.]

Reprint No.	Amendments included	Reprint date
1	to Act No. 36 of 1992	1 August 1992
2	to Act No. 32 of 1993	23 June 1993
2A	to Act No. 79 of 1996	5 March 1997
2B	to Act No. 68 of 1999	25 January 2000

#### 5 List of legislation

#### Stipendiary Magistrates Act 1991 No. 75

date of assent 21 November 1991

ss 1-2 commenced on date of assent

s 25 commenced immediately after the commencement of s 111 of the Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991 (14 December 1991 (see s 2(1)) remaining provisions commenced 1 January 1992 (1991 SL No. 211)

as amended by-

date	Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 No. 36 s 2 sch 2 e of assent 2 July 1992 Inmenced on date of assent
date	aw (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1 e of assent 3 June 1993 menced on date of assent
date ss 1	ervice Act 1996 No. 37 ss 1–2, 147 sch 2 e of assent 22 October 1996 –2 commenced on date of assent aining provisions commenced 1 December 1996 (1996 SL No. 361)
date pt 1	egislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1996 No. 79 pts 1, 30 e of assent 12 December 1996 commenced on date of assent aining provisions commenced 28 February 1997 (1997 SL No. 35)
date	egislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999 No. 16 ss 1–2 sch e of assent 22 April 1999 menced on date of assent
<b>pt</b> date ss 1	egislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1999 No. 66 ss 1, 2(2) 7 e of assent 6 December 1999 -2 commenced on date of assent aining provisions commenced 1 March 2000 (2000 SL No. 15)
- date	ary Magistrates and Other Acts Amendment Act 1999 No. 68 pts 1–2 e of assent 6 December 1999 menced on date of assent
6	List of annotations
<b>Definition</b> s 3	n def "Chief Judge" ins 1999 No. 68 s 3 def "Chief Justice" ins 1999 No. 68 s 3 def "committee" ins 1999 No. 68 s 3 def "reviewable determination" ins 1999 No. 68 s 3 def "temporary determination" ins 1999 No. 68 s 3
Appointr s 5	nent of Magistrates amd 1996 No. 37 s 147 sch 2; 1999 No. 68 s 4

Appointment of acting Magistrates s 6 amd 1996 No. 37 s 147 sch 2; 1996 No. 79 s 107

 Functions of Chief Stipendiary Magistrate

 s 10
 amd 1992 No. 36 s 2 sch 2; 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1; 1999 No. 68 s 5

# Establishment of judicial committee s 10A ins 1999 No. 68 s 6

Function of judicial committees 10Bins 1999 No. 68 s 6
Composition of committee10Cins 1999 No. 68 s 6
Request for review10Dins 1999 No. 68 s 6
Powers of committee on review10Eins 1999 No. 68 s 6
<b>Procedure</b> <b>10F</b> ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
<b>Stay of operation and implementation of determination pending review</b> <b>10G</b> ins 1999 No. 68 s 6
Magistrate to give Chief Stipendiary Magistrate notice of application10Hins 1999 No. 68 s 6
No further review10Iins 1999 No. 68 s 6
Suspension of Magistrate           s 15         amd 1992 No. 36 s 2 sch 2; 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1
Appeal against suspension of Magistrates 16amd 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1
Removal of Magistrate from offices 17amd 1992 No. 36 s 2 sch 2
Terms and conditions of employment           s 18         amd 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1; 1996 No. 37 s 147 sch 2; 1999 No. 16 s 2 sch
Magistrate may request transfer determinations 18Ains 1999 No. 68 s 7
Protection for administrative actss 21Ains 1999 No. 66 s 32
Regulations           s 22         sub 1993 No. 32 s 3 sch 1
Transitional provision for Stipendiary Magistrates and Other Acts Amendment Act 1999
s 24 prev s 24 om R1 (see RA s 40) pres s 24 ins 1999 No. 68 s 8 <u>exp 7 December 2000</u> (see s 24(6))
Amendment of Judges' Salaries and Pensions Act 1967s 25om R1 (see RA s 40)
Amendment of Acts Interpretation Act 1954s 26om R1 (see RA s 40)

#### SCHEDULE 1—AMENDMENT OF JUSTICES ACT 1886 om R1 (see RA s 40)

# SCHEDULE 2—AMENDMENT OF JUDGES' SALARIES AND PENSIONS ACT 1967

om R1 (see RA s 40)

#### SCHEDULE 3—AMENDMENT OF ACTS INTERPRETATION ACT 1954 om R1 (see RA s 40)

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