

SUMMARY TABLE

s/n.	Tax Change	Brief description of tax change	Amendment to Property Tax Act	Explanation for Amendment
1	To facilitate electronic transactions via IRAS's new system IRIN	<p>IRAS will be replacing its information system, Inland Revenue Integrated System (IRIS) with a new system, Inland Revenue Interactive Network (IRIN). To enhance customer service, IRIN will enable the provision of e-services to taxpayers via individualised portals (e.g. e-notices and e-applications).</p> <p>The Property Tax Act will be amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To provide electronic transactions and notices with the same legal force as paper documents; and (ii) To require IRAS to serve notices personally or by registered post before a person can be prosecuted for non-compliance. This is to safeguard taxpayers' interests in criminal proceedings. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Sections 2(1), 56, 56(A), 57</p> <p>[Clauses 2, 8, 9, 10]</p>	<p>Clause 2 amends section 2(1) to provide definitions for the terms “account with the electronic service”, “authentication code”, “electronic record” and “electronic service”.</p> <p>Clause 8 amends section 56 to insert a new subsection (3) to provide that where a person gives his consent for any notice, order or document to be served on him through the electronic service, that notice, order or document will be treated as sufficiently authenticated if it is served by transmitting an electronic record of it to his account with the electronic service.</p> <p>Clause 9 introduces a new section 56A —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to provide for an electronic service for the filing or submission of returns and documents by any person or

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				<p>his agent, the service of notices, orders and documents by the Comptroller, and the making of such applications as the Comptroller may determine; and</p> <p>(b) to make an electronic record of any return, notice, order or document, or any copy or print-out thereof, admissible in court as evidence of the facts stated therein if certain conditions are satisfied.</p> <p>Clause 10 amends section 57 —</p> <p>(a) to provide for any notice, order or document to be served by transmitting an electronic record of that notice, order or document to a person's account with the electronic service, if the person has given his consent for that notice, order or document to be served on him through the electronic</p>

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				<p>service; and</p> <p>(b) to require a notice or an order to be served on a person personally or by registered post if —</p> <p>(i) a failure to comply with the terms of that notice would be an offence under section 16(2) or 21(7);</p> <p>(ii) a failure or neglect to furnish a return required to be made pursuant to that notice would be an offence under section 18(3); or</p> <p>(iii) a failure to comply with that order would be an offence under section 50A(5).</p>
2	Appointment of Deputy Chairmen for the Valuation Review Board	Currently, the Property Tax Act empowers the Minister to appoint only one Chairman to preside at the meeting of the Valuation Review Board. To allow the efficient processing of cases, section 26 of the Property Tax Act will be amended to allow the Minister for Finance the flexibility to appoint Deputy Chairmen to preside over hearing committees in the authority of the Chairman.	<p>Section 23(3), (4), (5), 23(7), 24, 26(1A), 26(3), (4), 27, 28</p> <p>[Clauses 4(b), (c), 5, 6(a) (b), 7]</p>	<p>Clause 4(b) deletes and substitutes section 23(3), (4) and (5) —</p> <p>(a) to align the provisions relating to the duration of appointment of members of the Board with the corresponding provisions relating to the duration of appointment of members of</p>

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				<p>the Boards of Review under the Income Tax Act (Cap. 134) and the Goods and Services Tax Act (Cap. 117A); and</p> <p>(b) to empower the Minister to appoint a Chairman and Deputy Chairmen from amongst the members of the Board. It also deletes an obsolete provision relating to the appointment of a temporary Chairman or member of the Board.</p> <p>Clause 4(c) makes a consequential amendment to section 23(7) arising from the deletion and substitution of section 23(5) by clause 4(b).</p> <p>Clause 5 makes a consequential amendment to section 24 arising from the deletion and substitution of section 23(5) by clause 4(b).</p> <p>Clause 6(a) deletes and substitutes section 26(1) and inserts new</p>

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				<p>section 26(1A) to provide that a committee of the Board (which exercises, discharges and performs the powers, functions and duties of the Board) shall include at least the Chairman or a Deputy Chairman of the Board.</p> <p>Clause 6(b) inserts new section 26(3) and (4) to specify the person who is to preside at every meeting of a committee of the Board.</p> <p>Clause 7 repeals and re-enacts section 27 to specify the person who is to preside at meetings of the Board in the absence of the Chairman of the Board. It also repeals and re-enacts section 28 to provide that the person who is presiding at a meeting of the Board or a committee of the Board shall have a second or casting vote where there is an equality of votes in a particular matter before it.</p>

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3	Increase in number of persons who may be appointed as members of the Valuation Review Board	To increase the number of persons who may be appointed as members of the Valuation Review Board (the Board) in order to give allowance for extra members to be appointed during peak periods.	Section 23(1) [Clause 4(a)]	Clause 4(a) amends section 23(1) to increase to not more than 15 the number of persons who may be appointed as members of the Board.
4	Repeal of Section 8 on the incentive for Energy Conservation	<p>To encourage owners of existing commercial buildings to upgrade their buildings to comply with the energy conservation standard known as Overall Thermal Transfer Value (OTTV), section 14G of the Income Tax Act and section 8 of the Property Tax Act were enacted as fiscal incentives to encourage energy conservation. Specifically, section 8 allows an owner of a centrally air-conditioned commercial building to get a refund of property tax paid in respect to the premises, for approved expenditures to meet OTTV standards.</p> <p>The OTTV upgrading exercise ended in December 1981 and since then, all buildings constructed have met OTTV standards. Therefore, these fiscal incentives are now obsolete. Section 14G of the Income Tax Act was thus repealed in the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2003, and section 8 of the Property Tax Act will now also be repealed.</p>	Section 8 [Clause 3]	Clause 3 repeals section 8, which has become obsolete.