

**Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Act 1991  
(No. 5 of 1991)**

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**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE  
ACTS SUPPLEMENT**

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**NO. 3]**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 25**

**[1991**

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 3rd January 1991 and assented to by the President on 18th January 1991:—

**CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE (AMENDMENT) ACT  
1991**

**(No. 5 of 1991)**

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I assent.

WEE KIM WEE  
*President.*  
18th January 1991.

**Date of Commencement: 1st February 1991**

**Date of Commencement: 30th November 1991**

An Act to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore.

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

**Short title and commencement**

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment) Act 1991 and shall come into operation on such date as the President may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

(2) The President may appoint different dates for the coming into operation of the different provisions of this Act.

**Amendment of Article 2**

2. Article 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (referred to in this Act as the Constitution) is amended —

- (a) by deleting the words “Article 20” in the definition of “Civil List” in clause (1) and substituting the words “Article 22J”;
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Consolidated Fund” in clause (1), the following definition:

““Council of Presidential Advisors” means the Council of  
Presidential Advisors constituted under Part VA;”;

- (c) by deleting the words “appointed to exercise” in the definition of “President” in clause (1) and substituting the word “exercising”;
- (d) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “President” in clause (1), the following definition:

“ “Presidential Elections Committee” means the Presidential Elections Committee established under Article 18;”;

- (e) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “remuneration” in clause (1), the following definition:

“ “reserves”, in relation to the Government, a statutory board or Government company, means the excess of assets over liabilities of the Government, statutory board or Government company, as the case may be;”;

- (f) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “ “Speaker” and “Deputy Speaker” ” in clause (1), the following definition:

“ “term of office”, in relation to the Government, means the period —

- (a) commencing on the date the Prime Minister and Ministers first take and subscribe the Oath of Allegiance in accordance with Article 27 after a general election; and
  - (b) ending after the next general election on the date immediately before the Prime Minister and Ministers first take and subscribe the Oath of Allegiance in accordance with Article 27;”;
- and

- (g) by deleting the word “Vice-President,” in the sixth line of clause (5).

### **Amendment of Article 5**

**3.** Article 5 of the Constitution is amended by inserting, immediately after clause (2), the following clause:

“(2A) Unless the President, acting in his discretion, otherwise directs the Speaker in writing, a Bill seeking to amend this clause, Articles 17 to 22, 22A to 22O, 35, 65, 66, 69, 70, 93A, 94, 95, 105, 107, 110A, 110B, 151 or any provision in Part IV or XI shall not be passed by Parliament unless it has been supported at a

national referendum by not less than two-thirds of the total number of votes cast by the electors registered under the Parliamentary Elections Act (Cap. 218).”.

## **Repeal and re-enactment of Chapter 1 of Part V**

4. Chapter 1 of Part V of the Constitution is repealed and the following Chapter substituted therefor:

### *“Chapter 1 — The President*

#### **The President**

17.—(1) There shall be a President of Singapore who shall be the Head of State and shall exercise and perform such powers and functions as are conferred on the President by this Constitution and any other written law.

(2) The President shall be elected by the citizens of Singapore in accordance with any law made by the Legislature.

#### **Presidential Elections Committee**

18.—(1) There shall be a Presidential Elections Committee whose function is to ensure that candidates for the office of President have the qualifications referred to in Article 19.

(2) The Presidential Elections Committee shall consist of —

- (a) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission;
- (b) the Chairman of the Public Accountants Board established under the Accountants Act (Cap. 2A); and
- (c) a member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights nominated by the Chairman of the Council.

(3) The Chairman of the Public Service Commission shall be the chairman of the Presidential Elections Committee and if he is absent from Singapore or for any other reason unable to discharge his functions, he shall nominate a Deputy Chairman of the Public Service Commission to act on his behalf.

(4) The office of the member of the Presidential Elections Committee nominated under clause (2)(c) shall become vacant if he —

- (a) dies;
- (b) resigns from office by a letter in writing addressed to the chairman of