

Vigilante Corps (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 14/1982

Read the first time: 27th July 1982

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Vigilante Corps (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 14/1982

Read the first time on 27th July 1982.

An Act to amend the Vigilante Corps Act (Chapter 80 of the Revised Edition).

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

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Vigilante Corps (Amendment) Act, 1982.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Vigilante Corps Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “Commandant” in the definition of “commanding officer” and substituting the word “Director”;
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “the Corps”, the following definitions: —

“detention barracks” means any building or part thereof set apart by the Commissioner for the purposes of persons serving sentences of detention;

“disciplinary officer” means any officer or any police officer of or above the rank of Inspector in the Police Force who is appointed by the Commandant to conduct disciplinary proceedings;”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 17

3. Section 17 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor: —

“Punishment of subordinate officers

17.—(1) Where a subordinate officer is found guilty by a disciplinary officer of any of the offences specified in the Schedule to this Act, the disciplinary officer may impose any one of the following punishments: —

- (a) detention for a period not exceeding forty days;
- (b) a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars;
- (c) stoppage of leave for any period not exceeding twenty-eight days;
- (d) restriction of privileges for any period not exceeding fourteen days;
- (e) extra duty or drill for any period not exceeding seven days;
- (f) reprimand; or
- (g) caution.

(2) If a disciplinary officer is of the opinion that a subordinate officer found guilty of any offence under this section should be reduced in rank, he may refer the charge and the record of the proceedings to the Commandant who may reduce the rank of the subordinate officer or impose any one of the punishments which a disciplinary officer may impose under subsection (1).

(3) A subordinate officer may appeal against any decision under this section to a commanding officer within fourteen days from the date of the decision and in every case where an appeal has been lodged any punishment imposed shall be suspended pending the determination of the appeal.

(4) In addition to any of the punishments under subsection (1), a disciplinary officer may order a subordinate officer found guilty of any offence under this Act to pay compensation, not exceeding fifty dollars, to any person who suffered damage or loss through the offence.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 18

4. Section 18 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor: —

“Punishment of officers

18.—(1) Where an officer is found guilty of any of the offences specified in the Schedule to this Act by any person authorised by regulations made under this Act to conduct disciplinary proceedings, a commanding officer may reduce the rank of the officer or impose any one of the punishments which a disciplinary officer may impose under subsection (1) of section 17.

(2) An officer may appeal against any decision under this section to the Commissioner within fourteen days from the date of the decision and in every case where an appeal has been lodged any punishment imposed shall be suspended pending the determination of the appeal.

(3) In addition to any of the punishments under subsection (1), a commanding officer may order an officer found guilty of any offence under this Act to pay compensation, not exceeding one hundred dollars, to any person who suffered damage or loss through the offence.”.

New sections 18A to 18E

5. The principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 18, the following sections: —

“Decision on appeal

18A. On appeal under section 17 or 18 a commanding officer or the Commissioner, as the case may be, may —

- (a) dismiss the appeal;
- (b) allow the appeal and quash the decision; or
- (c) impose such other punishment as he thinks fit except that the punishment so imposed shall not in any event be greater or more severe than that originally imposed.

Commencement of sentence of detention

18B. A term of detention imposed under section 17 or 18 shall take effect from the date on which it was passed unless the officer passing the sentence otherwise directs.

Sentence of detention

18C. A person sentenced to detention under this Act shall, unless otherwise provided for in any regulations made thereunder, serve his sentence in detention barracks.

Provisions as to persons unlawfully at large

18D.—(1) Any person who, having been sentenced to detention under this Act, is at large may (without prejudice to any other power of arrest) be arrested by any police officer without warrant and taken to any place in which he may be required to be detained in accordance with this Act or any regulations made thereunder.

(2) Where any person sentenced to detention under this Act is at large at any time during the period for which he is liable to be detained in pursuance of the sentence, no account shall be taken, in calculating the period for which he is liable

to be so detained, of any time elapsing after he was at large and before he is taken into custody or he is received into a detention barrack.

Recovery of compensation

18E. An order for payment of compensation made under section 17 or 18 shall not prejudice any right to any civil remedy for the recovery of damages beyond the amount of compensation paid under the order.”.

Amendment of section 19

6. Section 19 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “, retired or dismissed from the Corps under the provisions of section 12, 17 or 18 of this Act” and substituting the words “under section 12”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 20

7. Section 20 of the principal Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor: —

“Prosecution for disciplinary offences

20.—(1) Any member of the Corps accused of any of the offences specified in the Schedule to this Act may, instead of being dealt with under section 17 or 18, be prosecuted in any court and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Where a member of the Corps is convicted under subsection (1), the court may order him to pay to any person who suffered damage or loss through the offence compensation not exceeding one thousand dollars.

(3) Nothing in subsection (2) shall prejudice the right of any person to a civil remedy for the recovery of damages beyond the amount of compensation ordered.

(4) No prosecution under this section shall be instituted without the previous sanction in writing of a commanding officer.”.

Amendment of section 23

8. Section 23 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the words “an inquiry into an offence under the provisions of section 17 or 18 of this Act” in the first and second lines of subsection (1) and substituting the words “the disciplinary proceedings into any offence under section 17 or 18”.