

Films Bill

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Bill No: 22/1981

Read the first time: 21st July 1981

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Films Bill

Bill No. 22/1981

Read the first time on 21st July 1981.

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the possession, distribution and exhibition of films.

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

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Films Act, 1981, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“approved warehouse” means any warehouse approved by the Board for the purposes of sections 12 and 13;

“Board” means the Board of Film Censors established under this Act;

“certificate” means a certificate issued under subsection (3) of section 15;

“Chairman” means the Chairman of the Board;

“distribute” means to sell, hire out and supply and “distribution” shall be construed accordingly;

“exhibition” includes the production of any music, speech, noise, or other sound which accompanies the projection of a film and “exhibit” shall be construed accordingly;

“film” means a cinematograph film; and includes a videotape and any record, however made, of a sequence of visual image, which is a record capable of being used as a means of showing that sequence as a moving picture; and also includes any part of any such film and any copy or part of a copy of the whole or any part of a film;

“licence” means a licence granted under section 7;

“Licensing Officer” means the officer appointed by the Minister under subsection (3) of section 3 and includes an Assistant Licensing Officer;

“owner” of a film means any person who is for the time being entitled, either as owner or agent for the owner, or otherwise, to the possession of the film, but does not include a bank through which a film is bona fide consigned for the sole purpose of collecting a trade debt;

“place” means any building or part thereof, enclosure, ground or open-air space and includes a ship, boat or other vessel and any vehicle;

“Secretary” means the Secretary to the Board.

The Board and appointment of officers

3.—(1) There shall be established a Board of Film Censors consisting of not less than three members including a Chairman, all of whom shall be Censors of Films appointed by the Minister.

(2) The Minister may appoint such Deputy and Assistant Censors of Films and such Inspectors of Films as he may think fit.

(3) The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint an officer to be the Licensing Officer for the purposes of this Act and may similarly appoint such number of Assistant Licensing Officers as may be necessary.

(4) The Board shall be provided with a Secretary and such clerical and other assistance as may be required.

Procedure of the Board

4.—(1) The Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership.

(2) The quorum at all meetings of the Board shall be two in addition to the Chairman.

(3) The Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his deliberative vote.

(4) Subject to the provisions of this Act the Board shall regulate its own procedure.

Delegation of powers and duties by the Board

5.—(1) The Board may in its discretion delegate to any Censor, Deputy or Assistant Censor of Films, either generally or in a particular case, all or any of the powers conferred and duties imposed upon it by this Act except the power —

(a) to prohibit the exhibition of a film; and

(b) to approve the exhibition of any film with alterations or excisions unless the written consent of the owner to such alterations or excisions has first been obtained.

(2) No delegation under subsection (1) shall debar the Board from the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty so delegated.

(3) Any decision of the Board or of any person to whom any power or duty has been delegated by the Board may be signified under the hand of the Chairman or any person authorised by the Chairman to sign on his behalf and every such decision so signified shall be deemed to be a decision of the Board.

Licence for carrying on any business of importing, making, distributing or exhibiting films

6.—(1) No person shall carry on any business, whether or not the business is carried on for profit, of importing, making, distributing or exhibiting films unless he is in possession of a valid licence granted under this Act.

(2) Any person who —