

Fire Service Bill

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Bill No: 41/1979

Read the first time: 11th December 1979

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Fire Service Bill

Bill No. 41/1979

Read the first time on 11th December 1979.

An Act to make better provisions as to the constitution, duties and powers of the Singapore Fire Service and to make provisions for the prevention and fighting of fires and for matters connected therewith; and to repeal Part IV of the Local Government Integration Act (Chapter 210 of the Revised Edition).

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

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Fire Service Act, 1979, 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 —

“Auxiliary Fire Brigade” means the brigade constituted under Part V;

“auxiliary fire officer” means a member of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade;

“Director” means the Director of Fire Service appointed under section 3;

“fire officer” means any person appointed under section 3;

“Fire Service” means the Singapore Fire Service constituted under section 3;

“national serviceman” has the same meaning as in the Enlistment Act (Cap. 229);

“occupier”, in relation to any premises, means the person in occupation of any premises or having the charge, management or control thereof and, in relation to any part of any premises different parts of which are occupied by different persons, means the person in occupation or having the charge, management or control of that part;

“owner” means the person for the time being receiving the rent of any premises, whether on his own account or as agent or trustee or as receiver, or who would receive the same if the premises were let to a tenant and includes the person whose name is entered in the Valuation List authenticated under the provisions of section 13 of the Property Tax Act (Cap. 144);

“premises” includes messuages, houses, buildings, lands, tenements, easements and hereditaments of any tenure, whether open or enclosed, whether built on or not, whether public or private, and whether or not maintained under statutory authority;

“street” has the same meaning as in the Local Government Integration Act (Cap. 210).

PART II

CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE FIRE SERVICE

Constitution of Singapore Fire Service

3. There shall be constituted and maintained an adequate and efficient Fire Service to be known as the Singapore Fire Service which shall consist of a Director of Fire Service and such number of Deputy Directors of Fire Service and other officers as the Minister

may appoint (under whatever titles he may from time to time determine) for the purposes of this Act.

Administration of Fire Service

4. The Director shall be charged with the direction and administration of the Fire Service subject to the orders and control of the Minister.

Delegation of powers

5. The Director may, subject to such conditions as he thinks fit, delegate to any fire officer employed in the administration of this Act all or any of the powers and duties vested in him by this Act.

PART III

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE FIRE SERVICE

Duties of Fire Service

6. The duties of the Fire Service shall be to —
- (a) take lawful measures for extinguishing fire;
 - (b) take lawful measures for protecting life and property in case of fire;
 - (c) provide and maintain an adequate emergency ambulance service;
 - (d) ensure effective co-ordination between the Fire Service and other fire services in Singapore; and
 - (e) execute such other duties as may be imposed on it by this Act or any other written law.

Powers of Fire Service in the event of fire

7. The Director or any other fire officer in charge of a fire-brigade in the event of a fire or a suspected fire may, by himself or with other fire officers under his command —

- (a) enter, break into or through and take possession of or demolish or cause to be taken possession of or demolished any premises or thing for the purpose of extinguishing or preventing the spread of the fire;
- (b) take any equipment required to be used into, through, or upon any premises where he thinks it necessary for the purpose of carrying out his duties;
- (c) remove from any building or structure which is on fire or is in the near