

Destruction of Disease-Bearing Insects Bill

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Bill No: 29/1968

Read the first time: 10th July 1968

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Destruction of Disease-Bearing Insects Bill

Bill No. 29/1968

Read the first time on 10th July 1968.

An Act to provide for the destruction of disease-bearing insects and for the medical examination and treatment of persons suffering from insect-borne diseases and for matters connected therewith, and to repeal the Destruction of Mosquitoes Ordinance (*Chapter 139 of the Revised Edition*).

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 Destruction of Disease-Bearing Insects Act, 1968, 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 —

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Public Health appointed under the provisions of section 4 of this Act and includes a Deputy Commissioner of

Public Health or an Assistant Commissioner of Public Health appointed under the said section;

“Director” means the Director of Medical Services and includes the Deputy Director of Medical Services in charge of the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health;

“disease-bearing insect” includes any insect carrying or causing, or capable of carrying or causing, any disease of human beings or domestic animals, and includes the eggs, larvae and pupae of such insect;

“Medical Officer of Health” means any registered medical practitioner in the service of the Government who is for the time being carrying out the duties of a Health Officer in any area or district in Singapore or the port limits thereof, and includes the Airport Health Officer, the Port Health Officer and any registered medical practitioner in the service of the Government who is engaged in vector control duties;

“occupier” means the person in occupation of any premises or having the charge, management or control thereof either on his own account or as agent of another person, but does not include a lodger;

“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 land or house comprised in the premises were let to a tenant, and includes the Government;

“premises” means messuages, buildings, lands, easements and hereditaments of any tenure, whether open or enclosed, whether built on or not, whether public or private, and whether maintained or not under statutory authority, and includes any place or structure, or any part thereof, used or intended to be used for human habitation or for employment or any other purpose whatsoever;

“public health auxiliary” means a public health inspector, public health assistant or public health overseer in the service of the Government, or other public officer authorised by the Director to carry out the duties imposed upon a public health auxiliary by or under this Act;

“vessel” includes all classes of ships and aircraft.

Director to have the superintendence of this Act

3.—(1) The Director shall have the superintendence of all matters relating to this Act, subject to the general or special directions of the Minister.

(2) The Director and any Senior Health Officer shall have and may exercise all the

powers conferred on the Commissioner and on a Medical Officer of Health by or under this Act.

(3) The Minister may, in his discretion, by writing under his hand, invest any medical practitioner in the service of the Government with all or any of the powers conferred on a Medical Officer of Health by or under this Act.

Appointment of Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of Public Health

4.—(1) The President may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint an officer to be styled the Commissioner of Public Health, and such number of Deputy Commissioners of Public Health and Assistant Commissioners of Public Health as he may think fit.

(2) The Deputy Commissioners of Public Health and Assistant Commissioners of Public Health shall have and may exercise all the powers conferred on the Commissioner by or under this Act, subject to such limitations as the Commissioner may deem fit to impose.

Power to enter and examine premises, etc

5.—(1) The Commissioner, a Medical Officer of Health or a public health auxiliary may, between the hours of six o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening, with or without assistants, enter and examine any premises or vessel and, subject to such directions as the Director may give, either generally or to meet the circumstances of a particular case, ascertain whether such premises or vessel or anything therein is in a condition favourable to the propagation or harbouring of disease-bearing insects and carry out, where necessary, the spraying of such premises or vessel with insecticides; and the Medical Officer of Health may, in addition —

- (a) medically examine any person in such premises or vessel for the purpose of ascertaining whether such person is suffering from, or has recently suffered from, or is a carrier of, any insect-borne disease, or whether such person has been recently exposed to infection by any such disease;
- (b) medically treat any person residing in such premises or vessel who is suffering from any insect-borne disease;
- (c) cause a *post-mortem* examination to be made on any corpse found in such premises or vessel for the purpose of ascertaining whether the cause of death has been due to any insect-borne disease:

Provided that no person shall, unless with the consent of the occupier thereof, enter any house by virtue of the powers conferred by this section without at least twelve hours' previous notice being given to the occupier thereof, if any: