

Hindu Endowments Bill

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Bill No: 13/1968

Read the first time: 9th May 1968

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Hindu Endowments Bill

Bill No. 13/1968

Read the first time on 9th May 1968.

An Act to provide for the administration of Hindu religious and charitable endowments and to repeal the Muslim and Hindu Endowments Ordinance (*Chapter 271 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 Hindu Endowments 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 “endowment” means any endowment in land, building or money given or to be given for the support of any Hindu temple, or Hindu shrine or school or other

Hindu pious, religious, charitable or beneficial purpose.

Constitution

3. There shall be constituted a Hindu Endowments Board (hereinafter in this Act referred to as “the Board”) which shall exercise the functions conferred on it by this Act.

Board to be a corporation

4.—(1) The Board shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal, and the said seal may from time to time be broken, changed, altered and made anew as to the Board seems fit.

(2) The Board may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

Membership

5.—(1) The Board shall consist of —

(a) a Chairman to be appointed by the Minister; and

(b) six or more members to be appointed by the Minister.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act and unless the contrary intention appears in the instrument of appointment, the appointment of members under subsection (1) of this section shall be for a period of three years from the date thereof.

(3) The members of the Board shall be eligible for reappointment, but no member shall be appointed for more than two consecutive terms.

(4) No person shall be appointed a member of the Board under subsection (1) of this section unless he —

(a) is a Hindu; and

(b) is a citizen of Singapore.

(5) The members of the Board shall be deemed to be public servants for the purposes of the Penal Code (Cap. 119).

Secretary

6.—(1) The Secretary of the Board shall be a public officer and shall be appointed by the Minister.

(2) The Secretary of the Board shall convene and attend all meetings of the Board but shall not have the right to vote.

Appointments to be notified in *Gazette*

7. All appointments made under this Act shall be notified in the *Gazette*.

Determination of appointments

8. Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (2) of section 5 and section 9 of this Act, the appointment of any member of the Board shall determine —

- (a) upon his death;
- (b) if he shall, by writing addressed to the Minister through the Secretary of the Board, resign such appointment;
- (c) if he shall be absent from Singapore, without written permission from the Chairman, for a period exceeding three months; or
- (d) if he shall be declared a bankrupt.

Revocation of appointment

9. The Minister may revoke the appointment of any member of the Board —

- (a) if his conduct, whether in connection with the duties of such appointment or otherwise, is in the opinion of the Minister such as to bring discredit upon the Board;
- (b) if for any reason he becomes unable properly to carry out the duties of his appointment;
- (c) if he shall, without due cause to be approved by the Chairman, absent himself from three successive meetings of the Board; or
- (d) if the Minister considers it desirable in the public interest to revoke the appointment.

Strangers at meetings

10.—(1) The Chairman may invite to any meeting of the Board any person who is not a member of the Board if the business before the meeting renders the presence of such person desirable.

(2) Any person so invited shall be entitled to take part in the proceedings of the Board, but shall not have the right to vote.

Chairman

11.—(1) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board.

(2) In his absence the Board may elect any other member to act as Chairman.