

Societies Bill

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Bill No: 55/1966

Read the first time: 5th December 1966

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Societies Bill

Bill No. 55/1966

Read the first time on 5th December 1966.

An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to societies.

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 Societies Act, 1966, 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 —

“Assistant Registrar” means an Assistant Registrar of Societies appointed under section 3 of this Act;

“officer” means the president, the secretary and members of the committee of a society and includes persons holding positions analogous to those of president, secretary or member of a committee;

“place of business” means the place where the records and books of account of the society are kept;

“political association” includes any society which the President may by order declare to be a political association;

“Registrar” means the Registrar of Societies appointed under section 3 of this Act;

“society” includes any club, company, partnership or association of ten or more persons, whatever its nature or object, but does not include —

- (a) any company registered under the provisions of any written law relating to companies for the time being in force in Singapore;
- (b) any company or association constituted under any written law;
- (c) any trade union registered or required to be registered under the provisions of any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore;
- (d) any co-operative society, registered as such, under any written law;
- (e) any mutual benefit organisation registered as such under any written law relating to mutual benefit organisations for the time being in force in Singapore;
- (f) any company, association or partnership, consisting of not more than twenty persons, formed for the sole purpose of carrying on any lawful business that has for its object the acquisition of gain by the company, association or partnership, or the individual members thereof; and
- (g) any school or management committee of a school under any law regulating schools for the time being in force in Singapore.

Appointment of Registrar and Assistant Registrars

3. The Minister may appoint by name or office a Registrar of Societies and such Assistant Registrars as may be necessary.

Registration of societies and refusal to register

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section the Registrar shall upon application by any society and on payment of the prescribed fee register such society.

(2) The Registrar shall refuse to register a society if he is satisfied that —

- (a) the rules of the society are insufficient to provide for its proper management and control;
- (b) the society is likely to be used for unlawful purposes or for purposes prejudicial to public peace, welfare or good order in Singapore;
- (c) the application for registration does not comply with the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder;
- (d) it would be contrary to the national interest for the society to be registered; or
- (e) in the case of any society which is a political association, its rules do not provide for its membership to be confined to citizens of Singapore or it has such affiliation or connection with any organisation outside Singapore as is considered by the Registrar to be contrary to the national interest.

(3) The Registrar may refuse to register a society if —

- (a) he is satisfied that such a society is a branch of or is affiliated to or connected with any society which has been dissolved under section 24 of this Act or under the provisions of any previous written law relating to societies or which has been previously refused registration;
- (b) a dispute exists among the members of such a society as to the persons who are to be officers or to hold or to administer any property of the society; or
- (c) it appears to him that the name under which the society is to be registered —
 - (i) is likely to mislead members of the public as to the true character or purpose of the society or so nearly resembles the name of some other society as is likely to deceive the members of the public or members of either society;
 - (ii) is identical to that of any other existing society; or