

**Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act
(CHAPTER 217)**

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PARLIAMENT (PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES AND POWERS) ACT

(CHAPTER 217)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 11 of 1962)

REVISED EDITION 2000

(1st July 2000)

An Act to declare and define the privileges, immunities and powers of Parliament and of the Speaker, Members and committees thereof, to regulate the conduct of Members and other persons in connection with the proceedings thereof, to give protection to persons employed in the publication of the reports and other papers of Parliament and for purposes incidental to or connected with the matters aforesaid.

[23rd March 1962]

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless inconsistent with the context —

“Clerk” means the Clerk of Parliament or other person for the time being lawfully performing the functions of that office;

“committee” means a committee of the whole Parliament, or any sessional, select, or other committee of Parliament;

“contempt” includes any breach of privilege of Parliament and the commission of any offence mentioned in Part V;

“court” includes an Industrial Arbitration Court established, and any board of inquiry appointed, under the Industrial Relations Act (Cap. 136);

“journals” means the votes and proceedings of Parliament, the official reports or records of the proceedings thereof, and the minutes or records of the proceedings of any committee;

“Member” means a Member of Parliament and shall, where the context so admits, include the Speaker;

“officer of Parliament” means the Clerk or any Assistant Clerk of Parliament, the Serjeant-at-Arms and such other officers or persons as may be appointed to the

staff of Parliament, and includes any person employed temporarily in Parliament and any police officer acting under the orders of the Speaker, the Clerk or the Serjeant-at-Arms;

“Parliament” includes a committee and, where the context so admits, Parliament House and the precincts thereof;

“police officer” has the same meaning as in the Police Force Act (Cap. 235);

“Speaker” means the Speaker and, in his absence, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and includes any other Member when such other Member is presiding at a sitting of Parliament or a committee of the whole Parliament;

“Standing Orders” means the Standing Orders of Parliament for the time being in force;

“stranger” means any person who is not a Member or officer of Parliament.

PART II

GENERAL

Privileges, immunities and powers to be same as those of Commons House of Parliament of United Kingdom

3.—(1) The privileges, immunities and powers of Parliament and of the Speaker, Members and committees of Parliament shall be the same as those of the Commons House of Parliament of the United Kingdom and of its Speaker, Members or committees at the establishment of the Republic of Singapore.

[23/86]

(2) Such privileges, immunities and powers shall for all purposes be construed and have effect as if those privileges, immunities and powers were prescribed by this Act, and it shall not be necessary in any proceedings to plead the same but the same shall be judicially noticed in all the courts.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act, upon any inquiry touching the privileges, immunities and powers of Parliament or of the Speaker or of any Member or committee, any copy of the Journals of the Commons House of Parliament of the United Kingdom, or of any record or official report of the proceedings or debates thereof or of any committee thereof, which has been printed or purports to have been printed by the order or by the printer of the Commons House aforesaid, shall be admitted as evidence in all courts and places without proof of its being such copy or that such copy was so printed.