

**Republic of Singapore Independence Act
(CHAPTER RSI)**

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REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE INDEPENDENCE ACT

REVISED EDITION 1985

(Original Enactment: Act 9 of 1965)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

*An Act to make provision for the Government of Singapore consequent on her becoming an independent and sovereign republic separate from and independent of Malaysia.

* *Note:* This Act is kept for historical purposes in its unrevised form.

[9th August 1965]

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Republic of Singapore Independence Act 1965 and shall be deemed to have come into operation on the 9th day of August 1965 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as “Singapore Day”).

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless it is otherwise provided or the context otherwise requires —

“Head of State” means the President of Singapore;

“Legislature” or “Legislature of Singapore” means the President and the Parliament of Singapore;

“Singapore” means the Republic of Singapore.

Transfer of sovereignty and jurisdiction

3. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia shall with effect from Singapore Day

cease to be the Supreme Head of Singapore and his sovereignty and jurisdiction and power and authority, executive or otherwise, in respect of Singapore shall be relinquished and shall vest in the Head of State.

Exercise of executive powers

4. The executive authority of Singapore shall, on and after Singapore Day, be vested in the Head of State and shall be exercisable by him or by the Cabinet or by any Minister authorised by the Cabinet.

Transfer of legislative powers

5. The legislative powers of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and of the Parliament of Malaysia shall on Singapore Day cease to extend to Singapore and shall be transferred so as to vest in the Head of State and in the Legislature of Singapore respectively.

Continuance in force of provisions of the Constitution of Malaysia and exercise of powers thereunder

6.—(1) The provisions of the Constitution of Malaysia, other than those set out in subsection (3), shall continue in force in Singapore subject to such modifications, adaptations and qualifications and exceptions as may be necessary to bring them into conformity with the independent status of Singapore upon separation from Malaysia.

(2) The provisions of the Constitution of Malaysia referred to in subsection (1) may in their application to Singapore be amended by the Legislature.

(3) The following provisions of the Constitution of Malaysia shall cease to have effect in Singapore:

Part I; Article 13; Articles 14 to 18; Article 19A; Article 22; Articles 28 and 28A; Articles 30, 30A and 30B; Part IV; Part V; Part VI; Part VII; Part VIII; Articles 133 and 134; Article 139; Articles 141 to 143; Articles 146A to 148; Part XII; Part XIII; Part XIV; The Third, Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Thirteenth Schedules.*

* The following other provisions of the Constitution of Malaysia have also ceased to have effect in Singapore:

Part IX w.e.f. 9th January 1970, *vide* Act 19 of 1969;

Art. 137 w.e.f. 15th June 1972, *vide* Act 7 of 1972; and

Art 23 w.e.f. 4th May 1979, *vide* Act 10 of 1979.

(4) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sections 3, 4 and 5, the powers conferred by the provisions of the Constitution of Malaysia continued in force

under the provisions of subsection (1) shall be exercised on and after Singapore Day as follows:

- (a) the powers of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong shall be exercised by the President;
- (b) the powers of the Federal Government shall be exercised by the Government of Singapore;
- (c) the powers of the Federal Legislature shall be exercised by the Legislature of Singapore;
- (d) the powers of the Prime Minister of Malaysia shall be exercised by the Prime Minister of Singapore;
- (e) the powers of a Minister of Malaysia shall be exercised by the corresponding Minister in Singapore or by such Minister as may be designated by the Prime Minister of Singapore;
- (f) the powers of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission shall be exercised by a Legal Service Commission which shall consist of the following persons:
 - (i) the Chief Justice, as President;
 - (ii) the Attorney-General;
 - (iii) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission;
 - (iv) a Judge of the High Court nominated generally or specially by the Chief Justice; and
 - (v) not more than two members of the Public Service Commission nominated generally or specially by the Chairman of the Public Service Commission;
- (g) the powers of the Police Force Commission shall be exercised by the Public Service Commission;
- (h) the powers of the Lord President of the Federal Court shall be exercised by the Chief Justice of Singapore; and
- (i) the powers of the Attorney-General of Malaysia shall be exercised by the Attorney-General of Singapore.

(5) In this section, “amendment” includes addition and repeal.

Official languages and national language