



# THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

## FORESHORES ACT 1920

### 2020 REVISED EDITION

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# Foreshores Act 1920

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An Act to provide for reclamations and to validate and facilitate leases or grants of foreshores and submerged lands.

[28 November 1921]

### **Short title**

1. This Act is the Foreshores Act 1920.

### **Interpretation**

2. In this Act —

“lands” includes messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments of any tenure;

“port” means any port or place declared to be a port under the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Act 1996, and

includes all such navigable rivers and channels leading thereto as are declared to be part thereof;

“works” means any of the works and things mentioned in section 4.

[7/96]

**3. [Repealed by Act 16 of 2016]**

**Authority for Government to construct works and to reclaim foreshore or seabed**

**4.—**(1) The Government may —

- (a) construct quays, wharves, jetties or other public works along or out from the foreshore of Singapore or in the seabed adjacent thereto;
- (b) dredge the seabed; and
- (c) erect buildings upon any areas of land reclaimed from the sea in accordance with subsection (2).

(2) The Government may, subject to the approval of Parliament, reclaim any part of the foreshore or seabed of Singapore:

Provided that where the part of foreshore or seabed to be reclaimed does not exceed 8 hectares or, if the whole of that part is within port limits, 4 hectares, the approval of Parliament shall not be required and the Minister may authorise such reclamation.

**Declaration regarding reclaimed lands**

**5.—**(1) The President may, by proclamation published in the *Gazette*, declare any lands formed by the reclamation of any part of the foreshore of Singapore, or any areas of land reclaimed from the sea to be State land, and thereupon that land shall immediately vest in the State freed and discharged from all public and private rights which may have existed or been claimed over the foreshore or the seabed before the same were so reclaimed.

(2) All land declared to be State land under this section shall be subject to the State Lands Act 1920.

**Except as provided, no action to be brought in respect of any damage**

6. Except as provided by this Act, no person shall be entitled to claim, and no action or proceeding shall be brought, against the Government to recover any compensation in respect of any lands or of any interest therein which have been injuriously affected by the execution of the works.

**No right to compensation**

7.—(1) There shall, subject to subsection (2), be no right to compensation in respect of any lands or of any interest therein which may be injuriously affected whether on account of loss of sea frontage or for any other reason by the execution of the works.

(2) Any person, whose property has been damaged by the execution of the works, may appeal to the Minister, whose decision shall be final.

(3) The Minister may, in his discretion, in the case of an appeal, after inquiry by an officer appointed by him for the purpose —

- (a) authorise the payment of such sum as he may determine; or
- (b) direct the execution by the appropriate authority of such repairs as are necessary in the circumstances.

**Validation of former grants**

8. Where any lease or grant was, before 25 January 1901, made by the Governor of any land being part of the foreshore or seabed within the territorial waters of Singapore, and before that date the land had been reclaimed or wharves, docks, landing stages or other works or buildings had been erected thereon, the lease or grant shall be deemed to be a valid conveyance and to have conveyed the foreshore or seabed, thereby expressed to be demised or granted, free and discharged from all public rights which had existed or been claimed over that foreshore or seabed before the making of the grant or lease.