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GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 21st January 2014 and assented to by the President on 11th February 2014:—

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

No. 1 of 2014.

I assent.

TONY TAN KENG YAM,
President.
11th February 2014.



An Act to amend the Prisons Act (Chapter 247 of the 2000 Revised Edition) to make provision for the remission of sentences of imprisonment and for the better administration of prisons, and to make related amendments to certain other written laws.

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 Prisons (Amendment) Act 2014 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Prisons Act is amended —

(a) by inserting, immediately before the definition of “Corporation”, the following definitions:

“ “basic condition”, in relation to a remission order, means the basic condition specified in section 50S;

“Cluster Commander” means a Cluster Commander of Prisons appointed under section 20;

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Prisons appointed under section 20;”;

(b) by deleting the definitions of “Deputy Director” and “Director” and substituting the following definitions:

“ “default sentence” means a sentence of a term of imprisonment imposed on a person in default of the person paying a fine ordered to be paid by a court;

“Deputy Commissioner” means the Deputy Commissioner of Prisons appointed under section 20;

“Divisional Director” means a Divisional Director of Prisons appointed under section 20;

“external placement order” means an order made under section 59B in respect of a prisoner authorising the serving by the prisoner of his sentence in such place or places, outside the limits of any prison, as may be specified in the order;”;

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- (c) by deleting the words “Director, Deputy Director” in the definition of “prison officer” and substituting the words “Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner”;
- (d) by deleting the definition of “prisoner” and substituting the following definition:
- “ “prisoner” means any person, whether convicted or not, under detention in any prison or reformatory training centre or subject to an external placement order or a home detention order, but does not include a person released and at large under a remission order;”;
- (e) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “registered medical practitioner”, the following definition:
- “ “remission order” means a remission order made under any provision in Part VB;”;
- (f) by inserting, immediately after the definition of “Superintendent”, the following definition:
- “ “unlawfully at large”, in relation to a person released under a remission order, means a person who fails to submit himself to custody or detention after being required to do so under any written law, or who escapes from such custody or detention;”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 20

3. Section 20 of the Prisons Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Appointment of Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, etc.

20.—(1) The Minister may appoint a Commissioner of Prisons, a Deputy Commissioner of Prisons and one or more Divisional Directors, Cluster Commanders or Superintendents of Prisons, and such number of prison officers, as may be necessary for the proper administration of this Act.

(2) The appointment of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and of every Divisional Director, Cluster Commander and Superintendent shall be notified in the *Gazette*.

(3) The Deputy Commissioner and every Divisional Director and Cluster Commander may, subject to such direction as may be given by the Commissioner, exercise and perform all or any of the powers, duties and functions of the Commissioner under this Act; and any reference in this Act to the Commissioner shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be deemed to include a reference to the Deputy Commissioner, a Divisional Director or Cluster Commander acting in accordance with that direction.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 23

4. Section 23 of the Prisons Act is repealed and the following section substituted therefor:

“Commissioner, etc., may exercise powers of Superintendent

23.—(1) The Commissioner may exercise and perform all or any of the powers, duties and functions of the Superintendent under this Act.

(2) In addition, the Deputy Commissioner and any Divisional Director or Cluster Commander may, subject to such direction as may be given by the Commissioner, exercise and perform all or any of the powers, duties and functions of the Superintendent under this Act.”.

Amendment of section 34

5. Section 34(1) of the Prisons Act is amended —

- (a) by deleting the word “Director” and substituting the word “Commissioner”; and
- (b) by deleting the words “while the prisoners are transported to, or from, any prison and while the prisoners are at any place outside a prison”.

Amendment of section 50B

6. Section 50B of the Prisons Act is amended by deleting subsection (1) and substituting the following subsection:

“(1) For the purpose of assisting him in the discharge of his duties under this Act, the Commissioner, or any person authorised by the Commissioner, may employ such number of auxiliary police officers as the Commissioner or the authorised person considers fit as escorts or guards to ensure the safe custody of the lock-up prisoners who are under the custody of the Commissioner or the person authorised by the Commissioner, as the case may be.”.

New Part VB

7. The Prisons Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 50D, the following Part:

“PART VB**REMISSION OF SENTENCES***Division 1 — General***Purpose and application**

50E.—(1) This Part makes provision for the remission of sentences for the purpose of —

- (a) encouraging good conduct and industry by prisoners who are serving their sentences; and
 - (b) facilitating the rehabilitation of prisoners and their reintegration into society.
- (2) Nothing in this Part applies to prisoners committed for debt.

Prisoner entitled to be released when remission order made, etc.

50F.—(1) A prisoner shall be entitled to be released on the day —

- (a) a remission order is made in respect of him; or
- (b) his sentence of imprisonment is remitted.