

Compulsory Education Bill

Table of Contents

Bill No: 23/2000

Read the first time: 25th August 2000

Long Title

Enacting Formula

1 Short title and commencement

2 Interpretation

3 Compulsory primary education

4 Exemption

5 Establishment and constitution of Compulsory Education Board

6 Duties and powers of Board

7 Penalties

**8 No person to be charged for offence except on complaint of
Director-General of Education**

9 Composition of offences

10 Protection from personal liability

11 Operation of this Act not to affect Education Act

12 Regulations

Explanatory Statement

Expenditure of Public Money

Compulsory Education Bill

Bill No. 23/2000

Read the first time on 25th August 2000.

An Act to provide for compulsory primary education in Singapore and for matters connected therewith.

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 Compulsory Education Act 2000 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 —

“Board” means the Compulsory Education Board established under section 5;

“child of compulsory school age” means a child above the age of 6 years who has not yet attained the age of 15 years and who satisfies such conditions for receiving primary education as the Director-General may determine;

“Director-General” means the Director-General of Education, and includes such officers of the Ministry of Education as may from time to time be authorised to exercise the functions of the Director-General of Education under section 5 of the Education Act (Cap. 87);

“national primary school” means any institution for the provision of full-time primary education, being —

(a) a school organised and conducted directly by the Government;

- (b) a school in receipt of grant-in-aid under the Education Act or any regulations made thereunder;
- (c) a school specified in any order made under section 3(1) of the School Boards (Incorporation) Act (Cap. 284A); or
- (d) such other school as may be prescribed;

“parent”, in relation to a child to whom section 3(1) applies, includes a guardian and any person having the actual custody of the child;

“primary education” means a 6-year course of education normally commencing when a child has attained the age of 6 years.

Compulsory primary education

3.—(1) A child of compulsory school age who is —

- (a) born after 1st January 1996;
- (b) a citizen of Singapore; and
- (c) residing in Singapore,

shall attend regularly as a pupil at a national primary school.

(2) Where a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly as a pupil at a national primary school as required under subsection (1), each parent of the child shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) This section shall not apply —

- (a) to a child of compulsory school age for whom a parent presents within a reasonable time a prescribed reason to the satisfaction of the Director-General for the absence of the child at a national primary school; or
- (b) to a child of compulsory school age who is exempted under section 4.

Exemption

4.—(1) The Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette* and subject to such terms or conditions as he may impose, exempt any child of compulsory school age or class of children of compulsory school age from section 3.

(2) An exemption granted under this section may be revoked at any time.

Establishment and constitution of Compulsory Education Board

5.—(1) There shall be established a body to be known as the Compulsory Education