

# **Central Sikh Gurdwara Board Bill**

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**Bill No: 18/1981**

***Read the first time: 15th June 1981***

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### **Central Sikh Gurdwara Board Bill**

**Bill No. 18/1981**

*Read the first time on 15th June 1981.*

An Act to provide for the amalgamation of the Queen Street Gurdawara Board of Trustees (Incorporated) and the Silat Road Gurdwara Board of Trustees (Incorporated) into a single body corporate to be called the Central Sikh Gurdwara Board and for purposes connected therewith.

Whereas by the Queen Street Gurdawara Ordinance (Cap. 311, 1955 Ed.), a Board of Trustees was constituted under the name of the “Queen Street Gurdawara Board of

Trustees (Incorporated)”:

And whereas by the Silat Road Gurdwara Ordinance (Cap. 318, 1955 Ed.), a Board of Trustees was constituted under the name of the “Silat Road Gurdwara Board of Trustees (Incorporated)”:

And whereas it is expedient that the Queen Street Gurdawara Board of Trustees (Incorporated) and the Silat Road Gurdwara Board of Trustees (Incorporated) should be amalgamated in pursuance of the general desire of the Sikh Community and in particular of the congregations of the Queen Street and Silat Road Sikh Temples.

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 Central Sikh Gurdwara Board Act, 1981, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

### **Incorporation of the Board**

2.—(1) There shall be constituted in Singapore a body corporate under the name of the “Central Sikh Gurdwara Board” (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the Board).

(2) The Board may sue and be sued in its said name and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal which seal the Board may from time to time alter or make anew as it shall see fit to do.

(3) All deeds, documents and other instruments requiring the seal of the Board shall be sealed with the common seal of the Board in the presence of the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Board, and shall be signed by the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Board. Such signing shall be taken as sufficient evidence of the due sealing of such deeds, documents and other instruments.

### **Constitution of the Board**

3.—(1) The Board shall consist of —

(a) ten members to be appointed by the Minister; and

(b) fifteen elective members elected in accordance with subsection (2),

all of whose names shall be on the Membership Register.

(2) The elected members shall be elected by secret ballot biennially by persons whose names are on the Membership Register.

(3) No person shall be appointed or elected a member of the Board unless he is a citizen of Singapore.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the first members of the Board shall —

- (a) consist of twenty-five members all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister; and
- (b) hold office for a period of twelve months or for such extended period as the Minister may from time to time determine.

### **Officials of the Board**

4.—(1) The Board shall elect a President, a Treasurer and a Secretary and may elect such other officials as it may consider necessary, all of whom shall be from among the members of the Board except that no member of the Board shall hold office as a Treasurer for more than two years consecutively.

(2) The persons so elected under subsection (1) are in this Act referred to as officials of the Board.

### **Membership Register**

5. The Board shall maintain a Membership Register wherein shall be entered the names of persons who have made declarations that —

- (a) they profess the Sikh faith;
- (b) they are not less than twenty-one years of age; and
- (c) they are ordinarily resident in Singapore.

### **Vacation of office of member of Board, etc.**

6.—(1) Any member of the Board who is absent from Singapore for more than four months at a time without reasonable cause or otherwise becomes incapable of acting in his office, and any member of the Board who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board duly convened shall be deemed to have vacated his office.

(2) (a) Every appointed member of the Board shall hold office for a term of two years, but may continue in office until the appointment of his successor in office.

- (b) Every elected member of the Board shall hold office for a term of two years, but may continue in office until the election of his successor in office.

(3) Every appointed member and every elected member shall be eligible for re-appointment or re-election, as the case may be.

(4) If any member of the Board dies, resigns or is declared a bankrupt, or is deemed to have vacated his office in accordance with subsection (1) or is removed by the Minister under section 11, the vacancy so created shall be filled as soon as practicable in accordance with section 3 and every person so appointed or elected shall hold office for the residue of the term for which his predecessor was appointed or elected.

(5) Where the Board is of the opinion that it is not reasonably practicable to fill the vacancy of an elected member in accordance with section 3, the Board may, with the approval of the Minister, appoint a person whose name is on the Membership Register to fill the vacancy so created, and any person so appointed shall hold office for the residue of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

### **Duties of Board**

7.—(1) The Board shall act in accordance with the terms of resolutions passed at meetings of the Board. At any such meeting twelve members present shall form a quorum. No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the Board shall be bound by and shall give effect to any resolution that may be passed at any general meeting of persons whose names are on the Membership Register.

### **Meetings of the Board**

8.—(1) The President of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Board. If the President of the Board is not present at any meeting the members present at the meeting shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.

(2) Resolutions of the Board shall be in accordance with the votes of the majority of the members present. In the event of an equality of votes the President of the Board or the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote.

### **Board may exercise powers despite vacancy**

9. The Board may at all times exercise all its powers and carry out all its duties under this Act notwithstanding that there shall be any vacancy or vacancies in the membership of the Board.

### **Minutes**

10.—(1) The Secretary of the Board shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board and at every meeting the minutes of the previous meeting, which shall have been previously circulated to members of the Board, shall be confirmed, subject to any amendment which may be required.

(2) Such minutes shall be entered in the minute book of the Board and shall include a