

Parliamentary Pensions Bill

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Bill No: 1/1978

Read the first time: 31st January 1978

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Expenditure of Public Money

Parliamentary Pensions Bill

Bill No. 1/1978

Read the first time on 31st January 1978.

An Act to provide for the grant of pensions and gratuities in respect of service as Members of Parliament and as holders of ministerial and other offices and for purposes connected therewith, and to repeal the Parliamentary Pensions Act (Chapter 51 of the Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows: —

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Pensions Act, 1978, and shall come into operation on such date as the President may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Member” means a Member of Parliament;

“office” means the office of Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker, Senior Minister, Minister, Senior Minister of State, Minister of State, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Parliamentary Secretary or Political Secretary;

“office-holding Member” means a Member who holds or has held any office and includes a Speaker who is not an elected Member of Parliament;

“reckonable service”, in relation to service as a Member, means service on and after the 3rd day of June 1959, in Parliament as a Member of Parliament; and in relation to service in any office, means service on and after the 3rd day of June 1959, in that office.

(2) Where a Speaker is not, or has not been, an elected Member of Parliament for any period, the expression “salary” shall, for such period, mean the salary payable to him in respect of his service as Speaker.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, where for any period a person who is eligible for any pension or other benefit under this Act voluntarily refrains from receiving the whole or any part of any salary due to him in respect of the office held by him, then, in calculating his pension or benefit he shall, for such period, be deemed to have received the full salary to which he was entitled as holder of that office.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, where for any period a person, who is eligible for any pension or other benefit under this Act, is paid a salary which is less than the full salary of the office held by him by reason of the fact that his services in that office are performed on a part-time basis, then, in calculating his pension or benefit he shall, for such period, be deemed not to have received the full salary of that office but the actual amount of salary that he was paid.

PART II

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES FOR MEMBERS, MINISTERS AND OTHER

OFFICE-HOLDERS

Pensions in respect of service as Members

3.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person who, after the commencement of this Act, ceases at any time to be a Member may be granted a pension under this section if he has not less than nine years' reckonable service as a Member (whether continuously or not) and has attained the age of fifty years.

(2) The annual amount of pension payable to a Member shall be —

- (a) in respect of every completed year of reckonable service, at the rate of one-thirtieth ($1/30$) of his annual salary; and
- (b) in respect of any remaining uncompleted year of reckonable service, at the rate of one-three hundred and sixtieth ($1/360$) part of his annual salary for each completed month of reckonable service:

Provided that the annual pension payable to any Member shall not exceed two-thirds of his annual salary.

(3) Subject to sections 10 and 12, a pension under this section shall continue for the life of the person to whom it is payable but shall not be payable in respect of any period during which he is again a Member or is a candidate for election to Parliament; at the end of that period the pension shall again be payable and shall be recomputed under subsection (2) with the addition of any further period of reckonable service to the period of his former reckonable service as a Member.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (2), “annual salary” means the annual equivalent of the highest monthly rate of salary (excluding any non-pensionable allowances) received by a Member during any period of his service as a Member.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (3), a person who ceases to be a Member in consequence of the dissolution of Parliament shall be treated as a candidate for election from the date of such dissolution if he seeks re-election at the next general election.

Pensions in respect of service as Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker, Ministers and other office-holders

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person may be granted a pension under this section, in addition to any pension that may be granted to him under section 3, in respect of his reckonable service in any office if, after the commencement of this Act, he ceases at any time to hold office and has —

- (a) not less than eight years' reckonable service as an office-holding Member

(whether continuously or not); and

(b) attained the age of fifty years.

(2) The annual amount of pension payable to an office-holding Member shall be —

(a) in respect of every completed year of reckonable service in any office, or where he has served in more than one office in each office, at the rate of one-twenty-seventh ($1/27$) of his annual salary in that office; and

(b) in respect of any remaining uncompleted year of reckonable service in any office, or where he has served in more than one office in each office, at the rate of one-three hundred and twenty-fourth ($1/324$) part of his annual salary for each completed month of reckonable service in that office:

Provided that the annual pension payable to any office-holding Member shall not exceed two-thirds of the highest annual salary of any office held by him.

(3) Subject to sections 10 and 12, a pension granted under this section shall continue for the life of the person to whom it is payable but shall not be payable in respect of any period during which he is again an office-holding Member; at the end of that period the pension shall again be payable and shall be recomputed with the addition of that period to the period of his former reckonable service as an office-holding Member.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (2), “annual salary”, in relation to any office, means the annual equivalent of the highest monthly rate of salary (excluding any non-pensionable allowances) received by an office-holding Member during any period of reckonable service as a holder of that office.

Service in office, if less than eight years, to be counted as additional service for Member’s pension

5.—(1) This section shall apply to a Member who has served as an office-holding Member for any period which is less than the minimum period of reckonable service specified in section 4 to be eligible for a pension under that section.

(2) The period of service of a Member to whom this section applies shall, for the purposes of determining his eligibility and of computing the amount of the pension payable to him under subsections (1) and (2) of section 3, be deemed to be increased by such period as may be determined in accordance with the following provisions: —

(a) for every year of reckonable service as Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker, Senior Minister or Minister there shall be added to his period of service one and one-half years of reckonable service as a Member;