

Pawnbrokers (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 7/1977

Read the first time: 27th May 1977

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Pawnbrokers (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 7/1977

Read the first time on 27th May 1977.

An Act to amend the Pawnbrokers Act (Chapter 222 of the Revised Edition).

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

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Pawnbrokers (Amendment) Act, 1977, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

(2) The Minister may appoint different dates for the coming into operation of the different provisions of this Act.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Pawnbrokers Act is hereby amended —

- (a) by deleting the definition of “Board” appearing therein; and
- (b) by inserting immediately after the definition of “pledge” appearing therein the following new definition: —

“ “Registrar” means the Registrar of Pawnbrokers appointed under the provisions of section 7 of this Act;”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 7

3. Section 7 of the Pawnbrokers Act is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor: —

“Appointment of Registrar and Assistant Registrars

7.—(1) The Minister may appoint a Registrar of Pawnbrokers and such number of Assistant Registrars of Pawnbrokers and other officers as he may consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of this Act.

(2) An Assistant Registrar shall have and may exercise all the powers conferred on the Registrar by this Act subject to such limitations as the Registrar sees fit to impose.”.

Amendment of section 8

4. Section 8 of the Pawnbrokers Act is hereby amended by deleting the word “Board” wherever it appears therein and substituting therefor in each case the word “Registrar”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 9

5. Section 9 of the Pawnbrokers Act is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor: —

“Conditions subject to which licences may be issued

9.—(1) No licence shall be issued by the Registrar to a pawnbroker in respect of any premises unless the Registrar is satisfied —

- (a) that the applicant is of good character and is a fit and proper person to carry on the business of pawnbroking;
- (b) that the premises to be licensed are structurally adapted for use as a pawnbroker's shop and are in all other respects suitable for that purpose;
- (c) that the premises will not be used for the conduct or transaction of any business other than that of pawnbroking; and
- (d) that the applicant has deposited with the Accountant-General a sum of five thousand dollars as security for the proper conduct of his business under the licence.

(2) The Registrar may in his discretion refuse to issue or renew a licence in respect of any applicant or any premises without assigning any reason therefor.”.

New sections 9A and 9B

6. The Pawnbrokers Act is hereby amended by inserting immediately after section 9 thereof the following new sections: —

“Power of Registrar to cancel licence

9A.—(1) The Registrar may cancel a licence and forfeit the whole or such part of the money deposited with the Accountant-General under paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 9 of this Act as the Registrar may think fit if he is satisfied that —

- (a) the licensed pawnbroker's shop is being conducted in an improper or unsatisfactory manner; or
- (b) the licensee has been convicted of an offence under this Act; or
- (c) the licensee has failed to comply with any of the conditions upon which the licence was issued; or
- (d) since the issue of the licence, the licensee or the premises has ceased to comply with any of the requirements set out in subsection (1) of section 9 of this Act.

(2) The Registrar shall, before cancelling a licence and forfeiting any money under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, give the licensee concerned notice in writing of his intention to do so specifying a date, not less than fourteen days after the date of the notice, upon which such cancellation and forfeiture shall be made and calling upon the licensee to show cause to the Registrar why his