

Nurses and Midwives Bill

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Bill No: 14/1975

Read the first time: 3rd March 1975

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Expenditure of Public Money

Nurses and Midwives Bill

Bill No. 14/1975

Read the first time on 3rd March 1975.

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the registration and enrolment of nurses and midwives; and for other 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 Nurses and Midwives Act, 1975 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 Singapore Nursing Board established under section 3;
- “enrolled nurse” means a nurse whose name is included in any part of the roll of nurses;
- “register” means the register of nurses or the register of midwives maintained in pursuance of section 5, as the case may be, or both the register of nurses and the register of midwives;
- “registered midwife” means a midwife whose name is included in the register of midwives;
- “registered nurse” means a nurse whose name is included in any part of the register of nurses;
- “Registrar” means the Registrar of the Board appointed under section 4;
- “roll” means the roll of nurses maintained in pursuance of paragraph (b) of section 5, and “enrolled” shall be construed accordingly.

Establishment and constitution of Singapore Nursing Board

3.—(1) There shall be established a body to be called the “Singapore Nursing Board” which shall have such powers and duties as are conferred or imposed on it by the provisions of this Act.

(2) The Board shall consist of —

- (a) the Director of Medical Services who shall be the Chairman of the Board;
- (b) the Director of Education or his representative;
- (c) the Deputy Director of Medical Services (Hospitals);
- (d) the Deputy Director of Medical Services (Health);
- (e) the Chief Nursing Officer;
- (f) the Principal Nursing Officer (Tutor);
- (g) a Principal Nursing Officer in the service of the Government to be appointed by the Minister;
- (h) five persons who are registered nurses, one of whom shall be a Higher Nursing Officer (Tutor) in general nursing, to be appointed by the Minister;
- (i) two persons who are registered midwives, one of whom shall be a Higher Nursing Officer (Tutor) in midwifery, to be appointed by the Minister; and

(j) three other persons to be appointed by the Minister.

(3) The provisions of the Schedule shall have effect with respect to the Board.

Appointment of Registrar

4. The Minister shall appoint a Registrar of the Board who shall be responsible for the preparation, maintenance and custody of the register and the roll and who shall act as secretary to the Board.

Duties of the Board

5. It shall be the duty of the Board —

- (a) to maintain, in accordance with the regulations made in that behalf by the Board, a register of nurses which shall consist of the names of all nurses who satisfy the conditions of admission thereto;
- (b) to maintain, in accordance with the regulations made in that behalf by the Board, a roll of nurses which shall consist of the names of all nurses who satisfy the conditions of admission thereto;
- (c) to maintain, in accordance with the regulations made in that behalf by the Board, a register of midwives which shall consist of the names of all midwives who satisfy the conditions of admission thereto;
- (d) to provide for the training, education and examination, by the Board or by any other body, of persons seeking to be registered or enrolled as nurses or registered as midwives;
- (e) to determine and set the syllabus, the contents of courses of instruction and examinations leading to the qualifications of persons as registered or enrolled nurses or as registered midwives; and
- (f) to regulate, maintain and improve the standards of practice and conduct of nurses and midwives.

General provisions as to admission to the register and the roll

6.—(1) The Board shall make regulations for regulating the conditions of admission to the register and to the roll respectively and the conduct of any examinations which may be prescribed as a condition of admission thereto and any matters ancillary to or connected with any such examinations, and any such regulations may contain provisions —

- (a) requiring, as a condition of the admission of any person to the register or the roll, that that person shall have undergone the prescribed training, and

shall possess the prescribed experience, in nursing or midwifery;

- (b) requiring that the prescribed training shall be carried out in an institution approved by the Board in that behalf; and
- (c) requiring, as a condition of the admission of any person to the register or the roll, that that person shall prove to the satisfaction of the Board that she is of good character.

(2) There shall be paid to the Board in respect of every application to be examined or to be registered or enrolled under this Act such fees respectively as the Board may, with the approval of the Minister, from time to time determine.

General provisions as to the register and the roll

7.—(1) Each entry in the register or the roll shall include, with respect to the person to whom the entry relates, an indication of the grounds upon which she became entitled to be registered or enrolled as a nurse or registered as a midwife under this Act or any previous written law.

(2) The Registrar shall as soon as may be after the 1st day of January of every year prepare and publish in the *Gazette* a list of the names, addresses and qualifications of all persons whose names appear in the register and the roll on the 1st day of January immediately preceding the publication of the list in the *Gazette*.

(3) The publication of such a list shall be prima facie evidence that the persons named therein are registered or enrolled as nurses or registered as midwives, as the case may be.

(4) The absence of the name of any person from the list shall be prima facie evidence that that person is not a registered or enrolled nurse or registered midwife, as the case may be.

(5) A certificate under the hand of the Registrar that the name of any person has been entered in or removed from the register or the roll shall be conclusive evidence that that person is or is not a registered or enrolled nurse or registered midwife, as the case may be.

Removal from the register or the roll

8.—(1) The Board may by order remove the name of any nurse or midwife from the register or the roll if the Board is satisfied that that nurse or midwife —

- (a) has failed to pay any prescribed annual fee; or
- (b) has obtained registration or enrolment by any fraudulent or incorrect statement; or