

Statistics Bill

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Bill No: 39/1973

Read the first time: 11th July 1973

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Statistics Bill

Bill No. 39/1973

Read the first time on 11th July 1973.

An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to statistics and to repeal the Statistics Act (Chapter 299 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. This Act may be cited as the Statistics Act, 1973, 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 —

“Minister” means the Minister for Finance;

“requisition” means a requisition issued under section 4.

Statistics Department and Statistics Units

3.—(1) This Act shall apply to the Statistics Department and such other Research and Statistics Units as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, specify for the purpose of the collection, preparation and publication of statistics relating to any of the subjects specified in the First Schedule.

(2) The Statistics Department shall be under the control and management of a Chief Statistician and of such other officers as the Minister may appoint.

(3) A Research and Statistics Unit shall be under the control and management of a Director and of such other officers as the appropriate Minister responsible for the Unit may appoint.

Power of Chief Statistician, Director of Research and Statistics Unit and other competent authorities to issue requisition for information

4.—(1) For the purpose of obtaining statistical information, it shall be lawful for the Chief Statistician, the Director of a Research and Statistics Unit and any other competent authority specified in the Second Schedule, to issue a requisition to any person to furnish particulars and supply information to him relating to any matter to which this Act applies, and every such person is bound to furnish particulars and supply information to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(2) A requisition shall be in writing and shall be served upon the person to whom it is addressed in the manner specified in section 9 and shall specify the particulars of information required.

(3) A requisition may —

- (a) specify the form in which and the time within which the particulars and information are to be furnished;
- (b) require the particulars and information to be furnished periodically at or within such time or times and in such form or forms as are specified in the requisition; and
- (c) specify the place or manner at or in which the particulars and information are to be delivered.

(4) No person is bound to furnish any particulars or information other than those which are accessible to him in or derived by him from any business, occupation or work in the conduct or supervision of which he is engaged.

Disclosure of information

5.—(1) No particulars or information or any part thereof relating to any individual person obtained under the provisions of this Act shall, without the previous consent in writing of that person, be disclosed except —

- (a) compiled statistics on the operation of an industry may be published irrespective of the number of persons engaged in that industry unless the industry is exempted by the Minister responsible for the Government

department or ministry in possession of such particulars from having its data published;

- (b) where the disclosure can be made without identifying the individual person and an appropriate time, in the opinion of the Minister responsible for the Government department or ministry in possession of such particulars, has elapsed;
- (c) for the purposes of any proceedings for an offence under this Act or any report of those proceedings; or
- (d) information of a general nature including products manufactured or handled, size of establishment, number of employees and addresses, which could be obtained from other sources.

(2) It is the duty of the Minister responsible for the Government department or ministry issuing any requisition under this Act to have due regard to the circumstances of various trades and industries and in particular to the importance of avoiding the disclosure in any return of any trade secret or of trading profits or of any other information the disclosure of which would be likely to tend to the prejudice of the person furnishing the return.

(3) If any information to be obtained under this Act is also obtainable under any other written law which restricts the disclosure of information obtained thereunder, and the Minister is of the opinion that similar restrictions should be applied to any information to be obtained under this Act, the Minister shall by order provide for the application, without modifications or with such adaptations or modifications as he thinks fit, of those restrictions to the information to be so obtained, or any part thereof, in addition to the restrictions imposed by this section.

(4) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (3) if it appears to the Minister that the nature of the information to be obtained under this Act would make it desirable to impose restrictions on the disclosure of the information additional to the restrictions imposed by this section, the Minister may by order prohibit the disclosure of such information, or any part thereof, except to such persons or for such purposes as may be specified in the order.

(5) The compilation of any report, summary or other communication to the public of information obtained under this Act shall be so arranged as to prevent any particulars published therein from being identified as being particulars relating to any individual person except with the previous consent in writing of that person.

(6) If any person discloses any returns or any information contrary to the provisions of this section, or of any order made thereunder, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment