

National Maritime Board Bill

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Bill No: 18/1972

Read the first time: 16th March 1972

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National Maritime Board Bill

Bill No. 18/1972

Read the first time on 16th March 1972.

An Act to establish the National Maritime Board to perform the functions of the Seafarers' Welfare Board, the Seamen's Registry Board, the Singapore Mariners' Club and the Singapore Sailors' Institute and to repeal section 114 of the Merchant Shipping Act (Chapter 172), the Seafarers' Welfare Board Act (Chapter 319), the Singapore Mariners' Club Act (Chapter 322), the Seamen's Registry Board Act (Chapter 174), the Singapore Sailors' Institute Incorporation Ordinance (Chapter 321 of the 1955 Revised Edition) and for matters incidental thereto.

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 National Maritime Board Act, 1972, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

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

“Board” means the National Maritime Board established under section 3 of this Act;

“employer” includes the shipowner, charterer or operator, the agent of the shipowner, charterer or operator, the master of the ship and the consular officer of a country represented in Singapore who has received permission in writing from the Board to engage seamen, individually or severally, as the case may be;

“seafarer” means any person normally engaged on articles or agreement on any vessel plying beyond the limits of any port or place declared by the Minister to be a port under the Port of Singapore Authority Act (Cap. 173), and includes masters and apprentices;

“seamen” means any person normally engaged on ship's articles on any vessel going beyond the limits of any port, or place declared to be a port, from time to time by the Minister under section 3 of the Port of Singapore Authority Act, except —

(a) masters, mates, engineers, radio officers, pursers, cadets, chinchews,

compradores, or any member of the chinchew or compradore staff, laundrymen and stevedores;

- (b) probationer deckhands, probationer engineroom hands, and probationer catering hands under any training scheme approved by the Minister; and
- (c) any other person employed on board the vessel who is engaged in duties which are not normally the duties of seamen;

“Singapore Mercantile Marine Fund” means the account kept in the Treasury under that name until the date of the coming into operation of this Act in accordance with the provisions of subsection (8) of section 347 of the Merchant Shipping Act (Cap. 172).

(2) In any written law or any document whatsoever all references to the Singapore Sailors’ Institute, the Seamen’s Registry Board, the Singapore Mariners’ Club, the Seafarers’ Welfare Board and the Seamen’s Lodging-Houses Licensing Authority shall be construed as references to the National Maritime Board constituted under this Act.

Establishment and incorporation of National Maritime Board

3. There is hereby established a body to be known as the “National Maritime Board” which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession, and with power to sue and be sued in its corporate name and to perform such other acts as bodies corporate may by law perform, and to exercise such other powers as are conferred upon it by virtue of this Act.

Constitution and proceedings of the Board

4.—(1) The Board shall consist of —

- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) the Director of Marine;
- (c) the Director of Social Welfare;
- (d) two persons representing shipowners;
- (e) two persons representing seamen;
- (f) two public servants,

all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister.

(2) The Chairman and other members of the Board shall hold office for such term not exceeding three years as the Minister may think fit, and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(3) In the absence of the Chairman the Minister shall appoint the Director of Marine or one of the two public servants mentioned in paragraph (f) of subsection (1) of this section to be temporary Chairman and the temporary Chairman shall have and exercise all the powers and functions of the Chairman.

(4) The Minister may appoint any suitable person to be a temporary member of the Board during the absence or incapacity owing to illness or otherwise of the member of the Board.

(5) The Minister may at any time revoke the appointment of the Chairman or any other member of the Board.

(6) The quorum at all meetings of the Board shall be four members present.

(7) The Chairman, or in his absence the temporary Chairman, shall preside at meetings of the Board.

(8) A decision of the majority of the members of the Board present at a meeting of the Board shall be deemed to be a decision of the Board.

(9) In the event of the votes for and against any question being equal, the Chairman or in his absence the temporary Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his original vote.

(10) Subject to the provisions of subsection (6) of this section, the Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership.

(11) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board may make rules for the conduct of its proceedings.

Appointment of committees and delegation of powers

5.—(1) The Board may, in its discretion, appoint from among its own members or from among other persons who are not members of the Board such number of committees for purposes which, in the opinion of the Board, would be better regulated and managed by means of such committees.

(2) The Board may, subject to such conditions or restrictions as it thinks fit, delegate to any such committee or the Chairman any of the powers, functions and duties by this Act vested in the Board, and any power, function or duty as delegated may be exercised or performed by such committee or the Chairman, as the case may be, in the name and on behalf of the Board.

(3) The Board may, subject to such conditions or restrictions as it thinks fit, delegate to any employee thereof all or any of the Board's functions and duties by this Act vested in the Board, and any power, function or duty as delegated may be exercised or performed by such employee in the name and on behalf of the Board.