

Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill

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Bill No: 69/1965

Read the first time: 23rd December 1965

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Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 69/1965

Read the first time on 23rd December 1965.

An Act to amend the Trade Unions Ordinance (*Chapter 154 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 Trade Unions (Amendment) Act, 1965, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Trade Unions Ordinance (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Ordinance”) is hereby amended by deleting the definitions of “executive” and “officer” appearing therein and substituting therefor in their appropriate places the following: —

““executive” means the body, by whatever name called, to which the management of the affairs of a trade union or of any branch thereof is entrusted;

“officer”, when used with reference to a trade union, includes any member of the executive thereof and any member of any committee, provision for which is made in the rules of the trade union, but does not include an auditor;”.

New section 24A

3. The Ordinance is hereby amended by inserting immediately after section 24 thereof the following new section: —

“Strike and lock-out

24A.—(1) A registered trade union shall not commence, promote, organise or finance any strike or lock-out or any form of industrial action without the consent of the majority of the members thereof, which consent shall be obtained by taking a secret ballot of the members of such registered trade union.

(2) Any registered trade union which, and every member of its executive who, contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence under this Ordinance and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding two thousand

dollars.

(3) In any proceedings for an offence under this section, the onus of proving that the requirements specified in subsection (1) have been complied with shall be on the registered trade union or the member of its executive, as the case may be.

(4) For the purposes of this section, “industrial action” means any action aimed at retarding, obstructing, limiting or reducing the normal progress of work in any occupation, service, trade, industry or business and includes the performance of work or the adoption of a practice, procedure or method, where the result would be a limitation on output or production, or a tendency to limit or restrict output or production.”.

Repeal and re-enactment of section 26

4. Section 26 of the Ordinance is hereby repealed and the following substituted therefor: —

“Officers of trade union

26.—(1) A person shall not act as an officer of a trade union or any branch thereof, and shall be disqualified for election as such officer, if —

- (a) he is not a citizen of Singapore; or
- (b) he has been convicted by any court of criminal breach of trust, extortion or criminal intimidation, or of any offence which in the opinion of the Minister renders him unfit to be an officer of a trade union:

Provided that the provisions of paragraph (b) shall not apply where the Minister is satisfied that the person so convicted has reformed and has become fit to be an officer of a trade union.

(2) Not less than two-thirds of the total number of the officers of every registered trade union shall be persons actually engaged or employed in any trade, occupation or industry with which the trade union is connected.”.

New sections 26A and 26B

5. The Ordinance is hereby amended by inserting immediately after section 26 thereof the following new sections: —

“Employees of a trade union