

**Societies Act
(CHAPTER 311)**

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SOCIETIES ACT

(CHAPTER 311)

(Original Enactment: Act 56 of 1966)

REVISED EDITION 2014

(28th February 2014)

An Act relating to societies.

[27th January 1967]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Societies Act.

Interpretation

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

“Assistant Registrar” means an Assistant Registrar of Societies appointed under section 3;

“officer” means the president, the secretary and members of the committee of a society and includes persons holding positions analogous to those of president, secretary or member of a committee;

“place of business” means the place where the records and books of account of a society are kept;

“political association” includes any society which the Minister may by order declare to be a political association;

“registered society” means a society registered or deemed to be registered under this Act;

“Registrar” means the Registrar of Societies appointed under section 3;

“society” includes any club, company, partnership or association of 10 or more persons, whatever its nature or object, but does not include —

- (a) any company registered under any written law relating to companies for the time being in force in Singapore;
- (b) any company or association constituted under any written law;
- (ba) any limited liability partnership registered under the Limited Liability Partnerships Act (Cap. 163A);
- (c) any trade union registered or required to be registered under any written law relating to trade unions for the time being in force in Singapore;
- (d) any co-operative society registered as such under any written law;
- (e) any mutual benefit organisation registered as such under any written law relating to mutual benefit organisations for the time being in force in Singapore;
- (f) any company, association or partnership, consisting of not more than 20 persons, formed for the sole purpose of carrying on any lawful business that has for its object the acquisition of gain by the company, association or partnership, or the individual members

thereof;

- (fa) any class, society or association of foreign insurers carrying on insurance business in Singapore under any foreign insurer scheme established under Part IIA of the Insurance Act (Cap. 142); or
- (g) any school or management committee of a school constituted under any law regulating schools for the time being in force in Singapore.

[41/2001; 15/2004; 5/2005]

Appointment of Registrar and Assistant Registrars

3. The Minister may appoint by name or office a Registrar of Societies and such Assistant Registrars as may be necessary.

Registration of specified societies and refusal to register

4.—(1) Subject to this section, the Registrar shall upon application by any society specified in the Schedule (referred to in this Act as a specified society) and on payment of the prescribed fee register the society.

[15/2004]

(2) The Registrar shall refuse to register a specified society if he is satisfied that —

- (a) the rules of the specified society are insufficient to provide for its proper management and control;
- (b) the specified society is likely to be used for unlawful purposes or for purposes prejudicial to public peace, welfare or good order in Singapore;
- (c) the application for registration does not comply with the provisions of this Act or any regulations made thereunder;
- (d) it would be contrary to the national interest for the specified society to be registered; or
- (e) in the case of any specified society which is a political association, its rules do not provide for its membership to be confined to citizens of Singapore or it has such affiliation or connection with any organisation outside Singapore as is considered by the Registrar to be contrary to the national interest.

[15/2004]

(3) The Registrar may refuse to register a specified society if —

- (a) he is satisfied that the specified society is a branch of or is affiliated to or connected with any society which has been dissolved under section 24 or under any previous written law relating to societies or which has been