# Interpretation Act (CHAPTER 1)

**Table of Contents** 

**Long Title** 

1 Short title

## Part I GENERAL PROVISIONS OF INTERPRETATION

- 2 Interpretation of certain words and expressions
- 2A Criteria for determining death

## Part II GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING WRITTEN LAW

- 3 Acts to be public Acts
- 4 Acts to be divided into sections without introductory words
- **5** Schedules
- 6 Subdivisions of Acts
- 7 Forms
- 7A Examples and illustrations
- 8 Mode of citing Acts
- 9 Construction in an Act of references to sections, etc.
- 9A Purposive interpretation of written law and use of extrinsic materials
- 10 Time of commencement of written law

- 11 Effect of repeal of Act on subsidiary legislation made thereunder
- 12 Repeal of repealing laws
- 13 Repeal of amended law to include amendments
- 14 Repeal and substitution
- 15 References to amended and re-enacted provisions
- 16 Effect of repeal
- 17 Construction of amending Act
- 18 Effect of expiration of written law

## **Part III SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION**

- 19 General provisions with respect to power given to any authority to make subsidiary legislation
- 20 Additional provisions as to subsidiary legislation
- 21 Use of defined terms in subsidiary legislation
- 22 Anticipatory exercise of powers
- 23 Commencement of subsidiary legislation
- 24 Judicial notice of subsidiary legislation
- 25 Construction of amending subsidiary legislation
- 26 Acts done under subsidiary legislation to be deemed to be done under Act
- 26A Reference to Act to include subsidiary legislation

#### Part IV POWERS AND APPOINTMENTS

- 27 Construction of provisions as to exercise of powers and duties
- 28 Power to appoint includes power to dismiss
- 29 Construction of enabling words
- 30 Appointment of officers by name or office
- 31 Official designation to include officer executing duties
- 32 Appointments having retrospective effect
- 32A Power of majority, quorum, etc., of board, etc.
- 33 Powers of board, etc., not affected by vacancy, etc.
- 34 Signification of orders, etc., of President
- 35 Signification of orders, etc., of Minister
- 36 Delegation of powers of Minister
- 37 Signing of documents

## **Part V PENAL PROVISIONS**

- 38 Attempt to commit an offence to be deemed an offence
- 39 Imposition of penalty not a bar to civil action
- 40 Provisions as to offences under 2 or more laws
- 41 Penalties prescribed to be deemed maximum penalties

#### Part VI MISCELLANEOUS

42 Powers of President, Minister or other authority to appoint public officer to serve on board and to appoint chairman

- 43 Prima facie evidence of signature
- 44 Public officers
- 45 Act for which payment is required need not be performed until payment is made
- 46 Fees or charges may be prescribed and may be reduced, varied, remitted or refunded
- 47 Proceedings not to abate on death, etc., of official
- 48 Gazette to be evidence of matters therein
- **48A Service of documents**
- 49 Measurement of distance
- 50 Computation of time
- 51 Standard time
- 52 Provision when no time prescribed
- 53 Construction of power of extending time
- 54 Saving of rights of Government
- 55 Act to bind Government

**Legislative History** 

**Comparative Table** 

## INTERPRETATION ACT

## (CHAPTER 1)

(Original Enactment: Act 10 of 1965)

#### **REVISED EDITION 2002**

(31st December 2002)

An Act to define certain terms and expressions used in written law and to make provision for the construction, interpretation and publication of written law and for matters connected therewith.

[28th December 1965]

PDF created date on: 27 Feb 2022

#### Short title

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

#### PART I

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF INTERPRETATION

## Interpretation of certain words and expressions

- 2.—(1) In this Act, and in every written law enacted before or after 28th December 1965, the following words and expressions shall, without prejudice to anything done prior to that date, have the meanings respectively assigned to them unless there is something in the subject or context inconsistent with such construction or unless it is therein otherwise expressly provided:
  - "abet", with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, has the same meaning as in the Penal Code (Cap. 224);
  - "Accountant-General" means the Accountant-General of Singapore;
  - "act", in relation to an offence or civil wrong, includes a series of acts, and words which refer to acts done shall be construed as extending to illegal omissions;
  - "Act" or "Act of Parliament" means an Act of the Parliament of Singapore and includes any Ordinance or Act of Singapore or Malaysia having the force of law in Singapore; and "Act", when used in any subsidiary legislation, means the Act under the authority of which the subsidiary legislation was made;
  - "advocate" and "advocate and solicitor" mean an advocate and solicitor of the