

**National Maritime Board Act
(CHAPTER 198)**

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Legislative History

NATIONAL MARITIME BOARD ACT

(CHAPTER 198)

(Original Enactment: Act 21 of 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 for matters incidental thereto.

[1st January 1973]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the National Maritime Board Act.

Interpretation

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

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

“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. 236], 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.

- (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 Board

4.—(1) The Board shall consist of the following members:

- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) the Director of Marine;
- (c) a member representing the Department of Social Welfare;
- (d) a member representing the Republic of Singapore Navy;
- (e) two members representing shipowners;
- (f) two members representing seamen; and
- (g) two other members,

all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister.

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(2) The Chairman and other members of the Board shall hold office for such term not exceeding 3 years as the Minister may think fit, and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(3) If by reason of illness, leave of absence or other cause, the Chairman is unable to exercise his powers and functions under this Act, the Director of Marine shall exercise 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 office of the Chairman and a member of the Board shall be vacated if he —

- (a) dies;

- (b) resigns his office by writing under his hand delivered to the Minister;
- (c) becomes a mentally disordered person within the meaning of the Mental Disorders and Treatment Act [Cap. 178];
- (d) is adjudicated a bankrupt;
- (e) has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, fraud or moral turpitude; or
- (f) fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the Board without leave of the Board,

and the vacancy thereby created shall be deemed to be a casual vacancy.

(7) Any casual vacancy in the office of a member may be filled by the appointment of a member in place of the vacating member in accordance with whichever paragraph of subsection (1) as is appropriate; and the member appointed to fill any casual vacancy shall hold office for only the residue of his predecessor's term of office.

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(8) The quorum at all meetings of the Board shall be 5 members present.

(9) The Chairman, or in his absence the Director of Marine, shall preside at meetings of the Board.

(10) 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.

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

(12) Subject to subsection (8), the Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership.

(13) 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 those 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