



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

MONEYLENDERS ACT 2008

2020 REVISED EDITION

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021.

Prepared and Published by

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT 1983

Informal Consolidation – version in force from 25/11/2024

Moneylenders Act 2008

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Section

1. Short title and commencement
2. Interpretation
3. Persons presumed to be moneylenders
4. Appointment of Registrar, etc.

PART 2

LICENSING OF MONEYLENDERS

5. No moneylending except under licence, etc.
6. Renewal of licences
7. Licensees to be companies
8. Other grounds for refusing to issue or renew licence, etc.
9. Licence fee
10. Revocation or suspension of licence
11. Approval of places of business
12. Forfeiture of security deposit
13. Approval before employing or engaging assistant, etc.
14. Approval, notification and submission of information relating to person taking part in management, etc.
15. Approval of change in business name
16. Notification of certain events
17. Approval concerning substantial shareholding
18. Publication of lists
19. Unlicensed moneylending
20. Other offences under this Part

PART 2A

FREEZING OF PROCEEDS OF UNLICENSED MONEYLENDING

21. Interpretation of this Part
22. Proceeds of unlicensed moneylending

Section

23. Order specifying proceeds of unlicensed moneylending
24. Orders: further provisions
25. Freezing proceeds of unlicensed moneylending
26. Exception
27. Circumvention of section 25
28. Licences

PART 3

REGULATION OF BUSINESS OF MONEYLENDING, ENFORCEMENT
AND PROCEEDINGS

29. Regulation of advertising and marketing, etc.
30. Prohibition of unsolicited loans
31. Signage at place of business
32. Licensees to inform borrowers of terms of loan
33. Note of moneylender's contract to be given to borrower
34. Provision of statements of account, loan documents and receipts
35. Charges other than permitted fees unenforceable
36. Maximum rate of interest and late interest
37. Reopening of certain transactions
38. Accounts, etc., to be kept and submissions to Registrar
39. Audit of licensee's accounts
40. Powers of auditor appointed by Registrar
41. Restriction on right to communicate certain matters relating to audit of licensee's accounts
42. Offence to destroy, conceal, etc., records to prevent, delay, etc., audit of licensee's accounts
43. Power to inspect, and require information or documents
44. Power to obtain information from Comptroller of Income Tax
45. General power to issue directions
46. False statements or representations to induce borrowing an offence
47. Harassing borrower, etc.
48. Abetment of section 47
49. Offences involving minors below 16
50. Offence of providing false contact information
51. Special provisions relating to non-resident principal
52. Powers of police officer
53. Public Prosecutor's power to order inspection of customer information

PART 3A

COLLECTION, USE AND DISCLOSURE OF BORROWER
INFORMATION AND DATA*Division 1 — General*

Section

54. Interpretation of this Part

55. Application of this Part

*Division 2 — Designation of designated credit bureau and
cancellation of designation*

56. Designation, etc., of designated credit bureau

57. Functions of designated credit bureau

58. Cancellation of designation by Registrar

59. Application by designated credit bureau to cancel designation

Division 3 — Control of designated credit bureau

60. Power to issue directions

61. Registrar's control over designated credit bureau

62. Assumption of control

63. Other provisions concerning assumption of control

64. Responsibilities of directors, officers, etc., of designated credit bureau during period of control

65. Remuneration and expenses of statutory manager

*Division 4 — Duties of licensees in relation to borrower
information and data, etc.*

66. Duties to obtain and submit borrower information, etc., before granting loan

66A. Obtaining, etc., information and requesting credit report in relation to surety

67. Credit report to be disposed of or kept by licensee

68. Duty to submit information of repayments and instalments

69. Duty to maintain confidentiality of borrower information

70. Duty to maintain security and integrity of borrower information, etc.

71. Duty to correct borrower information

72. Duty to submit borrower information to Registrar

73. Duties under this Part applicable in relation to persons with revoked or expired licences

Division 5 — Duties of designated credit bureau in relation to borrower information and data, etc.

Section

- 74. Production of credit reports and charging of fees, etc.
- 74A. Business report in relation to licensee
- 75. Duties relating to borrower information
- 76. Duty to maintain security and integrity of data
- 77. Duty to provide loan information report
- 77A. Disposal of report delivered in error
- 78. Correction of data, etc., on request
- 79. Obligation to notify Registrar of certain events
- 80. Obligation to provide information to Registrar

Division 6 — Disclosure to public agencies

- 81. Disclosure of borrower information and data to public agencies
- 81A. Registrar may share information pursuant to data sharing direction

Division 7 — Audit of designated credit bureau

- 82. Audit of designated credit bureau's accounts
- 83. Powers of auditor appointed by Registrar
- 84. Restriction on auditor's and employee's right to communicate certain matters
- 85. Offence to destroy, conceal, alter, etc., records

PART 4

MISCELLANEOUS

- 86. Certain offences arrestable and non-bailable
 - 87. Jurisdiction of court
 - 88. Examination of offenders
 - 89. Offences by bodies corporate, etc.
 - 90. Composition of offences
 - 91. Exemption on application
 - 92. Class exemption
 - 93. Rules
 - 94. Transitional and saving provisions
-

An Act for the regulation of moneylending, the designation and control of a credit bureau, the collection, use and disclosure of borrower information and data, and for connected matters.

[7/2018]

[1 March 2009: Except section 5(3)(b) ;
1 July 2010: Section 5(3)(b)]

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act is the Moneylenders Act 2008.

Interpretation

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

“assistant”, in relation to an applicant for a licence or a licensee —

(a) means any person employed or engaged, or proposed to be employed or engaged, by the applicant or the licensee for the purposes of the applicant’s or the licensee’s business of moneylending, other than to manage the applicant’s or the licensee’s business of moneylending; and

(b) includes a person who is employed or engaged, or proposed to be employed or engaged, by the applicant or licensee to collect any debt on behalf of the applicant or licensee;

“Authority” means the Monetary Authority of Singapore established under section 3 of the Monetary Authority of Singapore Act 1970;

“bank” means —

(a) a bank licensed under the Banking Act 1970; or

(b) a merchant bank licensed under the Banking Act 1970,

and includes a finance company licensed under the Finance Companies Act 1967;

“body corporate” includes a limited liability partnership;

“book” includes any account, deed, writing or document and any other record of information, however compiled, recorded or stored, whether in written or printed form or on microfilm or by electronic process or otherwise;

“business day” means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

“business name”, in relation to a moneylender, means the name under which the moneylender is authorised by a licence to carry on the business of moneylending;

“business trust” has the meaning given by section 2 of the Business Trusts Act 2004;

“company” means a company limited by shares under the Companies Act 1967;

“corporation” has the meaning given by section 4(1) of the Companies Act 1967;

“director” has the meaning given by section 4(1) of the Companies Act 1967;

“excluded moneylender” means —

(a) any body corporate, incorporated or empowered by an Act of Parliament to lend money in accordance with that Act;

(b) any person licensed, approved, registered or otherwise regulated by the Authority under any other written law, to the extent that the person is permitted or authorised to lend money or is not prohibited from lending money under that other written law;

(c) any society registered as a credit society under the Co-operative Societies Act 1979;

(d) any person who carries on the business of pawnbroking in accordance with section 6(2)(a), (b), (c) or (d) of the Pawnbrokers Act 2015;

[Act 32 of 2024 wef 25/11/2024]

(e) any person who —

(i) lends money solely to the person's employees as a benefit of employment;

(ii) lends money solely to accredited investors within the meaning of section 4A of the Securities and Futures Act 2001;

(iii) lends money solely to —

(A) corporations;

(B) limited liability partnerships;

(C) trustees or trustee-managers (as the case may be) of business trusts for the purposes of the business trusts;

(D) trustees of real estate investment trusts for the purposes of the real estate investment trusts,

or who carries on any combination of such activities or services; or

(f) any person carrying on any business not having for its primary object the lending of money in the course of which and for the purposes of which the person lends money;

“exempt moneylender” means any moneylender who has been granted an exemption under section 91 or 92 from holding a licence;

“interest”, in relation to a loan, means any amount by any name called, in excess of the principal paid or payable to a moneylender in consideration of or otherwise in respect of the loan, but does not include any permitted fee, stamp duty or other fee payable under this Act or any other written law;

- “licence” means a moneylender’s licence issued or renewed under this Act, and “licensee” is to be construed accordingly;
- “limited liability partnership” has the meaning given by the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005;
- “moneylender” means a person who, whether as principal or agent, carries on or holds himself, herself or itself out in any way as carrying on the business of moneylending, whether or not the person carries on any other business, but does not include any excluded moneylender;
- “permitted fee”, in relation to a loan, means the costs, charges or expenses prescribed under section 35(1) that may be imposed on the borrower under the contract for the loan;
- “principal”, in relation to a loan, means the amount actually lent by a moneylender under the contract for the loan;
- “real estate investment trust” has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Securities and Futures Act 2001;
- “Registrar” means the Registrar of Moneylenders appointed under section 4 and includes a Deputy Registrar of Moneylenders and an Assistant Registrar of Moneylenders appointed under that section;
- “substantial shareholder” and “substantial shareholding” have the meanings given by Division 4 of Part 4 of the Companies Act 1967;
- “unlicensed moneylender” means a person —
- (a) who is presumed to be a moneylender under section 3; and
 - (b) who is not a licensee or an exempt moneylender.

[2/2015; 4/2017; 7/2018; 1/2020]

Persons presumed to be moneylenders

3. Any person, other than an excluded moneylender, who lends a sum of money in consideration of a larger sum being repaid is presumed, until the contrary is proved, to be a moneylender.

Appointment of Registrar, etc.

4. The Minister may appoint any public officer to be the Registrar of Moneylenders and any number of public officers that the Minister thinks fit to be Deputy Registrars of Moneylenders and Assistant Registrars of Moneylenders under this Act.

PART 2

LICENSING OF MONEYLENDERS

No moneylending except under licence, etc.

5.—(1) A person must not carry on or hold out in any way that the person is carrying on the business of moneylending in Singapore, whether as principal or as agent, unless the person —

- (a) is authorised to do so by a licence;
- (b) is an excluded moneylender; or
- (c) is an exempt moneylender.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), a person who wholly or partly carries on, from a place outside Singapore, the business of moneylending in Singapore is taken to have carried on that business in Singapore.

(3) The Minister may prescribe different classes or descriptions of licences for the purposes of this Act.

(4) An application for the issue of a licence must be —

- (a) made in the form and manner determined by the Registrar; and
- (b) accompanied by the payment of a non-refundable application fee of a prescribed amount, which must be paid in the manner specified by the Registrar.

(5) The Registrar may issue a licence with or without conditions, or may refuse to issue a licence.

(6) Without affecting sections 7 and 8, the Registrar must not issue a licence —

- (a) where any information or statement furnished by the applicant that is material to the application for the issue of a licence under this section is incomplete, false or misleading;
- (b) where the applicant does not satisfy the requirements of the class or description of the licence applied for; or
- (c) where the applicant does not place with the Accountant-General as security for the proper conduct of the applicant's business of moneylending in Singapore, in the form determined by the Registrar, a deposit of such amount as the Minister may prescribe, for each place of business in respect of which the applicant is to be licensed.

[7/2018]

(7) Every licence comes into operation on the date specified in the licence, and is valid for a period of 12 months or any other prescribed period specified in the licence.

(8) The Registrar may at any time, by written notice to the licensee, vary or revoke any of the existing conditions of the licence or impose new conditions.

Renewal of licences

6.—(1) An application for the renewal of a licence must be made at least one month before the expiry of the licence, in the form and manner determined by the Registrar.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), every licensee must notify the Registrar at least one month before the expiry of the licence if the licensee does not wish to renew the licence.

(3) The Registrar may renew a licence with or without conditions, or may refuse to renew a licence.

(4) Without affecting sections 7 and 8, the Registrar must not renew a licence —

- (a) where any information or statement furnished by the licensee that is material to the application for the renewal of the licence under this section is incomplete, false or misleading;

- (b) where the licensee ceases to satisfy the requirements of the class or description of the licence to be renewed; or
- (c) where the licensee does not place or maintain with the Accountant-General as security for the proper conduct of the licensee's business of moneylending in Singapore, in the form determined by the Registrar, a deposit of such amount as the Minister may prescribe, for each place of business in respect of which the licence is to be renewed.

[7/2018]

(5) Upon the renewal of a licence, the licence continues to be valid for a further period of 12 months or any other prescribed period specified in the licence from the date immediately following that on which, but for its renewal, the licence would have expired.

Licensees to be companies

7.—(1) On and after 29 March 2019 —

- (a) no person other than a company with a paid-up capital that is equal to or greater than the prescribed amount may hold a licence; and
- (b) the Registrar must not issue or renew a licence unless the applicant is a company with a paid-up capital that is equal to or greater than the prescribed amount.

[7/2018]

(2) A licence that is granted to a person that is not a company with a paid-up capital that is equal to or greater than the prescribed amount, and that is in force immediately before 29 March 2019, is deemed to be revoked as from 29 March 2019.

[7/2018]

(3) The revocation of a licence under subsection (2) does not affect any moneylending transaction entered into before 29 March 2019.

[6A
[7/2018]

Other grounds for refusing to issue or renew licence, etc.

8.—(1) For the purposes of sections 5 and 6, the Registrar may refuse to issue or renew a licence on any of the following grounds:

- (a) if any person who is or will be responsible for the management of the applicant's business of moneylending is not ordinarily resident in Singapore;
- (b) if any director of the applicant or any person who is or will be responsible for the management of the applicant's business of moneylending is below 21 years of age;
- (c) if the Registrar is not satisfied that the applicant has any place of business in respect of which the licence is to be issued or renewed that is suitable for a business of moneylending, or the Registrar is of the view that it is not in the public interest for a business of moneylending to be conducted in such a place;
- (d) if the applicant, any director or substantial shareholder of the applicant, or any person who is or will be responsible for the management of the applicant's business of moneylending —
 - (i) has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude;
 - (ii) has been convicted of any offence under sections 50 to 57 of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992, the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002 or any regulation made under the United Nations Act 2001;
 - (iia) has been convicted of an offence under any provision of any other written law relating to —
 - (A) the prevention of money laundering;
 - (B) the prevention of terrorism financing; or
 - (C) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]
 - (iib) has been convicted of an offence under the law of any foreign country or territory relating to —
 - (A) the prevention of money laundering;

- (B) the prevention of terrorism financing; or
 - (C) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]
- (iii) is contravening or has contravened any provision of this Act;
 - (iv) has been convicted of any offence under this Act; or
 - (v) is carrying on or has carried on any business of moneylending, in Singapore or elsewhere, in such a manner as renders the applicant unfit to hold a licence;
- (e) if the Registrar is not satisfied as to the qualification or experience of any person who is or will be responsible for the management of the applicant's business of moneylending;
 - (f) if the Registrar is not satisfied as to the good character of any director or substantial shareholder of the applicant or any person who is or will be responsible for the management of the applicant's business of moneylending;
 - (g) if the Registrar is not satisfied that the applicant, any director or substantial shareholder of the applicant, or any person who is or will be responsible for the management of the applicant's business of moneylending is a fit and proper person to carry on or manage a business of moneylending;
 - (h) if any assistant employed or engaged, or proposed to be employed or engaged, by the applicant has, whether before, on or after the commencement date —
 - (i) been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude;
 - (ii) been convicted of any offence under sections 50 to 57 of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992, the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002

or any regulation made under the United Nations Act 2001;

(*ii a*) been convicted of an offence under any provision of any other written law relating to —

(A) the prevention of money laundering;

(B) the prevention of terrorism financing; or

(C) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

(*ii b*) been convicted of an offence under the law of any foreign country or territory relating to —

(A) the prevention of money laundering;

(B) the prevention of terrorism financing; or

(C) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

(*iii*) contravened or is contravening any provision of this Act or any corresponding previous written law;

(*iv*) been convicted of any offence under this Act or any corresponding previous written law; or

(*v*) carried on any business of moneylending in Singapore or any foreign country or territory —

(A) for which the licence has been revoked or suspended under this Act or any corresponding previous written law; or

(B) the approval, authorisation, registration or licence of or for which has been withdrawn, cancelled or revoked by a regulatory authority in that foreign country or territory;

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

(*i*) if the Registrar is not satisfied that any assistant employed or engaged, or proposed to be employed or engaged, by the

applicant is of good character and is a fit and proper person.

[7/2018]

(2) For the purposes of sections 5 and 6 and without affecting subsection (1), where an application is made by any person for the issue or renewal of a licence to carry on the business of moneylending as an agent for a principal, the licence must not be issued or renewed where —

- (a) any of the grounds for the refusal of a licence under subsection (1) applies to the agent, any director or substantial shareholder of the agent, or any person who is or will be responsible for the management of the agent's business of moneylending;
- (b) the Registrar is not satisfied as to the good character of any director or substantial shareholder of the principal, or any person who is or will be responsible for the management of the principal's business of moneylending;
- (c) the Registrar is not satisfied that the principal, any director or substantial shareholder of the principal, or any person who is or will be responsible for the management of the principal's business of moneylending is a fit and proper person to carry on or manage a business of moneylending; or
- (d) the principal, or any present or former agent of the principal, has been disqualified by an order of a court from carrying on a business of moneylending or holding a licence to carry on such business.

[7/2018]

(3) Any person who is aggrieved by the Registrar's refusal to issue or renew a licence may, within 14 days of being so informed, appeal in writing to the Minister whose decision is final.

(4) In subsection (1)(h), "commencement date" means the date of commencement of section 24 of the Prevention of Proliferation Financing and Other Matters Act 2024.

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

[7

Licence fee

9.—(1) Every licensee must pay such licence fee as may be prescribed for the issue or renewal of the licence by the Registrar.

(2) The Minister may prescribe different licence fees in respect of different classes or descriptions of licences.

(3) Where a licensee has more than one place of business, the licensee must pay such additional licence fee as may be prescribed for each additional place of business according to the class or description of licence which the licensee holds.

(4) The licence fees must be paid in the manner specified by the Registrar.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), there is no refund of any licence fee paid to the Registrar in the event that a licence is revoked or suspended or when the licensee ceases to carry on the business of moneylending at any time before the expiry of the licence.

(6) The Registrar may, where he or she considers it appropriate, refund or remit the whole or part of any licence fee paid or payable under this Act.

[8

Revocation or suspension of licence

10.—(1) The Registrar may revoke a licence, or suspend it for any period that he or she considers appropriate, if the Registrar is satisfied —

(a) that the licensee —

- (i) has ceased to carry on the business of moneylending, or is wound up or otherwise dissolved;
- (ii) has not carried on the business of moneylending within 6 months, or such longer period as the Registrar may approve in writing, after the issue of the licence;
- (iii) had, in connection with an application for the issue or renewal of the licence —

- (A) knowingly or recklessly furnished any information or statement to the Registrar which was false or misleading in a material particular;
 - (B) wilfully omitted to state any matter without which the application was misleading in a material particular; or
 - (C) produced to the Registrar any book, record or other document which the licensee knew or had reason to believe contained information which was false or misleading in a material particular;
- (iv) has contravened any condition of the licence;
 - (v) is conducting or has conducted the licensee's business of moneylending in an improper or unsatisfactory manner; or
 - (vi) has carried on a business of moneylending at any place which the Registrar has not approved under section 11, or has contravened any condition of approval for a place of business imposed under that section; or
- (b) that there exists a ground on which the Registrar may refuse to issue or renew a licence under section 8, whether in relation to the licensee or the licensee's principal.

[7/2018]

(2) The Registrar must, before revoking or suspending any licence under subsection (1), give the licensee notice in writing of the Registrar's intention to do so, specifying a date, at least 21 days after the date of the notice, upon which the revocation or suspension will take effect unless the licensee shows cause to the Registrar as to why the licence should not be revoked or suspended.

(3) Where, after the licensee has shown cause under subsection (2), the Registrar decides to revoke or suspend a licence, the Registrar must notify the licensee of the Registrar's decision in writing and specify a date, at least 14 days after the date of the notice, upon which the revocation or suspension will take effect.

(4) The licensee may, within 14 days after the date of the notice under subsection (3), appeal in writing against the revocation or suspension to the Minister whose decision is final.

(5) If the licensee appeals to the Minister under subsection (4), the decision appealed against does not take effect unless it is confirmed by the Minister, or the appeal is for any reason dismissed by the Minister or is withdrawn.

(6) Any decision of the Registrar to revoke or suspend a licence made under this section does not affect any moneylending transaction entered into before the date the decision is made.

[9]

Approval of places of business

11.—(1) An applicant for the issue of a licence or a licensee who intends to carry on the business of moneylending at any new place or places of business must, before commencing the business of moneylending at the place or places, apply in writing to the Registrar to approve the place or places of business for moneylending.

[8/2012]

(2) The Registrar may approve any place of business for moneylending with or without conditions, or may refuse to grant an approval.

(3) The Registrar must not approve any place of business for moneylending —

- (a) unless the applicant is a licensee or the applicant's application for a licence is approved;
- (b) where any information or statement furnished by the applicant that is material to its application for approval under this section is incomplete, false or misleading;
- (c) where the applicant, being a licensee, does not place with the Accountant-General as security for the proper conduct of the applicant's business of moneylending in Singapore, in the form determined by the Registrar, a deposit of such

amount as the Minister may prescribe, for each additional place of business; or

- (d) where the Registrar is not satisfied that the place of business is suitable for a business of moneylending, or the Registrar is of the view that it is not in the public interest for a business of moneylending to be conducted in such a place.

[7/2018]

(4) The Registrar may at any time, by written notice to the licensee, vary or revoke any of the existing conditions of the approval of a place of business for moneylending or impose new conditions.

(5) The Registrar may revoke his or her approval under this section, or suspend his or her approval for any period that he or she considers appropriate, if the Registrar is satisfied that —

- (a) the licensee has contravened any condition of approval imposed under this section; or
- (b) there exists a ground on which the Registrar may refuse to approve the place of business for moneylending under subsection (3).

(6) The Registrar must, before revoking or suspending his or her approval under subsection (5), give the licensee notice in writing of the Registrar's intention to do so, specifying a date, at least 21 days after the date of the notice, upon which the revocation or suspension will take effect unless the licensee shows cause to the Registrar as to why the approval should not be revoked or suspended.

(7) If, after the licensee has shown cause under subsection (6), the Registrar decides to proceed to revoke or suspend his or her approval, the Registrar must notify the licensee of the Registrar's decision in writing and specify a date, at least 14 days after the date of the notice, upon which the revocation or suspension will take effect.

(8) The licensee may, within 14 days after the date of the notice under subsection (7), appeal in writing against the revocation or suspension to the Minister whose decision is final.

(9) If the licensee appeals to the Minister under subsection (8), the decision appealed against does not take effect unless it is confirmed

by the Minister, or the appeal is for any reason dismissed by the Minister or is withdrawn.

(10) Any decision of the Registrar to revoke or suspend his or her approval under this section does not affect any moneylending transaction entered into before the date the decision is made.

(11) The approval of any place of business for moneylending —

- (a) is suspended for the duration of any suspension of the relevant licence; and
- (b) terminates as at the date of the expiry or revocation of the relevant licence.

(12) Any licensee who —

- (a) carries on the business of moneylending at a place of business without the Registrar's approval; or
- (b) carries on the business of moneylending at a place of business in respect of which the Registrar's approval has been revoked or is suspended,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

[8/2012]

(13) Any licensee who contravenes any condition of approval imposed under this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

[10

Forfeiture of security deposit

12.—(1) The Registrar may, without affecting the exercise of any other power under this Act, forfeit the whole or such part of any security deposit placed with the Accountant-General under section 5(6)(c), 6(4)(c) or 11(3)(c) as the Registrar thinks fit if the Registrar is satisfied that there exists a ground for the revocation or suspension of the licence under section 10(1).

(2) The Registrar must, before forfeiting the whole or part of the security deposit under subsection (1), give the licensee notice in writing of the Registrar's intention to do so specifying a date, at least

14 days after the date of the notice, upon which the forfeiture will be made unless the licensee shows cause to the Registrar as to why the whole or part of the security deposit should not be forfeited.

(3) Where, after the licensee has shown cause under subsection (2), the Registrar decides to forfeit the security deposit or any part of it, the Registrar must notify the licensee of the Registrar's decision in writing and specify a date, at least 14 days after the date of the notice, upon which the security deposit or that part of it will be forfeited.

(4) The licensee may, within 14 days after the date of the notice under subsection (3), appeal in writing against the forfeiture of the licensee's security deposit or any part of it to the Minister whose decision is final.

(5) If the licensee appeals to the Minister under subsection (4), the Registrar must not forfeit the security deposit or any part of it unless the Registrar's decision to do so is confirmed by the Minister, or the appeal is for any reason dismissed by the Minister or is withdrawn.

(6) Where the licensee lawfully continues to carry on the business of moneylending under this Act after the licensee's security deposit or any part of it has been forfeited, the licensee must restore the security deposit to the full amount as required under this Act by placing with the Accountant-General an appropriate amount in the form and within the time required by the Registrar.

[11

Approval before employing or engaging assistant, etc.

13.—(1) A licensee must not, without the written approval of the Registrar, employ or engage any assistant.

[7/2018]

(2) An application for the Registrar's approval mentioned in subsection (1) must be made in the form and manner specified by the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(3) On an application by a licensee for the Registrar's approval mentioned in subsection (1), the Registrar may —

(a) grant the approval applied for; or

(b) refuse to grant the approval applied for.

[7/2018]

(4) The Registrar must refuse to grant an approval under subsection (3)(b) if the Registrar is not satisfied that the person in respect of whom the approval is sought is of good character and is a fit and proper person.

[7/2018]

(5) Without limiting subsection (4), the Registrar may refuse to approve as an assistant any person who, whether before, on or after the commencement date —

(a) has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude;

(b) has been convicted of any offence under sections 50 to 57 of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992, the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002 or any regulation made under the United Nations Act 2001;

(ba) has been convicted of an offence under any provision of any other written law relating to —

(i) the prevention of money laundering;

(ii) the prevention of terrorism financing; or

(iii) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

(bb) has been convicted of an offence under the law of any foreign country or territory relating to —

(i) the prevention of money laundering;

(ii) the prevention of terrorism financing; or

(iii) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

(c) is contravening or has contravened any provision of this Act or any corresponding previous written law;

- (d) has been convicted of any offence under this Act or any corresponding previous written law; or
- (e) has carried on any business of moneylending in Singapore or any foreign country or territory —
 - (i) for which the licence has been revoked or suspended under this Act or any corresponding previous written law; or
 - (ii) the approval, authorisation, registration or licence of or for which has been withdrawn, cancelled or revoked by a regulatory authority in that foreign country or territory.

[7/2018]

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

(6) The Registrar may cancel any approval granted under subsection (3)(a) in respect of a person if the Registrar —

- (a) has reasonable grounds to believe that the approval has been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation;
- (b) is no longer satisfied that the person is of good character; or
- (c) is no longer satisfied that the person is a fit and proper person.

[7/2018]

(7) The Registrar must not refuse to grant an approval under subsection (3)(b) or cancel any approval under subsection (6) without giving the licensee concerned an opportunity to be heard.

[7/2018]

(8) Where an approval granted under subsection (3)(a) is cancelled under subsection (6), the Registrar must notify the licensee concerned and the person in respect of whom the approval was granted of the cancellation and the date on which the approval is cancelled.

[7/2018]

(9) Starting on the date after the date of cancellation of approval specified in the notice under subsection (8) —

- (a) the licensee must stop employing or engaging the person in respect of whom the approval was cancelled; and

- (b) the person in respect of whom the approval was cancelled must cease to act for the licensee.

[7/2018]

(10) Every licensee must submit to the Registrar, in the form and manner and at the time specified by the Registrar, the names and particulars of every assistant who, as at the date of the submission, is employed or engaged by the licensee.

[7/2018]

(11) Every licensee must notify the Registrar, in writing, when any person ceases to be employed or engaged by the licensee as an assistant, not later than 7 business days after the cessation.

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(12) Any person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1), (9), (10) or (11) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$20,000; and
- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$2,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[7/2018]

(13) Where —

- (a) in fulfilment of a condition of a licence imposed under section 5(5), a licensee has obtained, before 30 November 2018, the Registrar's approval to employ or engage an assistant; and

- (b) the approval has not been cancelled,

the licensee is, on or after that date, treated as having been granted the written approval of the Registrar under subsection (3)(a) to employ or engage the assistant.

(14) In subsection (5), “commencement date” means the date of commencement of section 25 of the Prevention of Proliferation Financing and Other Matters Act 2024.

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

[11A
[7/2018]

Approval, notification and submission of information relating to person taking part in management, etc.

14.—(1) A licensee must not, without the written approval of the Registrar, permit any person to —

- (a) take part (whether directly or indirectly) in the management of the licensee’s business of moneylending; or
- (b) become a director of the licensee.

[7/2018]

(2) An application for the Registrar’s approval mentioned in subsection (1) must be made in the form and manner specified by the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(3) On an application by a licensee for the Registrar’s approval mentioned in subsection (1), the Registrar may —

- (a) grant the approval applied for; or
- (b) refuse to grant the approval applied for.

[7/2018]

(4) The Registrar must refuse to grant an approval under subsection (3)(b) if the Registrar is not satisfied that the person in respect of whom the approval is applied for is of good character and is a fit and proper person.

[7/2018]

(5) Without limiting subsection (4), the Registrar may refuse to grant an approval under subsection (3)(b) to any person who, whether before, on or after the commencement date —

- (a) has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude;

- (b) has been convicted of any offence under sections 50 to 57 of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992, the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002 or any regulation made under the United Nations Act 2001;
- (ba) has been convicted of an offence under any provision of any other written law relating to —
- (i) the prevention of money laundering;
 - (ii) the prevention of terrorism financing; or
 - (iii) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- [Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (bb) has been convicted of an offence under the law of any foreign country or territory relating to —
- (i) the prevention of money laundering;
 - (ii) the prevention of terrorism financing; or
 - (iii) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- [Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (c) is contravening or has contravened any provision of this Act or any corresponding previous written law;
- (d) has been convicted of any offence under this Act or any corresponding previous written law; or
- (e) has carried on any business of moneylending in Singapore or any foreign country or territory —
- (i) for which the licence has been revoked or suspended under this Act or any corresponding previous written law; or
 - (ii) the approval, authorisation, registration or licence of or for which has been withdrawn, cancelled or revoked by a regulatory authority in that foreign country or territory.

[7/2018]

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

(6) The Registrar may cancel any approval granted under subsection (3)(a) in respect of a person if the Registrar —

- (a) has reasonable grounds to believe that the approval has been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation;
- (b) is no longer satisfied that the person is of good character; or
- (c) is no longer satisfied that the person is a fit and proper person.

[7/2018]

(7) The Registrar must not refuse to grant an approval under subsection (3)(b) or cancel any approval under subsection (6) without giving the licensee concerned an opportunity to be heard.

[7/2018]

(8) Where an approval granted under subsection (3)(a) is cancelled under subsection (6), the Registrar must notify the licensee concerned and the person in respect of whom the approval was granted of the cancellation and the date on which the approval is cancelled.

[7/2018]

(9) Starting on the date after the date of cancellation of approval specified in the notice under subsection (8) —

- (a) the licensee must not permit the person in respect of whom the approval was cancelled —
 - (i) to take part (whether directly or indirectly) in the management of the licensee's business of moneylending; or
 - (ii) to be a director of the licensee; and
- (b) the person in respect of whom the approval was cancelled must —
 - (i) cease to take part (whether directly or indirectly) in the management of the licensee's business of moneylending; or
 - (ii) cease to be a director of the licensee.

[7/2018]

(10) Every licensee must submit to the Registrar, in the form and manner and at the time specified by the Registrar, the names and particulars of every person who, as at the date of the submission —

- (a) is taking part (whether directly or indirectly) in the management of the licensee's business of moneylending; or
- (b) is a director of the licensee.

[7/2018]

(11) Where any person —

- (a) ceases to take part (whether directly or indirectly) in the management of a licensee's business of moneylending; or
- (b) ceases to be a director of a licensee,

the licensee must notify the Registrar in writing of the cessation not later than 7 business days after becoming aware of the cessation.

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(12) Any person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1), (9), (10) or (11) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$20,000; and
- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$2,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[7/2018]

(13) Where —

- (a) a licensee has obtained the Registrar's approval under section 12(1)(b) of this Act as in force immediately before 30 November 2018 for the admission of a person who will be responsible for the management of the licensee's business of moneylending; and
- (b) the approval has not been cancelled,

the licensee is treated as having been granted the Registrar's approval under subsection (3)(a) to permit the person to take part (whether

directly or indirectly) in the management of the licensee's business of moneylending.

[7/2018]

(14) Where —

(a) a licensee has obtained the Registrar's approval under section 12(1)(c) of this Act as in force immediately before 30 November 2018 for a person to become a director or partner of the licensee; and

(b) the approval has not been cancelled,

the licensee is treated as having been granted the Registrar's approval under subsection (3)(a) to permit the person to become a director or partner of the licensee.

(15) In subsection (5), "commencement date" means the date of commencement of section 26 of the Prevention of Proliferation Financing and Other Matters Act 2024.

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

[11B

[7/2018]

Approval of change in business name

15.—(1) Every licensee must obtain the written approval of the Registrar before changing the licensee's business name.

[7/2018]

(2) An application for the Registrar's approval mentioned in subsection (1) must be made in the form and manner specified by the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(3) On an application by a licensee for the Registrar's approval mentioned in subsection (1), the Registrar may —

(a) grant the approval applied for; or

(b) refuse to grant the approval applied for.

[7/2018]

(4) The Registrar must not refuse to grant an approval under subsection (3)(b) without giving the licensee concerned an opportunity to be heard.

[7/2018]

(5) Any licensee who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

[11C
[7/2018]

Notification of certain events

16.—(1) If any event in subsection (3) occurs, the licensee in question must notify the Registrar in writing of the occurrence not later than 7 business days after the licensee becomes aware of the event.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(2) [Deleted by Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(3) The events mentioned in subsection (1) are the following:

- (a) the making of an application to the General Division of the High Court for a bankruptcy order against any director or substantial shareholder of the licensee;
- (b) the making of an application to the General Division of the High Court under the Companies Act 1967 to summon a meeting of the creditors or members of —
 - (i) the licensee; or
 - (ii) any substantial shareholder of the licensee;
- (c) the making of an application to the General Division of the High Court under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 or any previous written law for the court to approve a compromise or arrangement between —
 - (i) the licensee; or
 - (ii) any substantial shareholder of the licensee,
and the creditors of the licensee or substantial holder (as the case may be) or any class of those creditors, without any meeting of the creditors or class of creditors;
- (d) the making of an application to the General Division of the High Court under the Insolvency, Restructuring and

Dissolution Act 2018 or any previous written law to place under judicial management —

- (i) the licensee; or
 - (ii) any substantial shareholder of the licensee;
- (e) the lodgment of a written notice of the appointment of an interim judicial manager under section 94(5)(a) of the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 in respect of —
- (i) the licensee; or
 - (ii) any substantial shareholder of the licensee;
 - (iii) *[Deleted by Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]*
- (f) the making of an order under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 or any previous written law or the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005, appointing a receiver or manager, or a receiver and manager, of the property of —
- (i) the licensee; or
 - (ii) any substantial shareholder of the licensee;
- (g) the passing of a resolution under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 or any previous written law or the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005, for the voluntary winding up of —
- (i) the licensee; or
 - (ii) any substantial shareholder of the licensee;
- (h) the making of an application to the General Division of the High Court under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 or any previous written law or the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005, for winding up by an order of the court of —
- (i) the licensee; or
 - (ii) any substantial shareholder of the licensee;

(i) the making of a statutory declaration under the Companies Act 1967 or the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005, in respect of —

(i) the licensee; or

(ii) any substantial shareholder of the licensee.

[7/2018; 40/2018; 40/2019]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(4) When a licensee notifies the Registrar of an event under subsection (1) —

(a) the Registrar may require the licensee to notify the Registrar of any further event in relation to that event; and

(b) the licensee must notify the Registrar of the further event no later than 7 business days after the licensee becomes aware that the further event has occurred.

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(5) Any licensee who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1) or (4) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

[11D]

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

Approval concerning substantial shareholding

17.—(1) A person must not become a substantial shareholder of a licensee without the written approval of the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(2) A substantial shareholder of a licensee must not increase the person's substantial shareholding in a licensee without the written approval of the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply in relation to any licensee that has been admitted to the official list of a securities exchange in Singapore and has not been removed from that list.

[7/2018]

(4) An application for the Registrar's approval mentioned in subsection (1) or (2) must be made in the form and manner specified by the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(5) On an application by a licensee for the Registrar's approval mentioned in subsection (1) or (2), the Registrar may —

(a) grant the approval applied for; or

(b) refuse to grant the approval applied for.

[7/2018]

(6) The Registrar must refuse to grant an approval under subsection (5)(b) if the Registrar is not satisfied that the applicant is of good character and is a fit and proper person.

[7/2018]

(7) Without limiting subsection (6), the Registrar may refuse to grant an approval under subsection (5)(b) to any person who, whether before, on or after the commencement date —

(a) has been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude;

(b) has been convicted of any offence under sections 50 to 57 of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992, the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002 or any regulation made under the United Nations Act 2001;

(ba) has been convicted of an offence under any provision of any other written law relating to —

(i) the prevention of money laundering;

(ii) the prevention of terrorism financing; or

(iii) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

(bb) has been convicted of an offence under the law of any foreign country or territory relating to —

(i) the prevention of money laundering;

(ii) the prevention of terrorism financing; or

(iii) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

- (c) is contravening or has contravened any provision of this Act or any corresponding previous written law;
- (d) has been convicted of any offence under this Act or any corresponding previous written law; or
- (e) has carried on any business of moneylending in Singapore or any foreign country or territory —
- (i) for which the licence has been revoked or suspended under this Act or any corresponding previous written law; or
 - (ii) the approval, authorisation, registration or licence of or for which has been withdrawn, cancelled or revoked by a regulatory authority in that foreign country or territory.

[7/2018]

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

(8) The Registrar may cancel any approval granted under subsection (5)(a) in respect of a person if the Registrar —

- (a) has reasonable grounds to believe that the approval has been obtained by fraud or misrepresentation;
- (b) is no longer satisfied that the person is of good character; or
- (c) is no longer satisfied that the person is a fit and proper person.

[7/2018]

(9) The Registrar must not refuse to grant an approval under subsection (5)(b) or cancel any approval under subsection (8) without giving the person applying for the approval or to whom an approval was granted an opportunity to be heard.

[7/2018]

(10) Where an approval granted under subsection (5)(a) is cancelled under subsection (8), the Registrar must notify the licensee concerned and the person in respect of whom the approval

was granted of the cancellation and the date on which the approval is cancelled.

[7/2018]

(11) Starting on the date after the date of cancellation of approval specified in the notice under subsection (10) —

- (a) the person in respect of whom an approval to become a substantial shareholder of the licensee was cancelled must cease to be a substantial shareholder of the licensee; or
- (b) the substantial shareholder in respect of whom the approval to increase the person's substantial shareholding in the licensee was cancelled must reduce the substantial shareholding in the licensee to a level required by the Registrar in the notice.

[7/2018]

(12) The Registrar must not require any substantial shareholder mentioned in subsection (11)(b) to reduce the substantial shareholding to a level that is lower than the substantial shareholding prior to the increase for which the approval was cancelled.

[7/2018]

(13) Every licensee must submit to the Registrar, in the form and manner and at the time specified by the Registrar, the names and particulars of every person who, as at the date of the submission, is a substantial shareholder of the licensee.

[7/2018]

(14) Where any person ceases to be a substantial shareholder of a licensee, the licensee must notify the Registrar in writing of the cessation not later than 7 business days after becoming aware of the cessation.

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(15) Any person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1), (2), (11), (13) or (14) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$20,000; and

- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$2,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[7/2018]

(16) Where —

- (a) a person has obtained the Registrar’s approval under section 12(1)(d)(i) of this Act as in force immediately before 30 November 2018 for the person to become a substantial shareholder of a licensee; and

- (b) the approval has not been cancelled,

the person is treated as having been granted the Registrar’s approval under subsection (5)(a) to become a substantial shareholder.

[7/2018]

(17) Where —

- (a) a substantial shareholder has obtained the Registrar’s approval under section 12(1)(d)(ii) of this Act as in force immediately before 30 November 2018 for the substantial shareholder to increase the person’s substantial shareholding in the licensee; and

- (b) the approval has not been cancelled,

the substantial shareholder is treated as having been granted the Registrar’s approval under subsection (5)(a) to increase the substantial shareholding.

(18) In subsection (7), “commencement date” means the date of commencement of section 27 of the Prevention of Proliferation Financing and Other Matters Act 2024.

[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]

[12

[7/2018]

Publication of lists

18. The Registrar may cause to be published in such manner as he or she may determine —

- (a) a list of all licensees and such of their particulars as the Registrar may determine; and

- (b) a list of such persons granted an exemption by the Minister under section 91, and such of their particulars and the conditions of their exemption, as the Registrar may determine.

[13

Unlicensed moneylending

19.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), any person who contravenes, or who assists in the contravention of, section 5(1) shall be guilty of an offence and —

- (a) in the case where the person is a body corporate, shall on conviction be punished with a fine of not less than \$50,000 and not more than \$500,000; or
- (b) in any other case —
- (i) shall on conviction be punished with a fine of not less than \$30,000 and not more than \$300,000 and with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 4 years; and
- (ii) in the case of a second or subsequent offence, shall on conviction be punished with a fine of not less than \$30,000 and not more than \$300,000 and with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years.

(2) Subject to sections 325(1) and 330(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 —

- (a) a person who is convicted for the first time of an offence under subsection (1) shall also be liable to be punished with caning with not more than 6 strokes; or
- (b) a person who is convicted of a second or subsequent offence under subsection (1) shall also be liable to be punished with caning with not more than 12 strokes.

[15/2010]

(3) Where any contract for a loan has been granted by an unlicensed moneylender, or any guarantee or security has been given for such a loan —

- (a) the contract for the loan, and the guarantee or security (as the case may be) is unenforceable; and

- (b) any money paid by or on behalf of the unlicensed moneylender under the contract for the loan is not recoverable in any court of law.
- (4) Subsections (1) and (3) do not apply to a moneylender who —
 - (a) is not ordinarily resident in Singapore;
 - (b) is not a licensee; and
 - (c) carries on the business of moneylending in Singapore through an agent who is a licensee or an exempt moneylender.
- (5) Without limiting subsection (1), a person (*P*) assists in a contravention of section 5(1) if —
 - (a) *P* collects or demands payment of a loan on behalf of a person whom *P* knows or has reasonable grounds to believe is carrying on a business in contravention of section 5(1);
 - (b) *P* receives, possesses, conceals or disposes of any funds or other property, or engages in a banking transaction relating to any funds, on behalf of any person knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that —
 - (i) the person is carrying on a business in contravention of section 5(1); and
 - (ii) either the funds are (or are intended to be) disbursed as a loan by that person, or the funds or property is repayment of a loan made by that person;
 - (c) being the owner or person having management or control of any premises, *P* allows the premises to be used to carry on a business knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the carrying on of such business contravenes section 5(1);
 - (d) *P* lends or provides funds, or lends, sells or provides any prepaid subscriber identification module (SIM) card or other property to a person, knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the funds or property will be used

for the carrying on of a business in contravention of section 5(1);

- (e) *P* keeps the records and accounts of a business knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the carrying on of such business contravenes section 5(1);
- (f) *P* promotes or advertises a business knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that the carrying on of such business contravenes section 5(1); or
- (g) *P* provides or gives access to the name of or other information relating to any other person (called the potential borrower), or otherwise refers a potential borrower, to a person whom *P* knows or has reasonable grounds to believe is carrying on a business in contravention of section 5(1), intending to facilitate or knowing it to be likely to facilitate the lending of money by that person to the potential borrower.

[8/2012]

(6) In subsection (5), “funds” and “property” have the meanings given by section 21.

(7) For the purposes of subsection (1), where the bank account or automated teller machine card of any person, or a telecommunication service subscribed in the name of or purchased by any person, is proved to the satisfaction of the court to have been used to facilitate the carrying on of the business of moneylending by an unlicensed moneylender, that person is presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have assisted in the contravention of section 5(1).

(8) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, “telecommunication service” has the meaning given by the Telecommunications Act 1999.

[14

Other offences under this Part

20.—(1) Any person who, in connection with an application for the issue or renewal of a licence or for the approval of any place of business for moneylending —

- (a) knowingly or recklessly furnishes any information or statement to the Registrar which is false or misleading in a material particular;
- (b) wilfully omits to state any matter without which the application is misleading in a material particular; or
- (c) produces to the Registrar any book, record or other document which the person knows or has reason to believe contains information which is false or misleading in a material particular,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$40,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(2) Any licensee who —

- (a) contravenes any condition of the licensee's licence; or
- (b) carries on the business of moneylending under any name other than the licensee's business name,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

[15

PART 2A

FREEZING OF PROCEEDS OF UNLICENSED MONEYLENDING

Interpretation of this Part

21. In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires —

“account” means any deposit or current account opened with a bank;

“deal with” means —

(a) in respect of property comprising funds —

(i) use, alter, move, allow access to or transfer; or

(ii) deal with in any other way that would result in any change in volume, amount, location, ownership, possession, character or destination; and

(b) in respect of any other property, use to obtain funds in any way, including (but not limited to) by selling, hiring or mortgaging the property;

“funds” includes cheques, bank deposits and other financial resources;

“property” means property of every kind, whether tangible or intangible, movable or immovable, and whether situated within or outside Singapore, and includes funds.

[15A

Proceeds of unlicensed moneylending

22.—(1) In this Part, property is proceeds of unlicensed moneylending if it is wholly or partly derived or realised, whether directly or indirectly, from a contravention of section 5(1).

(2) Property becomes proceeds of unlicensed moneylending if —

- (a) it is wholly or partly derived or realised from a dealing with or disposal of proceeds of unlicensed moneylending; or
- (b) it is wholly or partly acquired using proceeds of unlicensed moneylending,

including by virtue of a previous application of this subsection.

(3) Property remains proceeds of unlicensed moneylending even if —

- (a) it is credited to an account; or
- (b) it is dealt with or disposed of.

[15B

Order specifying proceeds of unlicensed moneylending

23.—(1) Where —

- (a) the Minister is satisfied that a person has been associated with activities which contravene section 5(1) and the person is detained under an order made under section 30(1)(a) of the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act 1955 in connection with those activities; and
- (b) the Minister has reasonable cause to believe that any property owned or held by any person is proceeds of unlicensed moneylending by reason of the activities mentioned in paragraph (a),

the Minister may by order specify —

- (c) such property to be proceeds of unlicensed moneylending (called in this Part specified property); or
- (d) any account which has been credited with such property as an account with proceeds of unlicensed moneylending (called in this Part a specified account).

[12/2018]

(2) The Minister may vary or revoke the order at any time.

(3) The Minister must revoke the order if the person mentioned in subsection (1)(a) is no longer detained and is not subject to the supervision of the police under an order made under section 32 of the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act 1955.

[15C]

Orders: further provisions

24.—(1) Where the Minister makes an order under section 23, he or she must —

- (a) either publish the order in the *Gazette* or serve a copy of the order on certain persons only; and
- (b) if he or she varies or revokes the order, take steps to publish the variation or revocation in the *Gazette* or bring the

variation or revocation to the attention of the persons served with a copy of the order, as the case may be.

(2) Where the Minister serves a copy of the order on certain persons under subsection (1), only those persons are subject to the prohibition in section 25(1).

(3) The General Division of the High Court may, on the application of a person affected by the order, set aside the order in whole or in part.

[40/2019]

(4) An application under subsection (3) must be made within 30 days from the date of publication or service of the order, as the case may be.

(5) The order may be set aside in whole or in part by the General Division of the High Court if, and only if, the applicant proves to the satisfaction of the General Division of the High Court that any specified property is not, or any specified account has not been credited with, proceeds of unlicensed moneylending.

[40/2019]

(6) The correctness, validity or legality of the order made under section 30(1) or 32 (as the case may be) of the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act 1955, or of any ground upon which such order is made, is not to be raised as an issue or called into question in the course of an application under subsection (3) or during any proceedings relating to such application.

[12/2018]

(7) A person who makes an application under subsection (3) must serve a copy of the application on the Attorney-General not later than 7 days before the date fixed for the hearing of the application.

(8) Rules of Court may provide for the manner in which proceedings relating to an application under subsection (3) may be commenced or carried on.

[15D

Freezing proceeds of unlicensed moneylending

25.—(1) A person must not deal with any specified property, or any funds in any specified account, unless the person does so under the authority of a licence granted under section 28.

(2) A person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) in the case where the person is a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$200,000; or

(b) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding \$100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

(3) This section is subject to section 24(2).

[15E

Exception

26.—(1) A person is not guilty of an offence under section 25 if the person credits a specified account with interest or other earnings due on the account.

(2) To avoid doubt, section 25 applies to any funds credited to the specified account in accordance with subsection (1).

[15F

Circumvention of section 25

27. Where a person —

(a) enters into; or

(b) knowingly does any act in furtherance of,

any arrangement which facilitates, or is likely to facilitate, whether by means of any concealment or disguise or otherwise, the dealing with property in contravention of section 25(1), the person shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(c) in the case where the person is a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$300,000; or

- (d) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding \$150,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.
- [15G]

Licences

28.—(1) The Minister may grant a licence to exempt any act from the prohibition in section 25.

(2) A licence may be —

- (a) general or granted to a category of persons or to a particular person;
- (b) subject to conditions; and
- (c) of indefinite duration or subject to an expiry date.

(3) The Minister may vary or revoke a licence at any time.

(4) Where the Minister grants, varies or revokes a licence, he or she must —

- (a) in the case of a licence granted to a particular person, give written notice of the grant of the licence, or the variation or revocation of the licence to that person; and
- (b) in the case of a general licence or a licence granted to a category of persons, take such steps as the Minister considers appropriate to publicise the grant of the licence, or the variation or revocation of the licence.

(5) Any person who does any act under the authority of a licence but fails to comply with any condition attaching to that licence shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) in the case where the person is a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding \$80,000; or
- (b) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

(6) The Minister may delegate any power or duty under this section to the Commissioner of Police, except the power of delegation conferred by this subsection.

[15H]

PART 3

REGULATION OF BUSINESS OF MONEYLENDING,
ENFORCEMENT AND PROCEEDINGS**Regulation of advertising and marketing, etc.**

29.—(1) A licensee must not knowingly or recklessly issue or publish, or cause to be issued or published, any advertising or marketing material in any form, or any business letter, circular or other document, which contains any information which is false or misleading in a material particular.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), any advertising or marketing material or any business letter, circular or other document is presumed, unless the contrary is proved, to contain information which is false or misleading in a material particular if the material or document —

- (a) does not state the business name of the licensee;
 - (b) states the business name of the licensee in an inconspicuous manner;
 - (c) does not state the rate of interest expressed as a percentage per annum, month or other period that the licensee charges for offering loans;
- [Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]*
- (d) states that the licensee offers loans at a specified rate of interest but the actual rate of interest charged is higher; or
 - (e) states that the licensee offers loans at a specified percentage rate of interest without stating that conditions apply, or without stating the conditions which apply, when the rate of interest offered is subject to conditions.

(3) Without limiting the Registrar's power to issue directions under section 45(1), the Registrar may issue directions to any licensee with respect to the issue, publication or contents of advertising or marketing materials or the conduct of advertising or marketing activities.

(4) Any licensee who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding

\$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[16]

Prohibition of unsolicited loans

30.—(1) A licensee must not —

- (a) grant a loan to any person;
- (b) grant approval to any person to obtain a loan from the licensee; or
- (c) send or deliver, directly or indirectly, any article or document to any person on an undertaking by the licensee that the article or document, when used or produced in a specified manner, enables a loan to be obtained from the licensee,

without the person having first applied to the licensee in writing for the loan.

(2) Any licensee who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[17]

Signage at place of business

31.—(1) Every licensee must affix, in a conspicuous position at or in each of the licensee's places of business, a sign bearing the licensee's business name and the words "Licensed Moneylender" in the English language such as to be visible to any person immediately outside the place of business.

(2) Any licensee who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

[18]

Licenses to inform borrowers of terms of loan

32.—(1) Every licensee must, before granting any loan to a borrower, inform the borrower in writing as to such matters relating to the terms and conditions of the loan as may be prescribed.

(2) The licensee must cause the written information provided to the borrower under subsection (1) to be signed by the borrower or the borrower's agent together with a written acknowledgment by the borrower or the borrower's agent (as the case may be) that the borrower has been informed by the licensee of the terms and conditions of the loan.

(3) Where any loan has been granted in contravention of subsection (1) or (2), the licensee is not entitled to enforce —

- (a) the payment of all sums of interest, late interest and permitted fees payable under the contract for the loan, whether by the borrower or any surety; or
- (b) any guarantee or security given for the loan to recover any such sum.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), if any amount of interest, late interest or permitted fees has been paid, it is recoverable as a debt due to the borrower or surety (as the case may be) and if not recovered, is to be set off against the outstanding amount of the loan.

(5) Any licensee who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[19

Note of moneylender's contract to be given to borrower

33.—(1) No contract for a loan granted by a licensee, and no guarantee or security given by or on behalf of a borrower for the loan, is enforceable and no money paid by or on behalf of the licensee pursuant to the contract for the loan is recoverable in any court of law unless —

- (a) a note of the contract for the loan, in the prescribed form, is signed by the parties to the contract for the loan or their respective agents;
 - (b) where any party to the contract for the loan (including a surety) or the party's agent does not understand the English language, the licensee or the licensee's agent explains the terms of the note of the contract for the loan in a language that the party or the party's agent understands before any of them signs the note; and
 - (c) a copy of the note of the contract for the loan, duly signed by the licensee or the licensee's agent, is delivered to the borrower and the surety (if any) or their respective agents before or at the time the loan is paid to the borrower or any other person on the borrower's direction.
- (2) A licensee shall be guilty of an offence if the licensee —
- (a) knowingly or recklessly makes or causes to be made any note of a contract for a loan in which the principal, the rate of interest or late interest or any permitted fee payable, is not truly stated; or
 - (b) makes or causes to be made any note of a contract for a loan in which the principal, the rate of interest or late interest or any permitted fee payable, is not stated.
- [7/2018]*
- (3) A licensee who is guilty of an offence under subsection (2) shall be liable on conviction —
- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both; or
 - (b) if the licensee is a repeat offender, to a fine not exceeding \$40,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.
- [7/2018]*
- (4) In subsection (3), a licensee is a repeat offender if the licensee has been convicted on at least one other earlier occasion of —
- (a) an offence under subsection (3) for contravening subsection (2); or

- (b) an offence under section 20(2) of this Act as in force immediately before 30 November 2018, whether the conviction was before, on or after that date.

[7/2018]

(5) This section does not apply to any loan on revolving credit that may be drawn down and repaid by the borrower or the borrower's agent at any time and from time to time subject to a limit approved by the licensee.

[20

Provision of statements of account, loan documents and receipts

34.—(1) Every licensee must, at least once every half year ending on 30 June or 31 December and not later than 21 days after that date, supply to every borrower, so long as a contract for a loan granted by the licensee to the borrower is subsisting, a statement of account in the English language containing such particulars as may be prescribed.

(2) The statement of account under subsection (1) must be —

(a) supplied to the borrower without charge; and

(b) sent by —

(i) prepaid post to an address in Singapore, or by electronic communication to an email address, as specified by the borrower; or

(ii) any other method that is agreed in writing between the licensee and the borrower.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(3) A licensee must, on a written application by a borrower or surety, or a former borrower or surety, and on the payment of a processing fee of \$10 or any other prescribed amount, supply to the applicant or any other person on the applicant's direction not later than 21 days after the date the application is made —

(a) a statement of account in relation to the loan to which the applicant is or was a borrower or surety, containing the particulars prescribed under subsection (1), for any period

of account, not exceeding the duration of the loan, as may be specified by the applicant which must not in any case be earlier than 5 years before the date the statement is prepared; or

- (b) a copy of any document relating to a contract for a loan granted, or any guarantee or security given for the loan, in relation to which the applicant is or was a borrower or surety.

(4) A licensee who receives any cash payment from or on behalf of a borrower under a contract for a loan must immediately issue to the payer a receipt, which sets out in the English language —

- (a) the business name, the address of the place of business from which the loan was taken or the principal place of business, and the telephone number, of the licensee; and
- (b) the amount paid and the date of the payment.

(5) A licensee who issues a receipt in accordance with subsection (4) must —

- (a) obtain, on the licensee's copy of the receipt, a signature of the payer acknowledging that the payer has received the receipt; and
- (b) where the payer is other than the borrower —
 - (i) record, on the licensee's copy of the receipt, such particulars of the payer as may be prescribed; and
 - (ii) attach such documents as may be prescribed to the licensee's copy of the receipt.

(6) The Minister may prescribe such other information to be provided, in such form or manner and within such time as may be prescribed, by a licensee to a borrower in relation to any payment made by or on behalf of the borrower to the licensee.

(7) Any licensee who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

(8) Where a licensee has contravened subsection (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5), or any requirement relating to the provision of information prescribed under subsection (6), the licensee is not entitled to enforce —

- (a) the payment of all sums of interest, late interest and permitted fees payable under the contract for the loan, whether by the borrower or any surety; or
- (b) any guarantee or security given for the loan to recover any such sum.

(9) For the purposes of subsection (8), if any amount of interest, late interest or permitted fees has been paid, it is recoverable as a debt due to the borrower or surety (as the case may be) and if not recovered, is to be set off against the outstanding amount of the loan.

[21

Charges other than permitted fees unenforceable

35.—(1) The Minister may prescribe the types or amounts of costs, charges and expenses that a licensee may impose in respect of every loan granted by the licensee, including the fees or charges for or on account of legal costs.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Minister may prescribe different types or amounts of costs, charges and expenses that a licensee may impose —

- (a) on different classes or descriptions of borrowers; and
- (b) in relation to different classes or descriptions of loans.

[7/2018]

(3) Where, under any contract for a loan between a licensee and a borrower, the borrower is required to pay to the licensee any sum (not being a sum for or on account of stamp duties or fees payable by or under this Act or any other written law) on account of costs, charges or expenses other than or in excess of the permitted fees, the sum —

- (a) is not recoverable from the borrower or any surety;
- (b) if so paid, is recoverable as a debt due to the borrower or surety, as the case may be; and

- (c) if not recovered, is to be set off against the outstanding amount of the loan, and all sums of interest, late interest and permitted fees payable under the contract for the loan.

(4) A licensee shall be guilty of an offence if the licensee enters into a contract for a loan under which the borrower is required to pay any sum (not being a sum for or on account of stamp duties or fees payable by or under this Act or any other written law) on account of costs, charges or expenses other than or in excess of the permitted fees.

[7/2018]

(4A) A licensee shall be guilty of an offence if the licensee, without reasonable excuse, demands payment from a borrower of any sum (not being a sum for or on account of stamp duties or fees payable by or under this Act or any other written law) on account of costs, charges or expenses other than or in excess of the permitted fees.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(5) A licensee who is guilty of an offence under subsection (4) or (4A) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[22

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

Maximum rate of interest and late interest

36.—(1) A licensee must not enter into a contract for a loan under which the interest or late interest charged exceeds the maximum rate of interest or late interest prescribed by the Minister.

[7/2018]

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Minister may prescribe different maximum rates of interest or late interest for different classes or descriptions of borrowers or loans.

[7/2018]

(3) Where any contract for a loan has been entered into by a licensee in contravention of subsection (1) —

- (a) the contract is unenforceable against the borrower or any surety;

- (b) the licensee is not entitled to enforce any guarantee or security given for the loan; and
- (c) any money paid by or on behalf of the licensee under the contract is not recoverable in any court of law.

[7/2018]

(4) Any licensee who charges interest or late interest at a rate exceeding the maximum rate of interest or late interest that is prescribed for the loan shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[22A
[7/2018]

Reopening of certain transactions

37.—(1) When proceedings are brought in any court by a licensee for the recovery of a loan or the enforcement of a contract for a loan or any guarantee or security given for a loan, and the court is satisfied that the interest or late interest charged in respect of the loan is excessive and that the transaction is unconscionable or substantially unfair, the court is to reopen the transaction and take an account between the licensee and the person sued.

(2) In taking an account under subsection (1), the court may reopen any account already taken between the parties to the proceedings and relieve the person sued from payment of any sum in excess of the sum adjudged by the court to be fairly due in respect of such principal, interest and late interest as the court, having regard to the risk and all the facts and circumstances of the case (including facts and circumstances arising or coming to the knowledge of any party after the date of the transaction), may determine to be reasonable.

(3) In relieving the person sued under subsection (2), the court may, without affecting its power to grant any further or other equitable relief —

- (a) order the licensee to repay any excess paid to the licensee;
- (b) set aside either wholly or in part, or revise or alter, any guarantee or security given or the contract for the loan; and

- (c) if the licensee has disposed of the security, order the licensee to indemnify the borrower or other person sued for the loss of the security.

(4) Any court has and may exercise the powers referred to in subsections (1), (2) and (3) in relation to proceedings for relief brought by a borrower, a surety or other person liable to repay a loan to a licensee —

- (a) despite any provision or agreement to the contrary;
- (b) even though the time for repayment of the loan or any instalment thereof may not have arrived; and
- (c) even though the licensee's right of action for the recovery of the loan is barred.

(5) Where a licensee has filed, in the bankruptcy of a borrower or surety, a proof of debt arising from a loan granted by the licensee, the Official Assignee may exercise such powers as may be exercised by a court under this section when assessing whether the debt or liability is proved and its value.

(6) Nothing in this section derogates from —

- (a) the jurisdiction or powers of any court; or
- (b) the powers of the Official Assignee.

[23

Accounts, etc., to be kept and submissions to Registrar

38.—(1) Subject to subsection (4), every licensee must keep, or cause to be kept —

- (a) every loan application form, and a copy of every document supporting the application, received by the licensee —
 - (i) in a case where the loan application is not approved, for a period of 5 years after the date on which the form or copy is received; or
 - (ii) in a case where the loan application is approved, for a period starting on the date on which the licensee receives the form or copy (as the case may be) and

ending 5 years after the date on which the loan is fully repaid or on which the contract for the loan is otherwise terminated;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

- (b) the note of contract in the prescribed form for every loan granted to a person by the licensee for a period starting on the date on which the licensee issues the note of contract and ending 5 years after the date on which the loan is fully repaid or on which the contract for the loan is otherwise terminated;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

- (c) the following documents:

- (i) a cash account book, in the prescribed form, containing an entry on every sum received or paid by a licensee relating to any recent loan;
- (ii) a loan account book, in the prescribed form, containing an entry on every amount of repayment or sum paid to the account of any recent loan;
- (iii) a list of borrowers containing the prescribed particulars of every borrower who is granted a recent loan; and

- (d) such other documents as may be prescribed, for such period as may be prescribed.

[7/2018]

(2) Subject to subsection (3), despite the revocation or expiry of the licence of a person, the person must continue to keep or cause to be kept each document mentioned in subsection (1) until the expiry of the period for which the document is required under subsection (1) to be kept or caused to be kept.

[7/2018]

(3) Despite subsection (2), the Registrar may specify by written notice to the person whose licence is revoked or has expired, the time after which any document kept or caused to be kept under subsection (1) is to be disposed of by the person.

[7/2018]

(4) Despite subsection (1), a licensee must keep or cause to be kept any loan application form, note of a contract for a loan or other document referred to in that subsection, which has been specified or described by the Registrar in relation to a specific transaction or borrower or as belonging to a class of documents, for such longer time as may be required in connection with an investigation into an offence under this Act.

[7/2018]

(5) Every licensee must submit to the Registrar the following statements, in such form and manner, at such frequency, and within such time, as may be prescribed:

- (a) a statement showing every moneylending transaction entered into by the licensee during such period as may be prescribed;
- (b) a statement showing the licensee's cash and loan position for such period as may be prescribed.

[7/2018]

(6) Every licensee must, when so required by the Registrar, account for or explain any item or particulars appearing in any statement submitted to the Registrar under subsection (5).

(7) Any person who contravenes subsection (1), (2) or (4), or who fails to comply with the Registrar's notice under subsection (3), shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[7/2018]

(8) Any person who —

- (a) fails to submit to the Registrar any statement under subsection (5); or
- (b) fails to comply with any requisition made by the Registrar under subsection (6),

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

(9) Any licensee who knowingly or recklessly furnishes to the Registrar any information —

- (a) in a statement under subsection (5); or
- (b) in an account or explanation to the Registrar under subsection (6),

which is false or misleading in a material particular shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(10) Where a licensee submits a statement after the time for submission prescribed under subsection (5), the Registrar may impose a late submission fee not exceeding \$100 for every day or part of a day that the submission is late, subject to a maximum of \$2,000.

(11) In this section —

“recent loan”, in relation to a cash account book, loan account book or list of borrowers kept or caused to be kept by a licensee, means a loan granted by the licensee whether before, on or after 30 November 2018 —

- (a) that has not been fully repaid and the contract for the loan has not otherwise been terminated; or
- (b) where the loan has been fully repaid or the contract for the loan has otherwise been terminated, the full repayment or the termination of which (as the case may be) occurred within the period of 5 years before the date of the last entry in the cash account book, loan account book or list of borrowers, as the case may be.

[24

[7/2018]

Audit of licensee’s accounts

39.—(1) Despite the provisions of the Companies Act 1967, a licensee must —

- (a) on an annual basis, appoint an auditor who is a public accountant under the Accountants Act 2004; and

- (b) if for any reason its auditor ceases to be its auditor, appoint another auditor who is a public accountant under the Accountants Act 2004, as soon as practicable after the cessation.

[7/2018]

(2) The licensee must notify the Registrar in writing of an appointment under subsection (1) as soon as practicable after the appointment.

[7/2018]

(3) The Registrar may appoint an auditor —

- (a) if the licensee fails to comply with subsection (1); or
(b) if the Registrar considers it desirable that another auditor should act with the auditor appointed by the licensee under subsection (1),

and may at any time fix the remuneration to be paid by the licensee to the auditor the Registrar appoints.

[7/2018]

(4) The duties of an auditor appointed under subsection (1) or (3) are —

- (a) to carry out, for the year in respect of which the auditor is appointed, an audit of the licensee's accounts; and
(b) to make a report on the licensee's financial statements or consolidated financial statements in accordance with section 207 of the Companies Act 1967.

[7/2018]

(5) The Registrar may, by written notice to an auditor appointed under subsection (1) or (3), impose all or any of the following duties on the auditor in addition to those provided for under subsection (4), and the auditor must carry out the duties so imposed:

- (a) a duty to submit any additional information in relation to the audit that the Registrar considers necessary;
(b) a duty to enlarge or extend the scope of the audit of the licensee's business and affairs;
(c) a duty to carry out any other examination, or establish any procedure, in relation to the audit in any particular case;

- (d) a duty to make a report on any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (c).

[7/2018]

(6) The licensee must remunerate the auditor in respect of —

- (a) the remuneration the Registrar has fixed under subsection (3); and
- (b) the discharge of all or any of the additional duties of the auditor imposed under subsection (5).

[7/2018]

(7) Despite any other provision of this Act or the provisions of the Companies Act 1967, the Registrar may, if the Registrar is not satisfied with the performance of any duty by the auditor of the licensee, at any time direct the licensee —

- (a) to remove the auditor; and
- (b) to appoint another auditor who is a public accountant under the Accountants Act 2004.

[7/2018]

(8) The licensee must submit, or cause to be submitted, the following documents to the Registrar within such time as the Registrar may specify by written notice:

- (a) a copy of the auditor's report made under subsection (4)(b), attached to the licensee's financial statements or consolidated financial statements;
- (b) a copy of any report made under subsection (5)(d).

[7/2018]

(9) If an auditor, in the course of performing the auditor's duties, is satisfied that —

- (a) there has been a serious breach or non-observance of the provisions of this Act;
- (b) a criminal offence involving fraud or dishonesty has been committed; or
- (c) serious irregularities have occurred, including irregularities that compromise the confidentiality,

security or integrity of any data obtained, used or disclosed by the licensee,

the auditor must immediately report the matter to the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(10) Where an auditor or employee of the auditor discloses in good faith to the Registrar —

- (a) the auditor's or the employee's knowledge or suspicion of any of the matters in subsection (9); or
- (b) any information or other matter on which that knowledge or suspicion is based,

the disclosure is not a breach of any restriction upon the disclosure imposed by any law, contract or rules of professional conduct, and the auditor or employee is not liable for any loss arising out of the disclosure or any act or omission in consequence of the disclosure.

[7/2018]

(11) Any licensee who contravenes subsection (1) or (8) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[7/2018]

(12) Any auditor who contravenes subsection (5) or (9) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[7/2018]

(13) In this section —

“consolidated financial statements” and “financial statements” have the meanings given by section 209A of the Companies Act 1967;

“data” and “integrity” have the meanings given by section 54.

[24A
[7/2018]

Powers of auditor appointed by Registrar

40.—(1) An auditor appointed by the Registrar under section 39(3) may, for the purpose of carrying out an examination or audit —

- (a) examine, on oath or affirmation, any officer or employee of the licensee, or any other auditor of the licensee appointed under section 39 or under the Companies Act 1967;
- (b) require any officer or employee of the licensee, or any other auditor of the licensee appointed under section 39 or under the Companies Act 1967, to produce any book held by or on behalf of the licensee relating to the licensee’s business of moneylending;
- (c) make copies of or take extracts from, or retain possession of, any book mentioned in paragraph (b) for such period as may be necessary to enable it to be inspected;
- (d) employ such persons as the auditor considers necessary to assist the auditor in carrying out the examination or audit; and
- (e) authorise in writing any person employed by the auditor to do, in relation to the examination or audit, any act or thing that the auditor could do as an auditor under this subsection, other than the examination of a person on oath or affirmation.

[7/2018]

(2) Any individual who, without reasonable excuse —

- (a) fails to answer any question put to that individual; or
- (b) fails to comply with any request made to that individual,

by an auditor appointed under section 39(3) or a person authorised under subsection (1)(e) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

[7/2018]

(3) In this section, “officer”, in relation to a licensee, means any director, member of the committee of management, chief executive,

manager, secretary or other similar officer of the licensee and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity.

[24B
[7/2018]

Restriction on right to communicate certain matters relating to audit of licensee's accounts

41.—(1) Except as may be necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act, or for the purpose of an investigation into any offence under any written law, or so far as may be required for the purposes of any legal proceedings (whether civil or criminal) —

- (a) an auditor appointed under section 39; or
- (b) any employee of such auditor,

must not disclose any information that comes to the auditor's or employee's knowledge in the course of performing the auditor's or employee's duties, to any person other than the Registrar, and in the case of an employee of such auditor, the auditor.

[7/2018]

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

[24C
[7/2018]

Offence to destroy, conceal, etc., records to prevent, delay, etc., audit of licensee's accounts

42.—(1) Any individual who, with intent to prevent, delay or obstruct the carrying out of any examination or audit under section 39 or 40 —

- (a) destroys, conceals or alters any book relating to the business of a licensee; or
- (b) sends, or conspires with any other person to send, out of Singapore, any book or asset of any description belonging to, or in the possession or under the control of the licensee,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[7/2018]

(2) If, in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1), it is proved that the individual charged with the offence —

- (a) destroyed, concealed or altered any book mentioned in subsection (1)(a); or
- (b) sent, or conspired to send, out of Singapore, any book or asset mentioned in subsection (1)(b),

the onus of proving that, in so doing, the individual did not act with intent to prevent, delay or obstruct the carrying out of an examination or audit under section 39 or 40 lies on that individual.

[24D
[7/2018]

Power to inspect, and require information or documents

43.—(1) For the purpose of determining whether this Act has been complied with, the Registrar or an officer duly authorised by the Registrar (called in this section an authorised officer) may at any time —

- (a) inspect any premises where a moneylender is or is believed to be carrying on business and the books, records and other documents kept there;
- (b) require the moneylender or any other person to furnish any information, book, record or other document either forthwith or at such other time and place and in such manner as the Registrar or the authorised officer may require;
- (c) make or cause to be made a copy of any book, record or other document inspected or produced;
- (d) take photographs or video recordings of the premises inspected or any part of those premises; and

- (e) seize and remove from the premises any book, record or other document, or any machine or equipment containing any book, record or other document.

[8/2012]

(2) The Registrar or an authorised officer may be assisted by any other person or persons when exercising the powers under subsection (1)(a), (b), (c) or (d).

[8/2012]

(3) Any person who, without reasonable excuse, fails or refuses —

- (a) to grant to the Registrar or an authorised officer access to the premises or any part of the premises, or to any book, record or other document, under subsection (1)(a);
- (b) to furnish the Registrar or an authorised officer with any information, book, record or other document at the time and place or in the manner required under subsection (1)(b);
- (c) to permit the Registrar or an authorised officer to make or cause to be made a copy of any book, record or other document under subsection (1)(c);
- (d) to permit the Registrar or an authorised officer to take any photograph or video recording of the premises inspected or any part of those premises under subsection (1)(d); or
- (e) to permit the Registrar or an authorised officer to seize or remove from the premises any book, record or other document, or any machine or equipment containing any book, record or other document under subsection (1)(e),

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[8/2012]

(4) Any person who obstructs or prevents the Registrar or an authorised officer from exercising his or her powers under subsection (1) in any manner other than as described in subsection (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on

conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(5) Any person who, knowingly or recklessly —

- (a) gives to the Registrar or an authorised officer any information under subsection (1) that is false or misleading in a material particular; or
- (b) produces to the Registrar or an authorised officer, or grants him or her access to, any book, record or other document under subsection (1) which contains a statement or omits any matter which renders it false or misleading in a material particular,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[25

Power to obtain information from Comptroller of Income Tax

44.—(1) In the course of any investigation or proceedings into or relating to an offence by any person under section 19 or 47, whenever committed, or a conspiracy to commit, or an attempt to commit, or an abetment of any such offence, the Public Prosecutor may, despite any other written law to the contrary, by written notice require the Comptroller —

- (a) to furnish, as specified in the notice, all information available to the Comptroller relating to the affairs of that person or of the spouse, son or daughter of that person; and
- (b) to produce or furnish, as specified in the notice, any document or a certified copy of any document relating to that person, spouse, son or daughter which is in the possession or under the control of the Comptroller.

(2) The Comptroller to whom a notice is sent by the Public Prosecutor under subsection (1) is, despite any written law or any oath of secrecy to the contrary, legally bound to comply with the terms of that notice within the time specified in the notice.

(3) In this section, “Comptroller” means the Comptroller of Income Tax, or any Deputy Comptroller or Assistant Comptroller of Income Tax appointed under section 3(1) of the Income Tax Act 1947.

[25A

General power to issue directions

45.—(1) The Registrar may issue directions, either of a general or specific nature, to any licensee or exempt moneylender for or in respect of every purpose which the Registrar considers necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Registrar may by such directions —

- (a) require any licensee or exempt moneylender to display or exhibit such cautionary statements as the Registrar thinks fit in a conspicuous position at or in every place of business for moneylending;
- (b) require any licensee or exempt moneylender to provide cautionary statements in writing to borrowers; or
- (c) set out the manner in which any licensee or exempt moneylender must conduct the business of moneylending.

(3) Any licensee or exempt moneylender who fails or refuses to comply with any direction issued under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

(4) To avoid doubt, any written direction issued under subsection (1) is deemed not to be subsidiary legislation.

[26

False statements or representations to induce borrowing an offence

46. Any moneylender, any director, partner, agent or employee of the moneylender, or any person who is responsible for the management of the business of moneylending of the moneylender, who —

(a) by any false, misleading or deceptive statement, representation or promise; or

(b) by any dishonest concealment of material facts,

fraudulently induces or attempts to induce any person to borrow money or to agree to the terms on which money is or is to be borrowed, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$40,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

[27

Harassing borrower, etc.

47.—(1) Subject to subsection (3), where an unlicensed moneylender —

(a) displays or uses any threatening, abusive or insulting words, behaviour, writing, sign or visible representation; or

(b) commits any act likely to cause alarm or annoyance to a borrower or surety, any member of the family of the borrower or surety, or any other person,

in connection with a loan to the borrower, whether or not the unlicensed moneylender does the act personally or by any person acting on the unlicensed moneylender's behalf, the unlicensed moneylender shall be guilty of an offence and —

(c) in the case where the unlicensed moneylender is a body corporate, shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000; or

(d) in any other case —

(i) shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years and shall also be liable to a fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$50,000; and

(ii) in the case of a second or subsequent offence, shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than 2 years and not more than

9 years and shall also be liable to a fine of not less than \$6,000 and not more than \$60,000.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), any person who, acting on behalf of an unlicensed moneylender, commits or attempts to commit any of the acts specified in subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and —

- (a) shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years and shall also be liable to a fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$50,000; and
- (b) in the case of a second or subsequent offence, shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than 2 years and not more than 9 years and shall also be liable to a fine of not less than \$6,000 and not more than \$60,000.

(3) Subject to sections 325(1) and 330(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 —

- (a) except as provided in paragraph (b), a person who is convicted for the first time of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall also be liable to be punished with caning with not more than 6 strokes;
- (b) a person who is convicted for the first time of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall also be punished with caning —
 - (i) with not less than 3 and not more than 6 strokes if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that, in the course of committing the offence, damage was caused to any property;
 - (ii) with not less than 5 and not more than 8 strokes if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that, in the course of committing the offence, hurt was caused to another person; and
 - (iii) with not less than 6 and not more than 12 strokes if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that, in the course of committing the offence, hurt was caused to

another person and damage was caused to any property;

- (c) except as provided in paragraph (d), a person who is convicted of a second or subsequent offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall also be liable to be punished with caning with not more than 12 strokes; and
- (d) a person who is convicted of a second or subsequent offence under subsection (1) or (2) shall also be punished with caning —
 - (i) with not less than 5 and not more than 10 strokes if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that, in the course of committing the offence, damage was caused to any property;
 - (ii) with not less than 6 and not more than 12 strokes if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that, in the course of committing the offence, hurt was caused to another person; and
 - (iii) with not less than 9 and not more than 18 strokes if it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that, in the course of committing the offence, hurt was caused to another person and damage was caused to any property.

[15/2010]

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (a) of subsection (1), a person who —

- (a) uses any threatening, abusive or insulting words in any telephone call made by the person; or
- (b) by any means sends any thing which contains any threatening, abusive or insulting words, writing, sign or visible representation,

whether from a place in Singapore or outside Singapore, to any person or place in Singapore is taken to have committed an act referred to in that paragraph.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (b) of subsection (1), a person who makes any telephone call, or by any means sends any article, message, word, sign, image or representation, whether from a place in Singapore or outside Singapore, to any person or place in Singapore, which is likely to cause alarm or annoyance to a person referred to in that paragraph, is taken to have committed an act referred to in that paragraph.

(6) For the purposes of subsection (2), any person who does any of the acts specified in subsection (1) in connection with a demand for the repayment of a loan to an unlicensed moneylender is presumed, until the contrary is proved, to act on behalf of the unlicensed moneylender.

(7) For the purposes of subsection (3), a person is deemed to have caused damage to any property if the person does any of the following acts:

- (a) defacing the property by means of any pen, marker or any other delible or indelible substance;
- (b) defacing the property by affixing, posting up or displaying on the property any poster, placard, bill, notice, paper or other document;
- (c) defacing the property through the use of paint, coffee, soya sauce or any other delible or indelible substance;
- (d) destroying or damaging the property through the use of fire or any other substance;
- (e) doing any other act of mischief which causes a change in any property or which diminishes its value or utility.

[28

Abetment of section 47

48.—(1) For the purposes of Chapter 5 of the Penal Code 1871, a person (*P*) is taken to have abetted the commission of an offence under section 47 if —

- (a) *P* gives instruction to another person to carry out any act specified in section 47(1) in connection with a demand for the repayment of a loan to an unlicensed moneylender;

- (b) *P* provides or arranges transport for another person for the purpose of carrying out any such act knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the act is in connection with such a demand;
 - (c) *P* acts as or arranges a lookout for a person carrying out any such act knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the act is in connection with such a demand; or
 - (d) *P* provides or arranges transport for another person for the purpose of that other person acting as a lookout for a person carrying out any such act, and *P* knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the act is in connection with such a demand.
- (2) For the purposes of Chapter 5 of the Penal Code 1871, where —
- (a) a person gives instruction to another person to carry out any act specified in section 47(1) in connection with a demand for the repayment of a loan to an unlicensed moneylender; and
 - (b) a person, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the act is in connection with a demand, verifies that the act has been carried out in accordance with such instruction,

the person referred to in paragraph (b) is taken to have abetted the commission of an offence under section 47(1) or an offence under subsection (1)(a) (as the case may be) by the person giving the instruction.

(3) To avoid doubt, this section does not affect the term “abetment” under the Penal Code 1871.

[28A

Offences involving minors below 16

49.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), any person of or above 21 years of age who causes or procures any person below 16 years of age to commit an offence under section 19 or 47 shall be guilty of an offence and —

- (a) if the offence under section 19 is thereby committed, shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years and shall also be liable to a fine of not less than \$30,000 and not more than \$300,000;
 - (b) if the offence under section 47 is thereby committed, shall on conviction be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than 2 years and not more than 9 years and shall also be liable to a fine of not less than \$6,000 and not more than \$60,000; or
 - (c) in any other case, shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.
- (2) Subject to sections 325(1) and 330(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 —
- (a) a person who is convicted of an offence under subsection (1) for causing or procuring any person below 16 years of age to commit an offence under section 19 shall, if the offence under section 19 is thereby committed, also be liable to be punished with caning with not more than 12 strokes; and
 - (b) a person who is convicted of an offence under subsection (1) for causing or procuring any person below 16 years of age to commit an offence under section 47 shall, if the offence under section 47 is thereby committed, also be liable to be punished with caning with not more than 12 strokes.

[28B
[15/2010]

Offence of providing false contact information

50.—(1) A person (*P*) shall be guilty of an offence if —

- (a) in connection with a loan by an unlicensed moneylender to *P* or any other person, *P* gives any contact information which *P* knows or believes to be false to the unlicensed moneylender or a person acting on the moneylender's behalf, having reasonable cause to believe that the

moneylender or a person acting on the moneylender's behalf will use the information for the purpose of committing an offence under section 47(1) or (2) against any other person; and

- (b) the unlicensed moneylender or a person acting on the moneylender's behalf uses the contact information for the purpose of committing an offence under section 47(1) or (2) against any other person.

(2) Any person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months.

(3) In subsection (1), "contact information" means a residential address, business address, telephone number, facsimile number or any other information given to enable an unlicensed moneylender to contact a borrower.

[28C

Special provisions relating to non-resident principal

51.—(1) When any fine is imposed on an agent who is or has been licensed to carry on a business of moneylending in Singapore on behalf of a principal not resident in Singapore in respect of an offence under this Act committed by the agent in the course of carrying on the business, the fine is, unless the court imposing the fine otherwise directs, recoverable out of the property belonging to the principal or the agent, or to both, and situated within Singapore.

(2) Any property of the principal mentioned in subsection (1) may be taken under or pursuant to an enforcement order and sold under any warrant issued against the agent for the levy of the amount of the fine.

[Act 25 of 2021 wef 01/04/2022]

(3) When it is made to appear to any court by any person entitled to make an application under section 37 that any transaction entered into with a moneylender not resident in Singapore prima facie ought to be reopened, the court may —

- (a) issue an order of attachment attaching any property of the moneylender situated within Singapore until such time as

the moneylender submits to the jurisdiction of the court and gives security to the satisfaction of the court that any order made against the moneylender for repayment of any sum or for an indemnity will be duly satisfied; and

- (b) authorise the service out of the jurisdiction of any summons or other process applying for the reopening of the transaction under section 37.

[29]

Powers of police officer

52. Any police officer not below the rank of sergeant who is authorised in writing by the Registrar, or by a police officer not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police, may at all times enter the premises of any licensee, or any person who is suspected of carrying on the business of moneylending, to inspect or seize any book, record or other document relating to any moneylending transaction without a warrant being issued by a Magistrate for that purpose.

[30]

Public Prosecutor's power to order inspection of customer information

53.—(1) The Public Prosecutor may, if he or she considers that any evidence of the commission of an offence under section 19 or 47, whenever committed, or a conspiracy to commit, an attempt to commit, or an abetment of such an offence, by a person is likely to be found in any document containing customer information relating to that person, to the spouse, son or daughter of that person, or to a person reasonably believed by the Public Prosecutor to be a trustee or an agent for that person, by order authorise any police officer of or above the rank of assistant superintendent so named to inspect any document of a bank specified in the order.

(2) The police officer so authorised may, at all reasonable times, enter the bank specified in the order and inspect the documents kept in the bank and may take copies of any relevant entry in any such document.

(3) The Public Prosecutor may delegate his or her power under this section to a Deputy Public Prosecutor or the Commissioner of Police, except the power of delegation conferred by this subsection.

(4) In this section, “customer information” has the meaning given by section 40A of the Banking Act 1970.

[30A

PART 3A

COLLECTION, USE AND DISCLOSURE OF BORROWER INFORMATION AND DATA

Division 1 — General

Interpretation of this Part

54. In this Part, unless the context otherwise requires —

“borrower information”, in relation to a licensee, means —

- (a) any information relating to a person or a loan applied for or granted to that person, that is in the possession or under the control of the licensee;
- (b) any information relating to a person or a loan, that is obtained by the licensee under section 66 or 66A;
[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]
- (c) the prescribed information mentioned in section 68(1)(a) relating to the repayment of a loan granted by the licensee, or any instalment of such repayment; or
- (d) the prescribed information mentioned in section 68(1)(b) relating to any writing off of any debt arising from a loan granted by the licensee,

but excludes any information that is not referable to any named person or named group of persons;

“business report” means a report prepared by the designated credit bureau under section 74A(1);

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

“chief executive officer”, in relation to the designated credit bureau, means an individual, by whatever name described, who —

- (a) is in the direct employment of, or acting for or by arrangement with, the designated credit bureau; and
- (b) is principally responsible for the management and conduct of the business of the designated credit bureau;

“credit report” means a report prepared by the designated credit bureau under section 74 using borrower information provided by at least one licensee for the purposes of —

- (a) enabling a licensee to assess the creditworthiness of a person, including —
 - (i) information about the person’s history in relation to loans with one or more licensees;
 - (ii) information about the person’s capacity to repay loans granted by one or more licensees to the person; and
 - (iii) any other information relating to the person’s creditworthiness;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

- (b) enabling a licensee to comply with any restriction imposed under this Act as to the maximum amount that may be lent to a borrower or to a class or description of borrowers to which a borrower belongs; and

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

- (c) enabling a licensee to assess whether a loan may be granted to a borrower or to a class or description of borrowers to which a borrower belongs;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

“data” means —

- (a) borrower information of a licensee;
- (b) any information in a credit report;

(ba) any information in a business report;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(c) any information in a loan information report; or

(d) any information relating to a person or a loan, that is processed by the designated credit bureau in the course of preparing, providing or maintaining a credit report, business report or loan information report;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

“designated credit bureau” means the person that is for the time being designated under section 56(1) as the designated credit bureau;

“employee” includes an individual seconded from another employer;

“executive officer”, in relation to the designated credit bureau, means any individual, by whatever name described, who —

(a) is in the direct employment of, or acting for or by arrangement with, the designated credit bureau; and

(b) is concerned with or takes part in the management of the designated credit bureau on a day-to-day basis;

“information technology system”, in relation to the designated credit bureau, means computer servers and network equipment operated, maintained or used by the designated credit bureau in the performance of its duties under this Part, and any other electronic device that contains data;

“integrity”, in relation to data, means that the data is accurate, complete, current and not misleading;

“loan information report” means a report prepared by the designated credit bureau under section 77;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

“officer”, in relation to a licensee or the designated credit bureau, means any director, chief executive officer, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the licensee or designated credit bureau, and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity;

“process”, in relation to data, means to carry out any operation or set of operations in relation to the data, and includes any of the following:

- (a) to collect or record the data;
- (b) to hold the data;
- (c) to organise, combine, adapt or alter the data;
- (d) to retrieve or transmit the data;
- (e) to use the data;
- (f) to disclose or report the data;
- (g) to erase or destroy the data;

“public agency” means —

- (a) the Government, including any ministry, department and agency of the Government;
- (b) any statutory body; or
- (c) any Organ of State;

“public record” means any document, record or information filed or lodged with, or contained in any register kept or maintained by, a public agency, where any person may, whether or not on payment of a fee —

- (a) inspect the register, document or record; or
- (b) obtain —
 - (i) a copy of or an extract from the document, record or information; or
 - (ii) an extract from the register;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

“relevant business”, in relation to the designated credit bureau, means any of its business in relation to which a statutory manager has been appointed under section 61(2)(d);

“statutory manager” means a statutory manager appointed under section 61(2)(d);

“subsequent designated credit bureau” means a company that is designated by the Registrar under section 56(1) in place of a designated credit bureau which designation has been cancelled under section 58 or 59.

[30B
[7/2018]

Application of this Part

55. Unless otherwise provided, the provisions in Divisions 4, 5 and 6 of this Part are in addition to, and do not derogate from, anything in the Personal Data Protection Act 2012.

[30C
[7/2018]

Division 2 — Designation of designated credit bureau and cancellation of designation

Designation, etc., of designated credit bureau

56.—(1) The Registrar may designate a company within the meaning of section 4(1) of the Companies Act 1967, with the consent of the company, to be the designated credit bureau for the purposes of this Act.

[7/2018]

(2) Only one company may be designated under subsection (1) at any one time.

[7/2018]

(3) The Registrar must not designate any company under subsection (1) unless the Registrar has approved a plan submitted by the company that sets out the steps to be taken by the company in the event of the impending cancellation of the designation of that company, so as to ensure continuity in the performance of the functions set out in section 57 by the subsequent designated credit bureau or a statutory manager.

[7/2018]

(4) Notice of the designation must be published in the *Gazette*.

[7/2018]

(5) A person that is not the designated credit bureau must not hold itself out as the designated credit bureau.

[7/2018]

(6) Any person who contravenes subsection (5) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$125,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$12,500 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction; or

(b) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding \$250,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$25,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[30D

[7/2018]

Functions of designated credit bureau

57.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, the functions of the designated credit bureau are as follows:

(a) to prepare and provide reports in accordance with the provisions of this Part;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(b) to serve as a repository of data from which the Registrar or any public agency may obtain data for any purpose specified in this Act;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(c) to maintain a record of persons to whom a licensee is prohibited from granting a loan, and to assist in giving effect to such prohibition.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(2) In addition to the functions under subsection (1), the designated credit bureau must undertake any other function that may be

prescribed by the Minister in relation to protecting the interest of licensees, borrowers or potential borrowers.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

Cancellation of designation by Registrar

58.—(1) The Registrar may, by written notice, cancel the designation of the designated credit bureau if —

- (a) the Registrar is not satisfied with —
 - (i) the financial standing of the designated credit bureau; or
 - (ii) the manner in which the designated credit bureau's business is being conducted;
- (b) the designated credit bureau is contravening or has contravened any provision of this Part, or any direction or notice issued, or any condition imposed, by the Registrar under this Part;
- (c) it appears to the Registrar that the designated credit bureau is failing or has failed to satisfy any of its obligations under or arising from this Part, or any direction or notice issued, or any condition imposed, by the Registrar under this Part;
- (d) the designated credit bureau has provided to the Registrar any information or document required under this Part that is false or misleading; or
- (e) the designated credit bureau, or any of its officers or employees, has not performed its or the officer's or employee's duties under this Part honestly.

[7/2018]

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the Registrar must not cancel the designation of the designated credit bureau without giving the designated credit bureau an opportunity to be heard.

[7/2018]

(3) The Registrar may, without giving the designated credit bureau an opportunity to be heard, cancel the designation of the designated credit bureau in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) the designated credit bureau is insolvent, becomes unable to meet its obligations, or suspends payments;
- (b) the designated credit bureau informs the Registrar that it is or is likely to become insolvent, or that it is or is likely to become unable to meet its obligations, or that it has suspended or is about to suspend payments;
- (c) the Registrar is of the opinion that the designated credit bureau —
 - (i) is carrying on its business in a manner likely to be detrimental to the confidentiality, security or integrity of any data held by the designated credit bureau; or
 - (ii) is or is likely to become insolvent, is or is likely to become unable to meet its obligations, or is about to suspend payments;
- (d) the designated credit bureau is wound up or otherwise dissolved, whether in Singapore or elsewhere;
- (e) it appears to the Registrar that it would be contrary to the public interest for the designated credit bureau to continue its operations.

[7/2018]

(4) The cancellation of the designation of a designated credit bureau takes effect on the date specified by the Registrar in the written notice mentioned in subsection (1), being a date not earlier than the date that the notice is served on the designated credit bureau.

[7/2018]

(5) Despite subsection (4), if the Registrar is of the view that it is necessary —

- (a) for the cancellation of the designation of the designated credit bureau to take effect on a later date, pending the designation of a subsequent designated credit bureau; or
- (b) for the cancellation of the designation of the designated credit bureau to take effect on an earlier date so that a subsequent designated credit bureau can be designated,

the Registrar may, by a further written notice to the designated credit bureau, specify a different date (being a date not earlier than the date that the further notice is served on the designated credit bureau) on which the cancellation of the designation is to take effect, and the cancellation takes effect on the date specified in the further notice.

[7/2018]

(6) Notice of the cancellation of the designation must be published in the *Gazette*.

[7/2018]

(7) If the designated credit bureau or former designated credit bureau is aggrieved by the Registrar's decision under subsection (1) or (3), the designated credit bureau or former designated credit bureau may appeal in writing to the Minister within 14 days after the written notice mentioned under subsection (1) or (5) is served.

[7/2018]

(8) Despite the lodging of an appeal under subsection (7), the cancellation of the designation takes effect —

(a) on the date stated in the written notice under subsection (1); or

(b) if a further written notice mentioned in subsection (5) is served, on the date specified in that notice,

unless the cancellation of the designation is withdrawn by the Registrar before the date mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b), whichever is applicable.

[7/2018]

(9) The Minister's decision on an appeal lodged under subsection (7) is final.

[30F

[7/2018]

Application by designated credit bureau to cancel designation

59.—(1) The designated credit bureau may apply for the cancellation of its designation upon giving prior notice, of such period as may be prescribed or such shorter period as the Registrar may allow, of its intention to do so.

[7/2018]

(2) Where notice has been given under subsection (1) and has not been withdrawn, the designation is treated as cancelled upon the expiry of the notice period mentioned in that subsection.

[7/2018]

(3) Notice of the cancellation of the designation must be published in the *Gazette*.

[30G

[7/2018]

Division 3 — Control of designated credit bureau

Power to issue directions

60.—(1) For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Part, the Registrar may give written directions, either of a general or specific nature, to the designated credit bureau.

[7/2018]

(2) The Registrar may, in particular, give directions setting out —

- (a) the manner in which the designated credit bureau is to perform its duties under this Part;
- (b) the manner in which data is to be processed by the designated credit bureau, including the requirement to preserve metadata in the course of processing data; or
- (c) the requirements relating to the availability or performance of any electronic online system used by the designated credit bureau for the collection, use or disclosure of borrower information or data.

[7/2018]

(3) Where the designated credit bureau, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a direction under subsection (1), the designated credit bureau shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$100,000; and

- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$10,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[30H
[7/2018]

Registrar's control over designated credit bureau

61.—(1) This section and sections 62 to 65 apply —

- (a) after the written notice of the Registrar under section 58(1) cancelling the designation of the designated credit bureau has been served, but before the cancellation takes effect; or
- (b) after the application for the cancellation of the designation of the designated credit bureau is made by the designated credit bureau under section 59(1), but before the cancellation takes effect.

[7/2018]

(2) The Registrar may do any one or more of the following:

- (a) direct the designated credit bureau to transfer all data in the possession or under the control of the designated credit bureau to the subsequent designated credit bureau or a statutory manager;
- (b) without limiting paragraph (a), require that the designated credit bureau comply with the plan submitted by the designated credit bureau and approved by the Registrar under section 56(3);
- (c) require the designated credit bureau to immediately take any action or to do or not to do any act as the Registrar may consider necessary to ensure continuity in the performance of the functions set out in section 57 by the subsequent designated credit bureau or a statutory manager;
- (d) appoint one or more persons as statutory manager to assume control of and manage such of the business (including affairs and property) of the designated credit bureau under this Part on such terms as the Registrar may specify.

[7/2018]

(3) Where the Registrar appoints 2 or more persons as statutory manager of the designated credit bureau, the Registrar must specify, in the terms of the appointment, which of the duties, functions and powers of the statutory manager —

- (a) may be discharged or exercised by those persons jointly and severally;
- (b) must be discharged or exercised by those persons jointly; and
- (c) must be discharged or exercised by a specified person.

[7/2018]

(4) Where the Registrar has exercised any power under subsection (2), the Registrar may at any time do one or more of the following:

- (a) vary or revoke any requirement of, any appointment made by, or any action taken by, the Registrar under subsection (2), on such terms as the Registrar may specify;
- (b) add to, vary or revoke any term the Registrar has specified under this section.

[7/2018]

(5) A statutory manager incurs no liability for anything done (including any statement made) or omitted to be done with reasonable care and in good faith in the course of or in connection with —

- (a) the exercise or purported exercise of any power under this Part;
- (b) the performance or purported performance of any function or duty under this Part; or
- (c) the compliance or purported compliance with this Part.

[7/2018]

(6) Where the designated credit bureau, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a direction or requirement of the Registrar under subsection (2)(a), (b) or (c), the designated credit bureau shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$100,000; and

- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$10,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[30I
[7/2018]

Assumption of control

62.—(1) Upon assuming control of any business of the designated credit bureau under section 61(2)(d), the statutory manager must take custody or control of the relevant business.

[7/2018]

(2) During the period when the statutory manager is in control of the relevant business of the designated credit bureau, the statutory manager must manage the relevant business in the name of and on behalf of the designated credit bureau.

[7/2018]

(3) In managing the relevant business of the designated credit bureau, the statutory manager —

- (a) must ensure that the operations of the designated credit bureau are conducted without compromising the confidentiality, security or integrity of any data held by the designated credit bureau; and
- (b) has all the duties, powers and functions of the members of the board of directors (collectively and individually) of the designated credit bureau, including powers of delegation, in relation to the relevant business, under —
- (i) the Companies Act 1967; and
- (ii) the constitution of the designated credit bureau.

[7/2018]

(4) Despite subsection (3), the statutory manager is not required to call any meeting of the designated credit bureau under the Companies Act 1967 or the constitution of the designated credit bureau.

[7/2018]

(5) Despite any written law or rule of law —

- (a) upon the statutory manager assuming control of any business of the designated credit bureau under

section 61(2)(d), any appointment of an individual as chief executive officer or director of the designated credit bureau that was in force immediately before the assumption of control is treated as revoked, unless the Registrar gives his or her approval, by written notice to the individual and the designated credit bureau, for the individual to remain in the appointment; and

- (b) during the period when the statutory manager is in control of the relevant business of the designated credit bureau, an individual must not be appointed as chief executive officer or director of the designated credit bureau, except with the Registrar's approval.

[7/2018]

(6) Where the Registrar has given his or her approval under subsection (5) for an individual to remain in the appointment of, or to be appointed as, chief executive officer or director of the designated credit bureau, the Registrar may at any time, by written notice to the individual, revoke the approval and the appointment is treated as revoked on the date specified in the notice.

[7/2018]

(7) Despite any written law or rule of law, if any individual whose appointment as chief executive officer or director of the designated credit bureau is revoked under subsection (5) or (6) acts or purports to act after the revocation as chief executive officer or director of the designated credit bureau during the period when the statutory manager is in control of the relevant business of the designated credit bureau under section 61(2)(d) —

- (a) the act or purported act of the individual is invalid and of no effect; and
- (b) the individual shall be guilty of an offence if the individual so acts or purports to act without reasonable excuse.

[7/2018]

(8) Despite any written law or rule of law, if any individual who is appointed as chief executive officer or director of the designated credit bureau in contravention of subsection (5) acts or purports to act as chief executive officer or director of the designated credit bureau during the period when the statutory manager is in control of the

relevant business of the designated credit bureau under section 61(2)(d) —

- (a) the act or purported act of the individual is invalid and of no effect; and
- (b) the individual shall be guilty of an offence if the individual so acts or purports to act without reasonable excuse.

[7/2018]

(9) During the period when the statutory manager is in control of the relevant business of the designated credit bureau —

- (a) if there is any conflict or inconsistency between —
 - (i) a direction or decision given by the statutory manager (including a direction or decision given to a person or body of persons mentioned in sub-paragraph (ii)); and
 - (ii) a direction or decision given by any chief executive officer, director, member, executive officer, employee, agent, office-holder, or the board of directors, of the designated credit bureau or any trustee for the designated credit bureau,

the direction or decision mentioned in sub-paragraph (i) prevails over the direction or decision mentioned in sub-paragraph (ii) to the extent of the conflict or inconsistency; and

- (b) a person must not exercise any voting or other right attached to any share in the designated credit bureau in any manner that may defeat or interfere with any duty, power or function of the statutory manager, and any such act or purported act is invalid and of no effect.

[7/2018]

(10) Any individual who is guilty of an offence under subsection (7) or (8) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$125,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both; and

- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$12,500 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[30J
[7/2018]

Other provisions concerning assumption of control

63.—(1) A statutory manager is treated to have assumed control of the relevant business of the designated credit bureau on the date of the statutory manager's appointment as a statutory manager.

[7/2018]

(2) Without limiting section 61(4)(a), the Registrar may at any time revoke the appointment of a statutory manager in relation to the relevant business of the designated credit bureau —

- (a) if the Registrar is satisfied that the reasons for the appointment have ceased to exist;
- (b) if the confidentiality, security or integrity of any data held by the designated credit bureau is compromised;
- (c) if a subsequent designated credit bureau is designated; or
- (d) on any other ground.

[7/2018]

(3) The statutory manager must cease to be in control of the relevant business of the designated credit bureau upon revocation of its appointment under subsection (2) or section 61(4)(a).

[7/2018]

(4) The Registrar must publish in the *Gazette* the date, and any other particulars that the Registrar thinks fit, of —

- (a) the appointment of a statutory manager in relation to the relevant business of the designated credit bureau; and
- (b) the revocation of a statutory manager's appointment in relation to the relevant business of the designated credit bureau.

[30K
[7/2018]

Responsibilities of directors, officers, etc., of designated credit bureau during period of control

64.—(1) During the period when the statutory manager is in control of the relevant business of the designated credit bureau —

(a) the General Division of the High Court may, on an application of the statutory manager, direct any former or current relevant person of the designated credit bureau to pay, deliver, convey, surrender or transfer to the statutory manager, within the period specified by the General Division of the High Court, any property or book of the designated credit bureau that —

(i) forms part of or relates to the relevant business of the designated credit bureau under this Part; and

(ii) is in the person's possession or control; and

(b) any former or current relevant person of the designated credit bureau must provide the statutory manager any information that the statutory manager may require to —

(i) discharge its duties or functions; or

(ii) exercise its powers,

in relation to the designated credit bureau, within such time and in such manner as the statutory manager may specify.

[7/2018; 40/2019]

(2) Any person who —

(a) without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with subsection (1)(b); or

(b) in purported compliance with subsection (1)(b), knowingly or recklessly provides any information or document that is false or misleading in a material particular,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$125,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$12,500 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[7/2018]

(3) In this section, “relevant person”, in relation to the designated credit bureau, means a chief executive officer, director, executive officer, employee, agent, banker, auditor or office-holder of, or trustee for, the designated credit bureau.

[30L
[7/2018]

Remuneration and expenses of statutory manager

65. The Registrar may at any time fix the remuneration and expenses to be paid by the designated credit bureau to a statutory manager appointed in relation to the designated credit bureau, whether or not the appointment has been revoked.

[30M
[7/2018]

Division 4 — Duties of licensees in relation to borrower information and data, etc.

Duties to obtain and submit borrower information, etc., before granting loan

66.—(1) Every licensee must, before granting any loan to an applicant for a loan, obtain from the applicant the following information in relation to the applicant and the loan:

- (a) if the applicant is an individual, the applicant’s full name (including any alias), date of birth, personal identification number (such as national registration identity card number, birth certificate number or passport number), nationality, residential address and telephone number;
- (b) if the applicant is a body corporate other than a limited liability partnership —
 - (i) its name, the address of its place of business or registered office, its telephone number, the date and place of its incorporation and its incorporation number;
 - (ii) the name, personal identification number (such as national registration identity card number, birth

certificate number or passport number) and residential address of each of its officers;

- (iii) the name, place of incorporation, incorporation number and address of the place of business or registered office of each of its substantial shareholders that are corporations, if any; and
- (iv) the name, personal identification number (such as national registration identity card number, birth certificate number or passport number) and residential address of each of its substantial shareholders who are individuals, if any;

[Act 32 of 2024 wef 25/11/2024]

(ba) if the applicant is a limited liability partnership —

- (i) its name, the address of its place of business or registered office, its telephone number, the date and place of its incorporation and its incorporation number;
- (ii) the name, personal identification number (such as national registration identity card number, birth certificate number or passport number) and residential address of each of its managers;
- (iii) the name, place of incorporation, incorporation number and address of the place of business or registered office of each of its partners that are corporations, if any; and
- (iv) the name, personal identification number (such as national registration identity card number, birth certificate number or passport number) and residential address of each of its partners who are individuals, if any;

[Act 32 of 2024 wef 25/11/2024]

(c) if the applicant is a partnership or unincorporated association —

- (i) its name, address of its place of business or registered office, telephone number, date and place of registration and registration number;
 - (ii) the names, personal identification numbers (such as national registration identity card number, birth certificate number or passport number) of every partner or member who is an individual and of its officers; and
 - (iii) the names, places of incorporation, incorporation numbers and addresses of the places of business or registered offices of any partner which is a corporation;
- (d) any other information in relation to the applicant and the loan, that is prescribed by the Minister, having regard to the purposes of a credit report.

[7/2018]

(2) [*Deleted by Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024*]

(3) The licensee must, within the prescribed time after the receipt of an application for a loan from an applicant and before granting any loan to the applicant, submit the information mentioned in subsection (1) and information about the principal of the loan, to the designated credit bureau in the prescribed manner.

[7/2018]

(4) Before submitting any information mentioned in subsection (1) to the designated credit bureau under subsection (3), the licensee must —

- (a) verify the information and applicant's identity against either or a combination of the following:
 - (i) genuine, complete and up-to-date documents provided by the applicant;
 - (ii) the same or supporting information relating to the applicant from any public record; and

(b) inform the applicant in writing —

(i) that the information is to be submitted to the designated credit bureau for the purpose of producing a credit report in relation to the applicant; and

(ii) that any of that information submitted to the designated credit bureau may be disclosed by the designated credit bureau to —

(A) the Registrar; and

(B) any public agency, if the Registrar is satisfied that the information is necessary for policy formulation or review by the public agency.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(5) No licensee may grant any loan to an applicant for a loan unless the licensee —

(a) has submitted, within the prescribed time after the receipt of the loan application and in the prescribed manner, a request to the designated credit bureau for a credit report in relation to the applicant; and

(b) has obtained a credit report in relation to the applicant within the prescribed time before the loan is granted.

[7/2018]

(6) The request submitted by the licensee under subsection (5)(a) must be accompanied by —

(a) a declaration as to whether —

(i) the licensee is submitting the request for a purpose other than for assessing the creditworthiness of the applicant in question and for complying with any restriction imposed under this Act as to the maximum amount that may be lent to the applicant; and

(ii) the licensee has a valid licence issued under section 5 at the time of the request; and

- (b) any other document or information that the Minister may prescribe for the purposes of this subsection.

[7/2018]

(7) Upon obtaining a credit report in relation to an applicant for a loan, a licensee must —

- (a) if the licensee intends to grant the loan —

- (i) inform the designated credit bureau in the prescribed manner and before granting the loan, of any change in the information submitted under subsection (3); and
- (ii) submit to the designated credit bureau in the prescribed manner and before granting the loan, information on the frequency of repayment of the loan, the amount of each repayment, the rate of interest and late interest (if any), and any late payment fee or any permitted fee payable under the contract for the loan; and

- (b) if the licensee declines to grant the loan, inform the designated credit bureau in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time of the reason or reasons for so declining.

[7/2018]

(8) Any licensee who without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (1), (3), (4), (5), (6) or (7) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(9) Any licensee who submits under subsection (6)(a) a declaration that is false shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[30N

[7/2018]

Obtaining, etc., information and requesting credit report in relation to surety

66A.—(1) This section applies where an application for a loan is made to a licensee by an applicant with one or more sureties.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a licensee must, before granting any loan to the applicant, comply with —

(a) the requirements of section 66(1) and (4) in respect of each surety of the applicant, as if a reference to an applicant in those provisions were a reference to the surety; and

[Act 32 of 2024 wef 25/11/2024]

(b) the requirement of section 66(3) to submit the information mentioned in section 66(1) (called in this paragraph the required information) to the designated credit bureau as if a reference to the required information in relation to the applicant were a reference to the required information in relation to the surety.

(3) The Minister may, under section 66(1)(d) as it applies to a surety of the applicant under subsection (2), prescribe different types of information to be obtained by a licensee from the surety.

(4) A licensee may, before deciding whether to grant a loan to an applicant, submit a request to the designated credit bureau for a credit report in relation to any surety of the applicant.

(5) A request for a credit report under subsection (4) —

(a) must be submitted in the prescribed manner; and

(b) must be accompanied by —

(i) a declaration that —

(A) the licensee is submitting the request to assess the creditworthiness of the surety; and

(B) the licensee has a valid licence issued under section 5 at the time of the request; and

(ii) any other document or information that the Minister may prescribe for the purposes of this subsection.

(6) A licensee must, if the licensee intends to grant the loan to the applicant, inform the designated credit bureau, in the prescribed manner and before granting the loan, of any change in the surety's information submitted under section 66(3) read with subsection (2)(b).

(7) To avoid doubt, a licensee is not required to seek the consent of a surety of an applicant before submitting a request to the designated credit bureau for a credit report in relation to the surety under subsection (4).

(8) Any licensee who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (2) or (6) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(9) Any licensee who submits under subsection (5)(b)(i) a declaration that is false shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

Credit report to be disposed of or kept by licensee

67.—(1) Where a licensee declines to grant a loan to an applicant for a loan, the licensee must, within one business day after the day that the licensee informs the designated credit bureau under section 66(7)(b) of the reason or reasons for so declining —

- (a) in the case of a credit report obtained under section 66(5)(b) in relation to the applicant — dispose of the credit report (including any information in the credit report); and
- (b) in the case of any credit report obtained in accordance with a request submitted under section 66A(4) in relation to a surety of the applicant — dispose of the credit report (including any information in the credit report).

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(2) Every licensee who enters into a contract for a loan with a borrower must —

- (a) keep or cause to be kept the credit report obtained under section 66(5)(b), and any credit report obtained in accordance with a request submitted under section 66A(4), for the purposes of the loan for a period of 5 years after the date on which the loan is fully repaid or on which the contract for the loan is otherwise terminated; and

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

- (b) immediately dispose of that credit report upon the expiry of the period mentioned in paragraph (a).

[7/2018]

(3) Any licensee who without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[30O

[7/2018]

Duty to submit information of repayments and instalments

68.—(1) A licensee must submit the following information to the designated credit bureau within such time as may be prescribed:

- (a) information relating to any repayment of a loan granted by the licensee or any instalment of a repayment of such loan;
- (b) information relating to the writing off of any debt arising from a loan granted by the licensee.

[7/2018]

(2) Any licensee who without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[30P

[7/2018]

Duty to maintain confidentiality of borrower information

69.—(1) A licensee and any of the licensee's officers or employees must not request from the designated credit bureau any borrower information (including a credit report relating to a person) of the

licensee or any other licensee, except for the purposes of section 66(5)(b) or 66A(4).

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(2) A licensee and any of the licensee's officers or employees must not use any borrower information (including any such information in a credit report) of the licensee or any other licensee received from the designated credit bureau, except where —

- (a) the borrower information is strictly necessary to assess the creditworthiness of an applicant for a loan from the licensee; or
- (b) the borrower information is to be used by the licensee for determining the maximum amount that the licensee may lend to an applicant for a loan from the licensee.

[7/2018]

(3) A licensee and any of the licensee's officers or employees must not disclose to any other person any borrower information of the licensee or any other licensee (including any such information in a credit report) except —

- (a) to the designated credit bureau, to the extent that the borrower information is required to be submitted under section 66, 66A or 68;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

- (b) to the person to which the borrower information relates;
- (c) to the Registrar or any officer duly authorised by the Registrar, to the extent that the borrower information is required to be furnished under section 43;
- (d) to the Registrar, to the extent that the borrower information is required to be submitted under section 72; or
- (e) to the licensee, where the disclosure of borrower information of the licensee is by any of the licensee's officers or employees.

[7/2018]

(3A) Despite subsection (3), a licensee may disclose —

- (a) any borrower information of the licensee (including any such information in a credit report) —
 - (i) to an assistant of the licensee to enable the assistant to collect any debt on behalf of the licensee;
 - (ii) to a contractor or agent engaged by the licensee to enable the contractor or agent to maintain or support the licensee's information system; or
 - (iii) to any public agency to enable any of the licensee's officers or employees to inspect or obtain any public record relating to —
 - (A) an applicant for a loan from the licensee; or
 - (B) a borrower to whom a loan has been granted by the licensee; or
- (b) any specified borrower information of the licensee —
 - (i) to any prescribed credit bureau for the purpose of obtaining any report from that prescribed credit bureau to assess the creditworthiness of any applicant for a loan or any borrower to whom a loan has been granted by the licensee; or
 - (ii) to any other person that may be prescribed for any purposes related to the welfare and protection of applicants for loans, borrowers and sureties.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(4) Any person who contravenes subsection (1), (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[7/2018]

(5) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires —

- (a) where borrower information of a licensee may be disclosed under subsection (3) to any person that is a body corporate, the borrower information may be disclosed to such officers of the body corporate as may be necessary for the purpose

for which the disclosure is authorised under that subsection; and

- (b) the obligation of any officer or employee of the licensee not to disclose any borrower information of any licensee mentioned in subsection (3) continues after the termination or cessation of his or her appointment, employment, engagement or other capacity or office in which he or she has been provided the borrower information.

[30Q
[7/2018]

(6) In this section —

“information system” means computer servers and network equipment operated, maintained or used by a licensee for the purposes of the licensee’s business of moneylending, and any other electronic device that contains borrower information of the licensee;

“prescribed credit bureau” means —

- (a) a credit bureau that is for the time being licensed under the Credit Bureau Act 2016; or
- (b) an organisation which provides information to a person to assess the creditworthiness of an individual in relation to one or more transactions between the person and the individual, where such information is —
- (i) provided for gain or profit; or
- (ii) provided on a routine, non-profit basis as an ancillary part of a business carried on for gain or profit,

that may be prescribed as such;

“specified borrower information” means one or more types or classes of borrower information that the Registrar may, by written notice to one or more licensees, specify for the purposes of this Part.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

Duty to maintain security and integrity of borrower information, etc.

70.—(1) A licensee must —

- (a) ensure the integrity of any borrower information it provides to the designated credit bureau; and
- (b) protect any information (including information in a credit report, business report, loan information report or other document) in the licensee's possession or under the licensee's control, that the licensee has obtained or received under or for the purposes of this Act, by making reasonable security arrangements to —
 - (i) prevent unauthorised access to, unauthorised collection, use, disclosure, copying, modification or disposal of, or similar risks in relation to, the information; and
 - (ii) prevent the loss, damage or compromise of any storage medium or device on which the information is stored.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(2) Any licensee who without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[30R
[7/2018]

Duty to correct borrower information

71.—(1) A person may request a licensee to correct any error or omission in the borrower information of the licensee that relates to that person.

[7/2018]

(2) Upon receiving a request under subsection (1), the licensee must —

- (a) inform the Registrar and the designated credit bureau of the request as soon as practicable after receiving the request;

- (b) conduct and complete an investigation to ascertain the integrity of the borrower information within such period as the Minister may prescribe; and
- (c) unless the licensee is satisfied on reasonable grounds that a correction should not be made, within such period as the Minister may prescribe —
 - (i) correct the borrower information in question; and
 - (ii) send the corrected borrower information to the designated credit bureau.

[7/2018]

(3) Upon receiving a request of the designated credit bureau under section 78(3)(b), the licensee must —

- (a) inform the Registrar of the request as soon as practicable after receiving the request;
- (b) conduct and complete an investigation to ascertain the integrity of the borrower information of the licensee that is the subject of the request, within such period as the Minister may prescribe; and
- (c) unless the licensee is satisfied on reasonable grounds that a correction should not be made, within such period as the Minister may prescribe —
 - (i) correct the borrower information in question; and
 - (ii) send the corrected borrower information to the designated credit bureau.

[7/2018]

(4) Any licensee who without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[30S
[7/2018]

Duty to submit borrower information to Registrar

72.—(1) For the purpose of determining whether this Act has been complied with, or for the purpose of policy formulation or review by

the Registrar or by any public agency, the Registrar or any officer duly authorised by the Registrar may, by written notice to a licensee, direct that the licensee submit to the Registrar or the officer any borrower information of the licensee —

- (a) in relation to any person or loan specified in the notice; and
- (b) within the period and in the form and manner specified in the notice.

[7/2018]

(2) Any licensee who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with any notice under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[30T

[7/2018]

Duties under this Part applicable in relation to persons with revoked or expired licences

73.—(1) Where the licence of a person is revoked or has expired, the following duties continue to apply to the person in relation to moneylending transactions entered into by the person before the revocation or expiry of the licence:

- (a) subject to subsection (2), the duties under section 67(2) to keep or cause to be kept, and to dispose of, a credit report (including any information in a credit report);
- (b) the duties under section 68(1) to submit information relating to the repayment of a loan or any instalment of the repayment of a loan, and information relating to the writing off of any debt arising from a loan;
- (c) the duties under section 69(2) and (3) concerning the use and disclosure of borrower information;
- (d) the duties under section 70(1) to ensure the integrity of borrower information and to protect any information mentioned in that section;
- (e) the duties under section 71(2) and (3) relating to the correction of borrower information;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(f) the duty under section 72(1) to submit borrower information to the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(2) A person mentioned in subsection (1) must dispose of any credit report (including any information in a credit report) by such date as the Registrar may specify by written notice.

[7/2018]

(3) For the purposes of section 69, a reference to an officer or employee of a licensee includes a reference to an officer or employee of a person whose licence has been revoked or has expired.

[7/2018]

(4) Any person who without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[30U
[7/2018]

Division 5 — Duties of designated credit bureau in relation to borrower information and data, etc.

Production of credit reports and charging of fees, etc.

74.—(1) Subject to subsections (3) and (4), upon receiving a request by a licensee for a credit report in relation to an applicant for a loan under section 66(5)(a) or a surety of an applicant for a loan under section 66A(4), the designated credit bureau must prepare and deliver to the licensee a credit report —

(a) containing such information in relation to that person as the Minister may prescribe, having regard to the purposes of a credit report; and

(b) within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner.

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(1A) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), different types of information may be prescribed in respect of different classes or

descriptions of persons who are the subject of a credit report, or different classes or descriptions of licensees.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(2) The designated credit bureau may, each time it delivers a credit report to a licensee under subsection (1), charge a fee not exceeding an amount that is approved by the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(3) Despite subsections (1)(a) and (2), the designated credit bureau may, by agreement with a licensee making a request under section 66(5)(a) or 66A(4) for a credit report —

- (a) deliver at the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner to that licensee a credit report containing information in addition to that prescribed under subsection (1)(a); and
- (b) charge that licensee, for the additional information, a fee not exceeding an amount that is approved by the Registrar, in addition to the fee mentioned in subsection (2).

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(4) The designated credit bureau must not deliver any credit report to a licensee under subsection (1) or (3) if it is not satisfied that —

- (a) the licensee has —
 - (i) in the case of a request by a licensee under section 66(5)(a) — submitted the declaration mentioned in section 66(6)(a) and any other document or information prescribed under section 66(6)(b); or
 - (ii) in the case of a request by the licensee under section 66A(4) — submitted the declaration mentioned in section 66A(5)(b)(i) and any other document or information prescribed under section 66A(5)(b)(ii); or

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

- (b) the licensee has a valid licence issued under section 5.

[7/2018]

(5) If the designated credit bureau without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (1) or (4), the designated credit bureau shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$250,000; and
- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$25,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[30V
[7/2018]

Business report in relation to licensee

74A.—(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (4), the designated credit bureau may, upon the request of a licensee, prepare and deliver to the licensee a report (called in this section a business report) in relation to the licensee —

- (a) for the purposes of facilitating or assisting the licensee to develop or improve strategies, standards or practices in respect of the business of moneylending carried on or conducted by the licensee; and
- (b) that is prepared using one or more of the following:
 - (i) borrower information provided by —
 - (A) the licensee; or
 - (B) the licensee and one or more other licensees;
 - (ii) any information in a credit report in relation to —
 - (A) applicants for loans from the licensee; and
 - (B) borrowers to whom loans have been granted by the licensee;
 - (iii) any information relating to the applicants and borrowers mentioned in sub-paragraph (ii) that is processed by the designated credit bureau in the course of preparing, providing or maintaining a credit report in relation to those applicants and borrowers.

(2) A business report must not contain any information that the Minister may prescribe.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), different information or types of information may be prescribed in respect of business reports prepared and delivered for different classes or descriptions of licensees.

(4) The designated credit bureau may, for every business report prepared and delivered to a licensee under subsection (1), charge a fee not exceeding an amount that is approved by the Registrar.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

Duties relating to borrower information

75.—(1) The designated credit bureau and any of its officers or employees must not use any borrower information received from any licensee except for the purpose of —

(a) producing and delivering a credit report under section 74, a business report under section 74A or a loan information report under section 77;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(b) correcting the data in the possession or under the control of the designated credit bureau under section 78(6);

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(c) disclosing the borrower information in such form as directed by the Registrar under section 81; or

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(d) discharging the functions of the designated credit bureau under section 57.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(2) Subject to section 77(3A), the designated credit bureau and any of its officers or employees must not disclose (whether in the form of a credit report, business report or loan information report or otherwise) any borrower information received from any licensee to any person except —

- (a) to a licensee, to the extent that the borrower information has been required or permitted to be disclosed under section 74 or 74A;

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

- (b) to the person to which the borrower information relates under section 77;

- (c) to the Registrar, in accordance with section 80; or

- (d) to a public agency, to the extent that the borrower information has been directed by the Registrar under section 81(2)(c) to be disclosed to that public agency, and in accordance with any condition specified by the Registrar under section 81(3).

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(2A) Nothing in subsections (1) and (2) prevents the designated credit bureau that is a licensed credit bureau under the Credit Bureau Act 2016 from using or disclosing any borrower information that is also customer information within the meaning given by that Act, if the use or disclosure of such information is required or permitted by or under that Act.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(3) Despite anything in this section, an officer or employee of the designated credit bureau may disclose borrower information received from a licensee to another officer or employee of the designated credit bureau, if the disclosure is solely in connection with the performance of the duties of that officer or employee, as the case may be.

[7/2018]

(4) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$125,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both; or

- (b) in any other case, to a fine not exceeding \$250,000.

[7/2018]

(5) This section applies to any data received by the designated credit bureau in a request under section 78(1) as it applies to borrower information received from any licensee.

[30W
[7/2018]

Duty to maintain security and integrity of data

76.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, the designated credit bureau must, in respect of any data that it receives from a licensee —

- (a) ensure the integrity of the data that the designated credit bureau processes (except where erasing or destroying such data); and
- (b) protect the data by making reasonable security arrangements to prevent unauthorised access, collection, use, disclosure, copying, modification, disposal or similar risks.

[7/2018]

(2) Without limiting subsection (1)(a), the designated credit bureau must update its information technology system or any of its books containing any data, at least once a day or at any other frequency that the Minister may prescribe.

[7/2018]

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(a), the integrity of any data of the designated credit bureau is assumed unless the designated credit bureau is required or directed to correct the data under section 78(2)(a), (3)(a), (5) or (6).

[7/2018]

(4) If the designated credit bureau without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (1) or (2), the designated credit bureau shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$250,000; and
- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$25,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[30X
[7/2018]

Duty to provide loan information report

77.—(1) Upon the request of any person, the designated credit bureau must, within one business day after the request or any other period that the Minister may prescribe, provide the person with a loan information report in relation to the person —

- (a) that is prepared using one or more of the following:
- (i) borrower information provided by at least one licensee;
 - (ii) any information in a credit report in relation to the person;
 - (iii) any information relating to the person or a loan granted to the person, that is processed by the designated credit bureau in the course of preparing, providing or maintaining a credit report in relation to the person; and

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

- (b) that contains such information as the Minister may prescribe relating to —
- (i) each loan granted by a licensee to that person that has not been fully repaid or in respect of which the contract for the loan has not otherwise been terminated; and
 - (ii) any pending application for a loan made by that person from any licensee.

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(2) The designated credit bureau may charge a person a fee each time the designated credit bureau provides the person with a loan information report under subsection (1).

[7/2018]

(3) The designated credit bureau must provide the loan information report mentioned in subsection (1) to a person, in one of the following forms at the person's option:

- (a) a physical copy to be collected by the person at the registered office of the designated credit bureau;

- (b) a physical copy sent by registered post to an address specified by the person;
- (c) an electronic copy sent by email to an email address specified by the person.

[7/2018]

(3A) Despite subsections (1) and (3) and section 75(2), where the designated credit bureau is required to provide a loan information report to a person (*P*) under subsection (1), the designated credit bureau or any of its officers or employees may disclose the loan information report to any other person, if the designated credit bureau has *P*'s written consent for the disclosure.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(4) If the designated credit bureau without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (1) or (3), the designated credit bureau shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$250,000; and
- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$25,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[30Y
[7/2018]

Disposal of report delivered in error

77A.—(1) If the Registrar is aware that any of the following has been wrongly delivered to a person:

- (a) a credit report under section 74(1);
- (b) a business report under section 74A(1);
- (c) a loan information report under section 77(1),

the Registrar may, by written notice, direct the person to dispose of that report (including any information in that report) by a specified date.

(2) A person who receives a written notice mentioned in subsection (1) must comply with the Registrar's direction by the date specified in the written notice, or any later date that the Registrar may allow.

(3) Any person who, without reasonable excuse, contravenes subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$30,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

Correction of data, etc., on request

78.—(1) A person may request the designated credit bureau to correct an error or omission in any data —

- (a) relating to that person or any loan applied for by that person; and
- (b) that is in the possession or under the control of the designated credit bureau.

[7/2018]

(2) Upon receiving a request under subsection (1), the designated credit bureau must, within such period after receiving the request as the Registrar may specify by written notice —

- (a) correct the error or omission in the data in question if the designated credit bureau is satisfied, on reasonable grounds and without an investigation, that the correction should be made; or
- (b) conduct and complete an investigation to ascertain the integrity and source of the data in question.

[7/2018]

(3) Upon completing the investigation mentioned in subsection (2)(b), unless the designated credit bureau is satisfied on reasonable grounds that a correction should not be made, the designated credit bureau must comply with the following:

- (a) in a case where it is ascertained from the investigation that the error or omission in the data in question —
 - (i) occurred or arose out of or in the course of the processing of the data in question by the designated credit bureau; or

- (ii) occurred or arose as a result of any malfunction in the information technology system used by the designated credit bureau,

the designated credit bureau must immediately correct the error or omission;

(b) in any other case, the designated credit bureau must —

- (i) identify the licensee who submitted the borrower information in question to the designated credit bureau; and
- (ii) immediately contact the licensee to request that the licensee conduct an investigation to ascertain the integrity of the borrower information of the licensee.

[7/2018]

(4) If the licensee mentioned in subsection (3)(b) cannot be contacted by the designated credit bureau by any of the prescribed means and within the prescribed time, the designated credit bureau must immediately notify the Registrar of this fact.

[7/2018]

(5) Upon being notified by the designated credit bureau under subsection (4), the Registrar may investigate into the request made under subsection (1), and may direct the designated credit bureau to correct the error or omission in question if the Registrar is satisfied, from any document submitted by the person making the request, that the error or omission ought to be corrected despite the absence of any investigation by the licensee.

[7/2018]

(6) Upon receiving any corrected borrower information from a licensee under section 71(2)(c) or (3)(c), the designated credit bureau must immediately correct the error or omission in question in the data in the possession or under the control of the designated credit bureau by relying on the corrected borrower information.

[7/2018]

(7) Unless otherwise directed by the Registrar by written notice, the designated credit bureau must keep or cause to be kept for a period of 5 years after the date of every request under subsection (1) or the date

of receipt of any corrected borrower information sent by a licensee under section 71(2)(c) or (3)(c), the following information:

- (a) the name of the person who made the request or the licensee who sent the corrected borrower information;
- (b) the name of the person to whom the data in question relates;
- (c) the date of the request or the receipt of corrected borrower information;
- (d) the data in question;
- (e) whether the data in question was corrected;
- (f) any other information that may be prescribed.

[7/2018]

(8) If the designated credit bureau without reasonable excuse contravenes subsection (2), (3), (4), (6) or (7), or fails to comply with a direction of the Registrar under subsection (5), the designated credit bureau shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$250,000; and
- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$25,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[7/2018]

(9) This section has effect despite anything in section 22 of the Personal Data Protection Act 2012.

[30Z
[7/2018]

Obligation to notify Registrar of certain events

79.—(1) The designated credit bureau must notify the Registrar as soon as practicable after the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (a) an event that results in a compromise of the confidentiality or security of any data in the possession or under the control of the designated credit bureau;

- (b) any civil or criminal proceeding instituted against the designated credit bureau, whether in Singapore or elsewhere;
- (c) any event (including an irregularity in any operation of the designated credit bureau) that impedes or impairs the operations of the designated credit bureau;
- (d) the designated credit bureau is becoming, or is likely to become, insolvent or unable to meet any of its financial, statutory, contractual or other obligations;
- (e) any other event that the Minister may prescribe.

[7/2018]

(2) Subject to subsection (1), the designated credit bureau must notify the Registrar within 7 business days after the occurrence of any of the following events:

- (a) any change of any of its executive officers other than a director or the chief executive officer of the designated credit bureau;
- (b) any other event that the Minister may prescribe.

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(3) If the designated credit bureau contravenes subsection (1) or (2), the designated credit bureau shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$250,000.

[30ZA
[7/2018]

Obligation to provide information to Registrar

80.—(1) For any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (2), and subject to subsection (5), the Registrar may, by written notice, direct the designated credit bureau to provide to the Registrar all such information relating to the designated credit bureau's business of preparing, providing or maintaining credit reports or loan information reports under this Part within such period as the Registrar may specify in the notice.

[7/2018]

- (2) The purposes mentioned in subsection (1) are the following:
- (a) for determining whether this Act has been complied with;
 - (b) for policy formulation or review by the Registrar or any public agency.

[7/2018]

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

(3) Without limiting subsections (1) and (2), the Registrar may in the written notice require the designated credit bureau to provide —

- (a) any information relating to the operations of the designated credit bureau that are carried out for the purposes of its functions under section 57;
- (b) borrower information of any licensee that is in the possession or under the control of the designated credit bureau; and
- (c) any other information that the Registrar may require for the purposes of this Act.

[7/2018]

(4) Subject to subsection (5) —

- (a) a requirement imposed by the Registrar under this section has effect despite any obligation as to secrecy or other restrictions upon the disclosure of information imposed by any rule of law or contract; and
- (b) a person who complies with a requirement imposed by the Registrar under this section is not to be treated as being in breach of any restriction on the disclosure of the information imposed by any rule of law or contract.

[7/2018]

(5) Nothing in this section requires a person to disclose any information subject to legal privilege.

[7/2018]

(6) If the designated credit bureau without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a notice issued under subsection (1), the designated credit bureau shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) to a fine not exceeding \$100,000; and
- (b) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding \$10,000 for every day or part of a day during which the offence continues after conviction.

[30ZB
[7/2018]

Division 6 — Disclosure to public agencies

Disclosure of borrower information and data to public agencies

81.—(1) A public agency may make a request to the Registrar for information relating to any borrower or class or description of borrowers, or any loan or class or description of loans, for the purpose of policy formulation or review.

[7/2018]

(2) Upon the receipt of a request under subsection (1), the Registrar may —

- (a) direct any licensee under section 72 to submit any borrower information of the licensee to the Registrar, and disclose all or any of the borrower information to the public agency;
- (b) direct the designated credit bureau under section 80 to provide any data in the possession or under the control of the designated credit bureau to the Registrar, and disclose all or any of the data to the public agency; or
- (c) direct the designated credit bureau, by written notice, to disclose to the public agency any data in the possession or under the control of the designated credit bureau in such form as the Registrar may direct.

[7/2018]

(3) The direction under subsection (2)(c) may be made subject to any condition that the Registrar may specify in the notice.

[7/2018]

(4) The Registrar must not disclose any borrower information or data under subsection (2)(a) or (b), or direct the disclosure of any data under subsection (2)(c), unless the Registrar —

- (a) is satisfied that the borrower information or data is necessary for policy formulation or review by the public agency; and
- (b) is satisfied that the public agency is not able to obtain the borrower information or data under any other written law.

[7/2018]

(5) Despite anything in subsection (4), the Registrar must not disclose under subsection (2)(a) or (b) any personal data, or direct the disclosure under subsection (2)(c) of any personal data, unless the Registrar is satisfied that the policy formulation or review to be conducted by the public agency cannot reasonably be accomplished without the personal data being provided.

[7/2018]

(6) In this section, “personal data” means data about an individual who can be identified from that data.

[30ZC
[7/2018]

Registrar may share information pursuant to data sharing direction

81A.—(1) Despite anything in this Act, the Registrar may share any borrower or loan information under the Registrar’s control with any Singapore public sector agency in accordance with and to the extent permitted by a data sharing direction given to the Registrar.

(2) In determining whether the Registrar is authorised to share borrower or loan information under a data sharing direction mentioned in subsection (1), any restriction or limitation (whether express or implied) imposed under this Act on the Registrar as to the sharing or disclosure of the information is disregarded.

(3) In this section —

“borrower or loan information” means any information (including personal data) relating to any borrower or class or description of borrowers, or any loan or class or description of loans, obtained by the Registrar from a licensee or the designated credit bureau under or for the purposes of this Act;

“control” and “Singapore public sector agency” have the meanings given by section 2(1) of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018;

“data sharing direction” means a direction given under section 4 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018 on the sharing of information or re-identification of anonymised information under the control of a Singapore public sector agency;

“personal data” means data about an individual who can be identified from that data.

[Act 38 of 2023 wef 01/03/2024]

Division 7 — Audit of designated credit bureau

Audit of designated credit bureau’s accounts

82.—(1) Despite the provisions of the Companies Act 1967, the designated credit bureau must —

- (a) on an annual basis, appoint an auditor who is a public accountant under the Accountants Act 2004; and
- (b) if for any reason its auditor ceases to be its auditor, appoint another auditor who is a public accountant under the Accountants Act 2004 as soon as practicable after the cessation.

[7/2018]

(2) The designated credit bureau must notify the Registrar in writing of an appointment under subsection (1) as soon as practicable after the appointment.

[7/2018]

(3) The Registrar may appoint an auditor —

- (a) if the designated credit bureau fails to appoint an auditor; or
- (b) if the Registrar considers it desirable that another auditor should act with the auditor appointed under subsection (1),

and may at any time fix the remuneration to be paid by the designated credit bureau to the auditor the Registrar appoints.

[7/2018]

(4) The duties of an auditor appointed under subsection (1) or (3) are —

- (a) to carry out, for the year in respect of which the auditor is appointed, an audit of the designated credit bureau's accounts; and
- (b) to make a report on the designated credit bureau's financial statements or consolidated financial statements in accordance with section 207 of the Companies Act 1967.

[7/2018]

(5) The Registrar may, by written notice to an auditor appointed under subsection (1) or (3), impose all or any of the following duties on the auditor in addition to those provided under subsection (4), and the auditor must carry out the duties so imposed:

- (a) a duty to submit any additional information in relation to the audit that the Registrar considers necessary;
- (b) a duty to enlarge or extend the scope of the audit of the designated credit bureau's business and affairs under this Part;
- (c) a duty to carry out any other examination, or establish any procedure, in relation to the audit in any particular case;
- (d) a duty to make a report on any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (b) and (c).

[7/2018]

(6) The designated credit bureau must remunerate the auditor in respect of —

- (a) the remuneration the Registrar has fixed under subsection (3); and
- (b) the discharge of all or any of the additional duties of the auditor imposed under subsection (5).

[7/2018]

(7) Despite any provision of this Part or the provisions of the Companies Act 1967, the Registrar may, if the Registrar is not satisfied with the performance of any duty by the auditor of the designated credit bureau, at any time direct the designated credit bureau —

- (a) to remove the auditor; and
- (b) to appoint another auditor who is a public accountant under the Accountants Act 2004.

[7/2018]

(8) The designated credit bureau must submit, or cause to be submitted, the following documents to the Registrar within the time specified by the Registrar by written notice:

- (a) a copy of the auditor's report made under subsection (4)(b), attached to the designated credit bureau's financial statements or consolidated financial statements;
- (b) a copy of any report made under subsection (5)(d).

[7/2018]

(9) If an auditor, in the course of performing the auditor's duties, is satisfied that —

- (a) there has been a serious breach or non-observance of the provisions of this Part;
- (b) a criminal offence involving fraud or dishonesty has been committed;
- (c) losses have been incurred that reduce the capital of the designated credit bureau by 50% or more;
- (d) serious irregularities have occurred, including irregularities that compromise the confidentiality, security or integrity of any data received, used or disclosed by the designated credit bureau; or
- (e) the auditor is unable to confirm that the claims of creditors of the designated credit bureau are covered by the assets of the designated credit bureau,

the auditor must immediately report the matter to the Registrar.

[7/2018]

(10) Where an auditor or employee of the auditor discloses in good faith to the Registrar —

- (a) the auditor's or employee's knowledge or suspicion of any of the matters mentioned in subsection (9); or

- (b) any information or other matter on which that knowledge or suspicion is based,

the disclosure is not a breach of any restriction upon the disclosure imposed by any law, contract or rules of professional conduct, and the auditor or employee is not liable for any loss arising out of the disclosure or any act or omission in consequence of the disclosure.

[7/2018]

(11) If the designated credit bureau contravenes subsection (1) or (8), the designated credit bureau shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

[7/2018]

(12) Any auditor who contravenes subsection (5) or (9) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

[30ZD

[7/2018]

Powers of auditor appointed by Registrar

83.—(1) An auditor appointed by the Registrar under section 82(3) may, for the purpose of carrying out an examination or audit —

- (a) examine, on oath or affirmation, any officer or employee of the designated credit bureau, or any other auditor of the designated credit bureau appointed under section 82 or under the Companies Act 1967;
- (b) require any officer or employee of the designated credit bureau, or any other auditor of the designated credit bureau appointed under section 82 or under the Companies Act 1967, to produce any book held by or on behalf of the designated credit bureau relating to its business under this Part;
- (c) make copies of or take extracts from, or retain possession of, any book mentioned in paragraph (b) for such period as may be necessary to enable it to be inspected;
- (d) employ such persons as the auditor considers necessary to assist the auditor in carrying out the examination or audit; and

- (e) authorise in writing any person employed by the auditor to do, in relation to the examination or audit, any act or thing that the auditor could do as an auditor under this subsection, other than the examination of a person on oath or affirmation.

[7/2018]

(2) Any individual who, without reasonable excuse —

(a) fails to answer any question put to that individual; or

(b) fails to comply with any request made to that individual,

by an auditor appointed under section 82(3) or a person authorised under subsection (1)(e) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$12,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[30ZE

[7/2018]

Restriction on auditor's and employee's right to communicate certain matters

84.—(1) Except as may be necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of this Part, or for the purpose of an investigation into any offence under any written law, or so far as may be required for the purposes of any legal proceedings (whether civil or criminal) —

(a) an auditor appointed under section 82; or

(b) any employee of such auditor,

must not disclose any information that comes to the auditor's or employee's knowledge in the course of performing the auditor's or employee's duties, to any person other than the Registrar, and in the case of an employee of such auditor, the auditor.

[7/2018]

(2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction —

(a) in the case of the auditor, to a fine not exceeding \$25,000;
or

- (b) in the case of the employee, to a fine not exceeding \$12,500.

[30ZF
[7/2018]

Offence to destroy, conceal, alter, etc., records

85.—(1) Any individual who, with intent to prevent, delay or obstruct the carrying out of any examination or audit under section 82 or 83 —

- (a) destroys, conceals or alters any book relating to the business of the designated credit bureau; or
- (b) sends, or conspires with any other person to send, out of Singapore, any book or asset of any description belonging to, or in the possession of or under the control of the designated credit bureau,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

[7/2018]

(2) If, in any proceedings for an offence under subsection (1), it is proved that the individual charged with the offence —

- (a) destroyed, concealed or altered any book mentioned in subsection (1)(a); or
- (b) sent, or conspired to send, out of Singapore, any book or asset mentioned in subsection (1)(b),

the onus of proving that, in so doing, the individual did not act with intent to prevent, delay or obstruct the carrying out of an examination or audit under section 82 or 83 lies on that individual.

[30ZG
[7/2018]

PART 4

MISCELLANEOUS

Certain offences arrestable and non-bailable

86. Every offence under section 19 or 47 is deemed to be an arrestable and non-bailable offence within the meaning of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010.

[31]

Jurisdiction of court

87.—(1) Despite any provision to the contrary in the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, a District Court has jurisdiction to try any offence under this Act and has power to impose the full penalty or punishment in respect of the offence.

(2) Where any act constituting an offence, or part of an offence, under section 19 or 47 is committed outside Singapore by a person, the person may be dealt with in respect of that offence as if the act had been committed within Singapore.

[32]

Examination of offenders

88.—(1) Whenever 2 or more persons are charged with an offence under section 19 or 47, whenever committed, or with a conspiracy to commit, or an attempt to commit, or an abetment of such an offence, the court may require one or more of them to give evidence as a witness or witnesses for the prosecution.

(2) Any such person who refuses to be sworn or to answer any lawful question is to be dealt with in the same manner as witnesses so refusing may by law be dealt with by a Magistrate's Court or District Court, as the case may be.

(3) Every person so required to give evidence, who in the opinion of the court makes true and full discovery of all things as to which the person is lawfully examined, is entitled to receive a certificate of indemnity under the hand of the Magistrate or District Judge (as the case may be) stating that the person has made a true and full discovery of all things as to which the person was examined, and that certificate

is a bar to all legal proceedings against the person in respect of all those things.

[32A

Offences by bodies corporate, etc.

89.—(1) Where an offence under this Act committed by a body corporate is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer; or

(b) to be attributable to any neglect on the officer's part,

the officer as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) applies in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with the member's functions of management as if the member were a director of the body corporate.

(3) Where an offence under this Act committed by a partnership is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a partner; or

(b) to be attributable to any neglect on the partner's part,

the partner as well as the partnership shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(4) Where an offence under this Act committed by an unincorporated association (other than a partnership) is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer of the unincorporated association or a member of its governing body; or

(b) to be attributable to any neglect on the part of such officer or member,

the officer or member as well as the unincorporated association shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(5) In this section —

“officer” —

- (a) in relation to a body corporate, means any director, partner, member of the committee of management, chief executive, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity; or
- (b) in relation to an unincorporated association (other than a partnership), means the president, the secretary, or any member of the committee of the unincorporated association, or any person holding a position analogous to that of president, secretary or member of a committee and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity;

“partner” includes a person purporting to act as a partner.

(6) The Minister may make rules to provide for the application of any provision of this section, with such modifications as the Minister considers appropriate, to any body corporate or unincorporated association formed or recognised under the law of a territory outside Singapore.

[33

Composition of offences

90.—(1) The Registrar, or the Commissioner of Police or any police officer authorised in writing by the Commissioner of Police, may compound any offence under this Act that is prescribed as an offence which may be compounded by the Registrar, the Commissioner of Police or such police officer by collecting from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence a sum not exceeding the lower of the following:

- (a) one half of the amount of the maximum fine that is prescribed for the offence;
- (b) \$5,000.

(2) On payment of the sum of money, no further proceedings are to be taken against that person in respect of the offence.

(3) The Minister may make rules to prescribe the offences which may be compounded under this section and the conditions subject to which, and the manner in which, the offences may be compounded.

[34

Exemption on application

91.—(1) The Minister may, upon the application of any person and the payment of such fees as may be prescribed, issue a certificate to exempt, with or without conditions, any person from all or any of the provisions of this Act.

(2) Every exemption under subsection (1) —

(a) may in the first instance be valid for a period of 3 years or less from the date of the grant of exemption;

(b) may, upon payment of the prescribed fee, be extended thereafter, with or without additional conditions, for further periods not exceeding 3 years at a time; and

(c) need not be published in the *Gazette*.

(3) Any person who desires to apply for or extend an exemption must submit an application to the Registrar in such form and manner, and must furnish the Registrar with such information, as the Registrar may require.

(4) Any person who has been granted an exemption under this section and desires to apply to the Minister to vary or revoke any of the existing conditions of the exemption must —

(a) submit an application to the Registrar in such form and manner, and furnish the Registrar with such information, as the Registrar may require; and

(b) pay such fee as may be prescribed for the making of the application.

(5) The Minister may prescribe different fees in respect of different classes or descriptions of persons for the purposes of this section.

(6) An application for the extension of an exemption must be made not later than one month before the expiry of the exemption.

(7) Any moneylender who makes an application for the extension of an exemption after the time limited under subsection (6) must pay a late extension fee not exceeding \$50 for every day or part of a day that the application for extension is late, subject to a maximum of \$1,500.

(8) The Minister may at any time revoke, whether wholly or in part, any exemption granted to a person under subsection (1) by giving the person a written notice of revocation.

(9) Without limiting subsection (8), the Minister may at any time revoke, whether wholly or in part, any exemption —

- (a) for the contravention of any condition of the exemption or any provision of this Act; or
- (b) if the Minister is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so.

(10) Any revocation, whether wholly or in part, of an exemption or a condition of exemption under this section, and any amendment of a condition of exemption under this section, do not affect any moneylending transaction entered into before the date of the revocation or amendment, as the case may be.

[35]

Class exemption

92.—(1) The Minister may make rules to exempt any class of persons from any, but not all, of the provisions of this Act, subject to such terms or conditions as may be prescribed.

(2) Any revocation, whether wholly or in part, of an exemption or a condition of exemption under this section, and any amendment of a condition of exemption under this section, do not affect any moneylending transaction entered into before the date of the revocation or amendment, as the case may be.

[36]

Rules

93.—(1) The Minister may make rules for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act.

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the Minister may make rules —
- (a) to prescribe the maximum amount that may be lent by a moneylender to a borrower or to any borrower belonging to any class or description of borrowers;
 - (b) to prescribe the maximum aggregate amount that may be lent by all moneylenders to a borrower or to any borrower belonging to any class or descriptions of borrowers;
 - (c) to prohibit a moneylender from granting to a borrower a loan of an amount that would, together with any other loan granted to the borrower by the moneylender or any other moneylender that remains outstanding, exceed the prescribed maximum aggregate amount that may be lent at any one time by all moneylenders to the borrower or to a class or description of borrowers to which the borrower belongs;
 - (d) to prescribe the class or description of borrowers to which a moneylender may grant a loan, or a loan above a specified amount, either generally or in specified circumstances;
 - (e) to prescribe the circumstances under which a moneylender is prohibited or restricted from granting a loan to a borrower;
 - (f) to regulate the use of advertisements by or on behalf of any moneylender, or any solicitation or canvassing for business by or on behalf of any moneylender;
 - (g) to prescribe the types of activities and services that a moneylender may not engage in or provide;
 - (h) to specify the places where a moneylender may conduct the business of moneylending;
 - (i) to require a moneylender to keep particular accounts or records relating to loans;
 - (j) to prescribe the manner in which accounts and records are to be kept and the particulars to be entered therein;

- (k) to regulate the conduct of the business of moneylending, or specific types of moneylending activities or services;
- (l) to provide for —
 - (i) the detection and prevention of money laundering;
 - (ii) the detection and prevention of terrorism financing;
or
 - (iii) the detection and prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]
- (la) to provide for the reporting of transactions suspected of involving money laundering, terrorism financing or the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]
- (m) to discharge or facilitate the discharge of any obligation binding on Singapore by virtue of a decision of the Security Council of the United Nations;
- (n) to prescribe the forms for the purposes of this Act;
- (o) to prescribe the fees to be paid in respect of any matter required for the purposes of this Act and the refund and remission, whether wholly or in part, of those fees; and
- (p) to prescribe all matters and things which by this Act are required or permitted to be prescribed or which are necessary or expedient to be prescribed to give effect to this Act.

[7/2018]

- (3) Rules made under this section may —
- (a) relate to any moneylender, whether the moneylender is a licensee or is exempted from all or any of the provisions of this Act;
 - (b) relate to all or any class or description of moneylenders, borrowers or loans; and
 - (c) make different provisions for different classes or descriptions of moneylenders, borrowers or loans.

[7/2018]

(4) Rules made under this section may provide that a contravention of any specified provision of the rules is an offence, and —

- (a) in respect of the rules referred to in subsection (2)(l) or (m), may provide for penalties not exceeding a fine of \$100,000; and
- (b) in respect of any other rules, may provide —
 - (i) in a case where the offender is an individual, for penalties not exceeding a fine of \$20,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or both for each offence; or
 - (ii) in any other case, for penalties not exceeding a fine of \$50,000 for each offence.

(5) Subsection (6) applies where rules prohibit a moneylender from granting to a borrower a loan of an amount that would, together with any other loan granted to the borrower by the moneylender or any other moneylender that remains outstanding, exceed the prescribed maximum aggregate amount that may be lent at any one time by all moneylenders to the borrower or to a class or description of borrowers to which the borrower belongs.

[7/2018]

(6) The aggregate amount of the loans granted to a borrower by one or more moneylenders that is set out in the credit report delivered under section 74(1) or (3) as outstanding is presumed (unless proven otherwise) to be the aggregate amount of the loans granted to a borrower by all moneylenders that is outstanding as at the date the credit report is delivered.

[37

[7/2018]

Transitional and saving provisions

94.—(1) Any notice, order, decision, direction, requisition or approval made or granted by the Registrar or the Minister under the repealed Moneylenders Act (Cap. 188, 1985 Revised Edition) in force immediately before 1 March 2009 continues and is deemed to have been made or granted by the Registrar or the Minister, respectively, under this Act and has effect accordingly.

(2) All acts done by or on behalf of the Registrar or the Minister under the repealed Moneylenders Act (Cap. 188, 1985 Revised Edition) before 1 March 2009 continue to remain valid and have effect as though done by or on behalf of the Registrar or the Minister, respectively, under this Act until such time as those acts are invalidated, revoked, cancelled or otherwise determined by the Registrar or the Minister, as the case may be.

(3) Any written law or document referring to the repealed Moneylenders Act (Cap. 188, 1985 Revised Edition) or any provision thereof is, as far as may be necessary for preserving its effect, to be construed as referring or as including a reference to this Act or the corresponding provision in this Act, as the case may be.

[38

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

MONEYLENDERS ACT 2008

This Legislative History is a service provided by the Law Revision Commission on a best-efforts basis. It is not part of the Act.

1. Act 31 of 2008 — Moneylenders Act 2008

Bill	:	33/2008
First Reading	:	20 October 2008
Second Reading	:	18 November 2008
Notice of Amendments	:	18 November 2008
Third Reading	:	18 November 2008
Commencement	:	1 March 2009 (except section 5(3)(b)) 1 July 2010 (section 5(3)(b))

2. Act 5 of 2010 — Moneylenders (Amendment) Act 2010

Bill	:	23/2009
First Reading	:	23 November 2009
Second and Third Readings	:	12 January 2010
Commencement	:	11 February 2010

3. 2010 Revised Edition — Moneylenders Act (Chapter 188)

Operation	:	31 March 2010
-----------	---	---------------

4. Act 15 of 2010 — Criminal Procedure Code 2010

(Amendments made by section 430 read with item 65 of the Sixth Schedule to the above Act)

Bill	:	11/2010
First Reading	:	26 April 2010
Second Reading	:	18 May 2010
Third Reading	:	19 May 2010
Commencement	:	2 January 2011 (section 430 read with item 65 of the Sixth Schedule)

5. Act 8 of 2012 — Moneylenders (Amendment) Act 2012

Bill	:	4/2012
First Reading	:	14 February 2012

Second and Third Readings	:	9 March 2012
Commencement	:	2 October 2012

6. Act 2 of 2015 — Pawnbrokers Act 2015

(Amendments made by section 86 read with item 4 of the Fourth Schedule to the above Act)

Bill	:	42/2014
First Reading	:	4 November 2014
Second and Third Readings	:	19 January 2015
Commencement	:	1 April 2015 (section 86 read with item 4 of the Fourth Schedule)

7. Act 29 of 2014 — Business Names Registration Act 2014

(Amendments made by section 47 read with item 12 of the Schedule to the above Act)

Bill	:	26/2014
First Reading	:	8 September 2014
Second and Third Readings	:	8 October 2014
Commencement	:	3 January 2016 (section 47 read with item 12 of the Schedule)

8. Act 4 of 2017 — Securities and Futures (Amendment) Act 2017

(Amendments made by section 208 of the above Act)

Bill	:	35/2016
First Reading	:	7 November 2016
Second and Third Readings	:	9 January 2017
Commencement	:	8 October 2018 (section 208)

9. Act 7 of 2018 — Moneylenders (Amendment) Act 2018

Bill	:	48/2017
First Reading	:	6 November 2017
Second and Third Readings	:	8 January 2018
Commencement	:	30 November 2018 (sections 2, 3(1)(a) and (b), 4(1)(b), 5(b), 7(1), 8, 9(1), 10(1), 11 to 16, 19 and 20(1) to (5) and (7)) 29 March 2019 (sections 3(1)(c) and

(2), 4(1)(a) and (2), 5(a), 6, 7(2), 9(2),
10(2) and (3), 17, 18(2) and 20(6))

10. Act 12 of 2018 — Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Act 2018

(Amendments made by section 10(2) of the above Act)

Bill	:	5/2018
First Reading	:	9 January 2018
Second and Third Readings	:	6 February 2018
Commencement	:	1 January 2019 (section 10(2))

11. Act 40 of 2018 — Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018

(Amendments made by section 493 of the above Act)

Bill	:	32/2018
First Reading	:	10 September 2018
Second and Third Readings	:	1 October 2018
Commencement	:	30 July 2020 (section 493)

12. Act 40 of 2019 — Supreme Court of Judicature (Amendment) Act 2019

(Amendments made by section 28(1) read with item 103 of the Schedule to the above Act)

Bill	:	32/2019
First Reading	:	7 October 2019
Second Reading	:	5 November 2019
Notice of Amendments	:	5 November 2019
Third Reading	:	5 November 2019
Commencement	:	2 January 2021 (section 28(1) read with item 103 of the Schedule)

13. Act 1 of 2020 — Banking (Amendment) Act 2020

(Amendments made by section 58 of the above Act)

Bill	:	35/2019
First Reading	:	4 November 2019
Second and Third Readings	:	6 January 2020
Commencement	:	1 July 2021 (section 58)

14. 2020 Revised Edition — Moneylenders Act 2008

Operation	:	31 December 2021
-----------	---	------------------

15. Act 25 of 2021 — Courts (Civil and Criminal Justice) Reform Act 2021
(Amendments made by section 165 of the above Act)

Bill	:	18/2021
First Reading	:	26 July 2021
Second and Third Readings	:	14 September 2021
Commencement	:	1 April 2022

16. Act 38 of 2023 — Moneylenders (Amendment) Act 2023
(Amendments made by the above Act)

Bill	:	37/2023
First Reading	:	6 November 2023
Second and Third Readings	:	22 November 2023
Commencement	:	1 March 2024

17. Act 6 of 2024 — Prevention of Proliferation Financing and Other Matters Act 2024

Date of First Reading	:	9 January 2024 (Bill No. 2/2024)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	6 February 2024
Date of commencement	:	1 May 2024

18. Act 32 of 2024 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 2) Act 2024
(Amendments made by the above Act)

Bill	:	28/2024
First Reading	:	9 September 2024
Second and Third Readings	:	14 October 2024
Commencement	:	25 November 2024

Abbreviations

(updated on 29 August 2022)

G.N.	Gazette Notification
G.N. Sp.	Gazette Notification (Special Supplement)
L.A.	Legislative Assembly
L.N.	Legal Notification (Federal/Malaysian)
M.	Malaya/Malaysia (including Federated Malay States, Malayan Union, Federation of Malaya and Federation of Malaysia)
Parl.	Parliament
S	Subsidiary Legislation
S.I.	Statutory Instrument (United Kingdom)
S (N.S.)	Subsidiary Legislation (New Series)
S.S.G.G.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette
S.S.G.G. (E)	Straits Settlements Government Gazette (Extraordinary)

COMPARATIVE TABLE
MONEYLENDERS ACT 2008

This Act has undergone renumbering in the 2020 Revised Edition. This Comparative Table is provided to help readers locate the corresponding provisions in the last Revised Edition.

2020 Ed.	2010 Ed.
1	1—(1)
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	(2)
5—(2)	5—(1A)
(3)	(2)
(4)	(3)
(5)	(4)
(6)	(5)
(7)	(6)
(8)	(7)
—	(8) <i>[Deleted by Act 7 of 2018]</i>
7	6A
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	(4)
8	7
9	8
10	9
11	10
—	(5) <i>[Deleted by Act 7 of 2018]</i>
(5)	(6)
(6)	(7)
(7)	(8)
(8)	(9)
(9)	(10)
(10)	(11)
(11)	(12)

2020 Ed.	2010 Ed.
(12)	(13)
(13)	(14)
12	11
13	11A
14	11B
15	11C
16	11D
[<i>Omitted as spent</i>]	(6)
17	12
18	13
19	14
(2)	(1A)
(3)	(2)
(4)	(3)
(5)	(3A)
(6)	(3B)
(7)	(4)
(8)	(5)
20	15
21	15A
22	15B
23	15C
24	15D
25	15E
26	15F
27	15G
28	15H
29	16

2020 Ed.	2010 Ed.
30	17
31	18
32	19
33	20
(3)	(2A)
(4)	(2B)
(5)	(3)
34	21
35	22
(2)	(1A)
(3)	(2)
(4)	(3)
(5)	(4)
36	22A
37	23
—	(6) [<i>Deleted by Act 7 of 2018</i>]
—	(7) [<i>Deleted by Act 7 of 2018</i>]
—	(8) [<i>Deleted by Act 7 of 2018</i>]
(6)	(9)
38	24
(2)	(1A)
(3)	(1B)
(4)	(2)
(5)	(3)
(6)	(4)
(7)	(5)
(8)	(6)
(9)	(7)

2020 Ed.	2010 Ed.
(10)	(8)
(11)	(9)
39	24A
40	24B
41	24C
42	24D
43	25
(2)	(1A)
(3)	(2)
(4)	(3)
(5)	(4)
44	25A
45	26
46	27
47	28
(4)	(3A)
(5)	(3B)
(6)	(4)
(7)	(5)
48	28A
49	28B
50	28C
51	29
52	30
53	30A
54	30B
55	30C
56	30D

2020 Ed.	2010 Ed.
57	30E
58	30F
59	30G
60	30H
61	30I
62	30J
63	30K
64	30L
65	30M
66	30N
67	30O
68	30P
69	30Q
70	30R
71	30S
72	30T
73	30U
74	30V
75	30W
76	30X
77	30Y
78	30Z
79	30ZA
80	30ZB
81	30ZC
82	30ZD
83	30ZE
84	30ZF

2020 Ed.	2010 Ed.
85	30ZG
86	31
87	32
88	32A
89	33
90	34
91	35
92	36
93	37
[<i>Omitted as spent</i>]	38—(1)
[<i>Omitted as spent</i>]	(2)
94—(1)	(3)
(2)	(4)
[<i>Omitted as spent</i>]	(5)
[<i>Omitted as spent</i>]	(6)
(3)	(7)