



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES (PUBLIC ORDER AND
NUISANCE) ACT**

(CHAPTER 184)

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Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act

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An Act relating to offences against public order, nuisance and property.

[6th July 1906]

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act.*

[10/89]

Interpretation

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

“horse” includes mules and asses;

“cattle” includes bulls, cows, bullocks and buffaloes;

“in or near any public road” includes all places in the public road, and all places within 9 metres of it not being effectually separated from and hidden from the road by a wall or otherwise;

“public place” means any place or premises to which at the material time the public or any section of the public has

* Cited as the Minor Offences Act in the 1985 Edition.

access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission;

“public road” includes every road, street, passage, footway or square over which the public has a right of way.

[10/89]

Verandah public roads

3. The open verandahs of houses abutting on the public roads are public roads for foot-passengers subject to all rights of property of the owners of those houses.

Offences how punishable

4. All offences under this Act shall be tried by a Magistrate’s Court or a District Court; and notwithstanding the provisions of any other written law, a Magistrate’s Court or a District Court shall have the power to impose the maximum penalty prescribed for any such offence.

[10/89; 12/96]

PART II

OFFENCES AGAINST PUBLIC ORDER AND NUISANCE

5. *[Repealed by Act 15/2009 wef 09/10/2009]*

Burning material or discharging firearm in public road

6.—(1) Any person who sets fire to or burns any material to the annoyance, inconvenience or danger of the public, or negligently or wilfully discharges any firearm or air-gun, or throws or discharges any stone or other missile, or sends up any fire-balloon or rocket in or near any public road shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

[10/89]

(2) It shall be no offence under subsection (1) for any person to discharge a firearm or air-gun in or near a public road in the exercise of his duty under any written law relating to the destruction of dogs.

[10/89]

Duty of police officers as to dangerous animals

7.—(1) Every police officer shall secure any animal reasonably suspected to be mad or dangerous, and any wild animal found at large in or near any public road under circumstances of danger to the public.

(2) If there is reasonable ground to believe that any such mad, dangerous or wild animal cannot be secured without risk of personal injury to the police officer attempting to secure the animal, the police officer may shoot or otherwise destroy the animal.

Dog running at persons, etc.

8. If it is proved to the satisfaction of a Magistrate's Court that any dog is in the habit of running at persons or at vehicles or bicycles passing along a public road, the owner of the dog shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

[2/86; 10/89]

Ferocious dog at large

9. Any person who negligently suffers to be at large any ferocious dog without a muzzle shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, and if the dog has bitten, or attempted to bite any person, the dog may be killed by order of a Magistrate's Court.

[10/89; 12/96]

Liability of dog owner

10.—(1) Any owner of a dog which causes injury to any person shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

[10/89; 12/96]

(2) In addition to any fine imposed under subsection (1), compensation not exceeding \$2,000 shall be payable to the person injured in respect of any such injury.

[10/89]

(3) Such compensation shall be assessed by the Magistrate's Court and shall be recoverable from the owner of the dog in the manner provided by law for the recovery of fines before Magistrates' Courts.

[10/89]

(4) In any prosecution relating to any dog under subsection (1), it shall not be necessary to show a previous vicious propensity in the dog or the owner's knowledge of such previous propensity or that the injury was attributable to neglect on the part of the owner.

(5) The occupier of any house or premises where any dog was kept or permitted to live or remain at the time of causing any such injury as is referred to in subsection (1) shall be deemed to be the owner of the dog and shall be liable as such unless the occupier can prove that —

(a) he was not the owner of the dog at the time the injury complained of was committed; and

(b) the dog was kept or permitted to live or remain in the house or premises without his sanction or knowledge.

(6) Where there are 2 or more occupiers in any house or premises let in separate apartments or lodgings or otherwise, the occupier of that particular part of the premises in which the dog was kept or permitted to live or remain at the time of the injury shall be deemed to be the owner of the dog.

(7) No compensation shall be payable to any person under this section in respect of injury sustained in any house or premises except upon proof that he entered the house or premises in the ordinary course of his duties or with the express or implied permission of the occupier.

(8) No criminal liability shall arise under this section in respect of any injury sustained by any person in any house or premises unless the person entered the house or premises in the ordinary course of his duties or with the express or implied permission of the occupier.

(9) The owner shall not be liable under this section for any injury sustained by any person where the injury was attributable to any wrongful act of that person.

Nuisances

11.—(1) Any person who commits any of the following offences shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000:

- (a) without authority in the case of public property, or without the consent of the owner or occupier in the case of private property, affixes or causes to be affixed any advertisement, bill or notice, or any paper against or upon any building, wall or fence, or writes upon, defaces or marks any such building, wall or fence with chalk or paint, or in any other way;
- (b) bathes or washes himself, or any other person, animal or thing on any public road, or in, upon or by the side of any public tank, reservoir, watercourse or stream;
- (c) obstructs or causes trouble or inconvenience to a person bathing at any place set apart as a bathing place by wilful intrusion, or by washing any animal at or near that place, or in any other way;
- (d) being the owner or person in charge of any animal does not, if the animal dies, dispose of its carcase in such a way as not to be a common nuisance;
- (e) places any dead animal on or near any public road;
- (f) spits in any coffee shop, market, eating house, school house, theatre or public building, or in any omnibus, railway carriage or other public conveyance, or on any wharf or jetty, or in any public road, or on any five-foot way or sidewalk of any public road, or in any other place to which the public has or may have access;
- (g) suffers to be at large any unmuzzled ferocious dog or other animal, or sets on or urges any dog or other animal to attack, worry or put in fear any person or animal.

[10/89]

(2) Any person who commits an offence under subsection (1)(f), after having been previously convicted for an offence under that subsection, shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

[10/89]

Offences relating to animals

12.—(1) Any person who commits any of the following offences shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000:

- (a) being the owner or person in charge of any animal allows the animal to injure any tree or plant, or fence round any tree or plant, in or at the side of any public road, or to graze on the side of any public road;
- (b) allows any horse, cattle, goat, sheep or pig to stray upon, or tethers or pickets any such animal upon, any public road or State land or land in the possession of any local authority or public institution or land in the possession of any private person, without the permission of the owner or lawful occupier thereof; or
- (c) leads or drives any horse, cattle, goat, sheep or pig in or near any public road without having them under proper control.

[10/89]

(2) All damage done by an animal referred to in subsection (1)(a) shall be assessed by a Magistrate's Court and shall be recoverable in the manner provided by law for the recovery of fines before Magistrates' Courts from the owner of the animal, together with any amounts to be levied as fines.

Other offences relating to public road

13.—(1) Any person who commits any of the following offences shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000:

- (a) lays any stone, brick or other article on any public road so as to cause an obstruction thereto, or so as to make the use of the road less convenient;
- (b) allows to remain on any public road any article which has fallen from any vehicle of which he is in charge;
- (c) deposits or causes or allows any article or thing to be deposited on any public road or otherwise causes or allows that article or thing to create obstruction or inconvenience to the passage of the public for a longer period than is

absolutely necessary for loading or unloading the article or thing;

- (d) causes or permits any cart, wheel-barrow, bicycle, tricycle or other vehicle to stand on any public road so as to create or to be likely to create obstruction or inconvenience to the passage of the public in that public road;
- (e) flies any kite, or plays at any game, or does any act which obstructs or interferes with the traffic in any public road, or the use of the wires of any telephone; or
- (f) places any blind, shade, covering, awning or other projection over or along any public road if any part thereof is less than 2½ metres above the surface of that public road.

[10/89; 12/96]

(2) If it is proved that any article or thing has been deposited on any public road from any building or land in contravention of subsection (1)(c), it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that the occupier of the building or land has caused or allowed it to be so deposited.

13A. [Repealed by Act 17 of 2014 wef 15/11/2014]

13B. [Repealed by Act 17 of 2014 wef 15/11/2014]

13C. [Repealed by Act 17 of 2014 wef 15/11/2014]

13D. [Repealed by Act 17 of 2014 wef 15/11/2014]

Excessive noise

14.—(1) Any person who makes any noise by any instrument or other means in such a manner as to cause or be likely to cause annoyance or inconvenience to the occupier of any premises in the vicinity or to any person lawfully using any public road or in any public place shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

[10/89]

(2) Any police officer, on any complaint that any person in any premises or in any public place is making such noise as to cause annoyance or inconvenience to the complainant, may enter upon the premises or proceed to the public place and, after warning the person

reasonably suspected of making the noise, stop the making of such noise whether by the removal of any instrument or object or in some other appropriate manner.

[10/89; 12/96]

Making of harassing or obscene telephone calls to emergency telephone numbers

14A.—(1) Any person who makes a telephone call to an emergency telephone number with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any person who answers the telephone call shall be guilty of an offence and, subject to subsection (3), shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

[12/96]

(2) Any person who makes a telephone call to an emergency telephone number and, upon the call being answered, makes or solicits any comment, request, suggestion, proposal or other comment, request, suggestion, proposal or other communication or sound which is obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy or indecent, shall be guilty of an offence and, subject to subsection (3), shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or to both.

[12/96]

(3) Any person who uses a public telephone to commit an offence —

(a) under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both; and

(b) under subsection (2) shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both.

[12/96]

(4) For the purposes of this section —

(a) “emergency telephone number” means any telephone number which the Minister may, by order published in the *Gazette*, declare to be an emergency telephone number; and

- (b) a person who makes a telephone call to an emergency telephone number and, upon the telephone call being answered, refuses to speak or immediately hangs up shall be presumed until the contrary is proved to have intent to annoy any person answering the telephone call.

[12/96]

(5) For the purposes of this section and section 14B, “public telephone” means a telephone which is available for use by any member of the public with or without payment.

[12/96]

Liability of subscriber

14B.—(1) Any person being the subscriber to a telephone service which has been used to commit an offence under section 14A shall, unless he proves to the satisfaction of the court that he had exercised due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence, be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

[12/96]

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to the subscriber of a public telephone service.

[12/96]

Furnishing of information

14C.—(1) A police officer may, for the purpose of investigating into an offence under section 14A or 14B, by notice in writing require any person to furnish, within such period as may be specified in the notice, any document or information as may be —

- (a) required by the police officer for the purpose of the investigation; and
- (b) within the knowledge, or in the custody or under the control, of such person.

[12/96]

(2) No action, suit or proceedings shall lie against any person who has furnished any document or information to a police officer pursuant to subsection (1).

[12/96]

(3) Any person who, on being required by a notice under subsection (1) to furnish any document or information, fails to comply with the notice shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[12/96]

Relief for occupier of premises from nuisance

15.—(1) A Magistrate's Court may act under this section on a complaint made by the occupier of any premises on the ground that as occupier of the premises he is aggrieved by noise amounting to a nuisance.

[10/89]

(2) If the Magistrate's Court is satisfied that the alleged nuisance exists, or that although abated it is likely to recur on the same premises, the Court shall make an order for either or both of the following purposes:

- (a) requiring the defendant to abate the nuisance, within a time specified in the order and to execute any works necessary for that purpose;
- (b) prohibiting a recurrence of the nuisance, and requiring the defendant, within a time specified in the order, to execute any works necessary to prevent the recurrence.

[10/89]

(3) Proceedings under this section shall be brought against the person responsible for the nuisance or, if that person cannot be found, against the owner or occupier of the premises from which the noise is emitted or would be emitted.

[10/89]

(4) A person who without reasonable excuse contravenes any requirement of an order under subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000.

[10/89]

(5) In any proceedings for an offence under this section in respect of noise caused in the course of a trade or business, it shall be a defence

to prove that the best practicable means have been used for preventing, or for counteracting the effect of, the noise.

[10/89]

(6) In this section —

“noise” includes vibration;

“person responsible”, in relation to the emission of noise, means the person to whose act, default or sufferance the noise is attributable; and where more than one person is responsible for the noise, this section shall apply to each of those persons whether or not what any one of them is responsible for would by itself amount to a nuisance, or would result in a level of noise justifying any proceedings under this section;

“practicable” means reasonably practicable having regard among other things to local conditions and circumstances, to the current state of technical knowledge and to the financial implications.

[10/89]

Obstruction in canals, etc.

16.—(1) Any person who in any river or canal in which the public has a right of navigation, without the written permission of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, the Director of Marine or the Deputy Director of Marine —

- (a) leaves any boat or vessel at any place for a longer time than is necessary for loading and unloading;
- (b) refuses to move his boat or vessel away from that place when so directed by any police officer;
- (c) leaves any raft or log or piece of timber or plank in any such river or canal more than one day after its arrival therein; or
- (d) erects in any such river or canal any stage or scaffolding,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$25.

(2) Such boat, vessel, raft, timber or plank may be removed by the police.

(3) The expense of such removal shall be recoverable as a fine from the owner or person in charge of the same, and if not paid by him may be recovered by distress and sale of the property of such owner or person and of such boat, vessel, raft, timber or plank.

Penalty for depositing corpse or dying person

17. Any person who deposits or causes to be deposited any corpse or any dying person in any public place or in any private place without the consent of the owner shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[10/89]

PART III

OTHER OFFENCES

18. *[Repealed by Act 5 of 2015 wef 01/04/2015]*

Soliciting in public place

19. Every person who in any public road or public place persistently loiters or solicits for the purpose of prostitution or for any other immoral purpose shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[10/89]

Riotous, disorderly or indecent behaviour in, or in the immediate vicinity of, certain places

20. Any person who is found guilty of any riotous, disorderly or indecent behaviour in any public road or in any public place or place of public amusement or resort, or in the immediate vicinity of, or in, any court, public office, police station or place of worship, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both and, in the case of a second or subsequent

conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

[10/89]

[Act 5 of 2015 wef 01/04/2015]

Wilful trespass on property

21.—(1) Any person who without satisfactory excuse wilfully trespasses on any ground belonging to the Government or appropriated to public purposes, or in or on any dwelling-house or premises or any land or ground attached thereto, or on any boat or vessel, not thereby in any of such cases causing any actual damage, or not causing in the opinion of the Magistrate's Court more than nominal damage, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

[10/89]

(2) Any officer or non-commissioned officer of the army, navy or air force of Singapore or of any visiting forces lawfully present in Singapore may, with or without warrant, arrest any person offending in his view against the provisions of this section, and that person may be brought before a Magistrate's Court to be dealt with according to law.

Possession of housebreaking implements or offensive weapons

22.—(1) Any person who is found —

- (a) armed with any dangerous or offensive instrument without lawful authority or a lawful purpose;
- (b) having his face covered or otherwise found disguised with intent to commit any offence; or
- (c) armed with any article or instrument for use in the course of or in connection with any housebreaking,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years; and any instrument or article found in the possession of that person shall be forfeited.

[10/89; 12/96]

(2) In any prosecution for an offence under subsection (1)(a), it shall be sufficient for the prosecution to allege and prove that the accused

was found to be armed with any dangerous or offensive instrument and the onus shall then be upon the accused to show that he had lawful authority or a lawful purpose to be so armed.

[12/96]

(3) An instrument shall be presumed to be carried with lawful authority if it is carried —

(a) by any member of the Singapore Armed Forces, the Singapore Police Force, the Singapore Civil Defence Force, any auxiliary police force created under any written law or of any visiting force lawfully present in Singapore under the provisions of any law relating to visiting forces; or

[3/2005 wef 10/06/2005]

(b) by any person as part of his official or ceremonial dress on any official or ceremonial occasion.

[12/96]

(4) Any person who —

(a) is a reputed thief, is found on board any vessel or boat, or loitering in any street, road, yard or other place and does not give a satisfactory account of himself; or

(b) is found in any dwelling-house or other building without being able satisfactorily to account for his presence therein,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

[10/89]

(5) Every offence under this section shall be deemed to be a seizable offence within the meaning of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68).

[10/89]

Carrying truncheons, etc., in public places

22A.—(1) Except as provided in this section or any other written law, no person shall, in any public place, carry or have in his possession or under his control (whether or not in the performance of his functions as a private investigator, security officer or security service provider licensed under the Private Security Industry Act 2007) any truncheon, handcuffs, or such other weapon or equipment

as may from time to time be specified by the Minister in a notification published in the *Gazette*.

[Act 2 of 2012 wef 01/03/2012]

(2) Any private investigator, security officer or security service provider licensed under the Private Security Industry Act 2007, or any other person, who contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month or to both.

[Act 2 of 2012 wef 01/03/2012]

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or prevent the carrying of any truncheon, handcuffs or specified weapon or equipment by a police officer, an auxiliary police officer, or a member of the Singapore Armed Forces or of any visiting force lawfully present in Singapore under any law relating to visiting forces.

[Act 2 of 2012 wef 01/03/2012]

(4) A private investigator, security officer or security service provider who is licensed under the Private Security Industry Act 2007 may be authorised to carry or have in his possession in any public place any truncheon, handcuffs or specified weapon or equipment if, and only if —

- (a) the licensing officer under that Act is satisfied that it is necessary for the performance of his functions as a private investigator, security officer or security service provider, and it is appropriate for permission to be given for such carrying or possession;
- (b) the private investigator's licence, the security officer's licence or the security service provider's licence, as the case may be, is endorsed (with or without conditions) by the licensing officer to permit such carrying or possession; and
- (c) the truncheon, handcuffs, weapon or equipment is of the type approved by that licensing officer.

[Act 2 of 2012 wef 01/03/2012]

(5) The Commissioner of Police may authorise, subject to such conditions of authorisation as he thinks fit to impose, any person, or every person belonging to a class of persons, to carry or have in the

person's possession or under the person's control in any public place any truncheon, handcuffs or specified weapon or equipment, if —

- (a) the Commissioner of Police is satisfied that such carrying, possession or control is necessary in the circumstances, and it is appropriate for permission to be given for such carrying, possession or control; and
- (b) the truncheon, handcuffs, weapon or equipment is of the type approved by the Commissioner of Police.

[Act 2 of 2012 wef 01/03/2012]

(6) The Commissioner of Police may at any time —

- (a) revoke any authorisation under subsection (5); or
- (b) add to, vary or revoke any condition of authorisation imposed under subsection (5).

[Act 2 of 2012 wef 01/03/2012]

(7) In this section —

“public place” includes any premises or place to which the public has or is permitted to have access, whether on the invitation of the owners or occupiers thereof or on payment or otherwise;

“specified weapon or equipment” means any weapon or equipment specified by the Minister under subsection (1).

[Act 2 of 2012 wef 01/03/2012]

[38/2007 wef 27/04/2009]

Penalty for taking intoxicant, etc., into public hospital

23. Any person who takes or attempts to take without due permission into any public hospital any intoxicating liquor, drug or preparation shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 months, and such liquor, drug or preparation and the vessels containing the same shall be forfeited.

[10/89]

Improper management of house of public resort

24. Any person who being the keeper of any house licensed under any written law as a public house or as a retail liquor shop or which is used as a place of public entertainment or public resort —

- (a) knowingly permits any unlawful games or gaming therein;
- (b) knowingly permits prostitutes or persons of notoriously bad character or drunken and disorderly persons to assemble or continue in or upon his premises;
- (c) knowingly allows the deposit therein of goods having reasonable cause to believe them to be stolen; or
- (d) does or permits any act in contravention of his licence,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months, and to the forfeiture of his licence, if any.

[10/89]

PART IV**VAGRANCY****Interpretation of this Part**

25. For the purposes of this Part, “place of public resort”, “public place” and expressions of similar meaning shall be deemed to include every estate, factory or place in which 10 or more workmen are employed.

Disorderly or indecent behaviour by prostitutes

26. Every common prostitute wandering in any public road or place of public resort and behaving in a disorderly or indecent manner shall be deemed to be an idle and disorderly person within the meaning of this Part and shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month.

[10/89]

Rogues and vagabonds

27.—(1) Every person —

- (a) committing any of the offences mentioned in section 26, after having been previously convicted as an idle and disorderly person;
- (b) pretending or professing to tell fortunes in any manner which causes or is likely to cause a public nuisance, or using any subtle craft, means or device, by palmistry or otherwise, to deceive and impose upon any person;
- (c) wilfully exposing to view, in any street, road, highway or public place, any obscene print, picture or other indecent exhibition;
- (d) wilfully, openly, lewdly and obscenely exposing his person in any street, road or public highway, or in the view thereof, or in any place of public resort, with intent to insult any female;
- (e) going about as a gatherer or collector of alms, or endeavouring to procure charitable contributions of any nature or kind, under any false or fraudulent pretence;
- (f) having in his possession without lawful excuse any instrument or material with intent to commit any offence;
- (g) being found in or upon any dwelling-house, or premises for the custody of property, or in any enclosed yard, garden or area, for any unlawful purpose; or
- (h) arrested as an idle and disorderly person who violently resists arrest and being subsequently convicted of the offence for which he was arrested,

shall be deemed to be a rogue and vagabond within the meaning of this Part and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

[10/89; 12/96]

(2) Every suspected person or reputed thief, frequenting or loitering in or about any river, canal or navigable stream, dock or basin, or any

quay, wharf or warehouse near or adjoining thereto, or any street, highway or avenue leading thereto, or any place of public resort, or any avenue leading thereto, or any street, highway or place adjacent thereto, or in any highway or any place adjacent to a street or highway, with intent to commit a seizable and non-bailable offence, shall be deemed to be a rogue and vagabond within the meaning of this Part and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

(3) In proving the intent referred to in subsection (2), it shall not be necessary to show that the person suspected was guilty of any particular act or acts tending to show his purpose or intent, and he may be convicted if, from the circumstances of the case, and from his known character as proved to the court, it appears that his intent was to commit a seizable and non-bailable offence.

Appearing nude in public or private place

27A.—(1) Any person who appears nude —

(a) in a public place; or

(b) in a private place and is exposed to public view,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

[12/96]

(2) For the purpose of this section, the reference to a person appearing nude includes a person who is clad in such a manner as to offend against public decency or order.

[12/96]

(3) Where an offence under this section is committed in a private place, it shall be lawful for a police officer to enter the private place without the authority of the owner or occupier of the private place to effect the arrest of the offender.

[12/96]

(4) In effecting entry under subsection (3), it shall be lawful for a police officer to use such force as may be necessary to enter the private place.

[12/96]

Any person may arrest offender

28. It shall be lawful for any person whatsoever to arrest any person found offending against this Part and to deliver him to any police officer.

Search of conveyance or goods of person arrested

29. Any police officer or other person arresting any person charged with being an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, may take any vehicle or goods in the possession of that person as well as that person before a police officer to be searched in the presence of the police officer.

[21/73]

Search of premises for idle and disorderly person and rogue and vagabond

30. A Magistrate before whom information has been duly sworn that any person described to be an idle and disorderly person, or a rogue and vagabond, is or is reasonably suspected to be harboured or concealed in any hotel, boarding-house, lodging-house or eating-house, may authorise any police officer to enter at any time into any such hotel, boarding-house, lodging-house or eating-house and to arrest every such idle and disorderly person, rogue and vagabond as shall be found therein.

Magistrate may take recognizances for good behaviour in certain cases

31. It shall be lawful for any Magistrate before whom any person is convicted under this Part to call upon the person convicted to execute a bond with sureties for his good behaviour in lieu of being punished but he shall not so call upon any person who has been convicted for the second time of being a rogue and vagabond.

PART V
TOUTING

Touting for business

32. Any person in any public road, public place, place of public resort or vehicle on a public road who, in connection with any trade or business (whether or not carried on by that person), solicits any other person persistently or in any manner as to cause or be likely to cause annoyance to that other person shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

[10/89]

Touting in public offices

33.—(1) Any person who in any public office, or in the vicinity thereof, solicits to offer or loiters for the purpose of offering in connection with the public office his services to any one or more persons having business at that public office or any other public office (whether or not the services so offered relate to the business) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to —

- (a) any officer specifically appointed to advise the public on the business carried on in a public office; and
- (b) any person who is licensed under any written law or is otherwise authorised to act as a petition writer.

(3) In this section, “public office” means any court and Government office or department.

[10/89]

Seizable offence

34. Every offence under this Part shall be deemed to be a seizable offence within the meaning of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cap. 68).
[10/89]

PART VI

FRAUDULENT POSSESSION OF PROPERTY

Fraudulent possession of property

35.—(1) Any person who has in his possession or conveys in any manner anything which may be reasonably suspected of being stolen or fraudulently obtained shall, if he fails to account satisfactorily how he came by the same, be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$3,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

[10/89]

(2) If any person charged with having or conveying anything stolen or fraudulently obtained declares that he received the same from some other person, or that he was employed as a carrier, agent or servant to convey the same for some other person, the court may cause every such other person, and also, if necessary, every former or pretended purchaser or other person through whose possession the same has passed (if such other person is alleged to have had possession of the same within the jurisdiction of that court) to be brought before it and examined, and shall examine witnesses upon oath touching the same.

(3) If it appears to such court that any person so brought before it had possession of such thing and had reasonable cause to believe the same to have been stolen or fraudulently obtained, that person shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

[10/89]

(4) In this section, “possession” includes possession in a house, building, ship, vessel, boat or other place as well as possession in a public road or place.

(5) Any person who —

(a) having been convicted of an offence punishable under this section or under Chapter XII or XVII of the Penal Code (Cap. 224); or

(b) having been convicted in Malaysia or in Brunei Darussalam of an offence of a nature similar to any of those offences,

is subsequently convicted of an offence punishable under this section shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

[10/89]

(6) If information is given on oath to a Magistrate's Court that there is cause to suspect that any property which may be reasonably suspected of being stolen or fraudulently obtained is within any house, building, ship, vessel, boat or other place, the Court may, by warrant directed to any police officer, cause the house, building, ship, vessel, boat or other place to be entered and searched at any hour of the day or night.

(7) The information mentioned in subsection (6) shall describe the property which it is reasonably suspected has been stolen or fraudulently obtained, and shall also describe the house, building, ship, vessel, boat or other place in which the property is suspected to be.

(8) If upon the making of the search any property, such as that described in the information, is found in the house, building, ship, vessel, boat or other place, the police officer making the search or some other police officer shall convey the property before a Magistrate's Court or guard the property on the spot or otherwise dispose thereof in some place of safety.

(9) The police officer making the search or some other police officer shall also take into custody and carry before a Magistrate's Court every person in such house, building, ship, vessel, boat or other place in whose possession or under whose control such property is found.

(10) Sections 31 and 37 of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 shall apply to searches made under subsections (6), (7), (8) and (9).

[15/2010 wef 02/01/2011]

Secondhand dealers and money-changers to report property stolen or fraudulently obtained

36.—(1) When any property has been stolen or fraudulently obtained, and a written description of the property has been given by any police officer to any dealer in secondhand goods or money-changer, and property answering the description of the property is in the possession of such dealer or money-changer or afterwards comes into his possession or is offered to him for sale or exchange, he shall without undue delay give information of the property to any police officer or at a police station, and shall at the same time state the name and address given by the person from whom he received that property or by whom it was offered to him for sale or exchange.

[10/89]

(2) Any person who fails to give such information as he is required to give by this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

(3) When, in the opinion of the court, the property is of such a nature as to be difficult to identify no fine shall be inflicted under this section unless the court is of opinion that the property has been wilfully concealed by the accused.

[10/89]

Melting or defacing metals, etc., within 3 days of receipt

37. If any pawnbroker or any dealer in secondhand goods or any worker in platinum, gold or silver, or any dealer in platinum, gold or silver articles, within 3 days of receipt of any goods or any such metals or articles, or after receiving information from a police officer that any specified goods, metals or articles, have been stolen or fraudulently obtained, melts, alters, defaces, or puts away the same or causes the same to be melted, altered, defaced, or put away, without the previous permission of the Director, Criminal Investigation Department, and it is found that such goods, metals or articles were stolen or fraudulently obtained, such pawnbroker, secondhand dealer, worker or dealer shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

[10/89]

Register of workers and dealers in metals

38. Every worker in platinum, gold or silver and every dealer in platinum, gold or silver articles shall be registered by the Director, Criminal Investigation Department in a register to be maintained by him for the purpose and any such worker or dealer who carries on business as such without being so registered shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

[10/89]

Employees not affected

39. Nothing in sections 37 and 38 shall apply to any person employed by any worker in platinum, gold or silver, or by any dealer in platinum, gold or silver articles, for the purposes of his business on the premises in respect of which the worker or dealer is registered under section 38.

PART VII**MISCELLANEOUS****Power of arrest**

40.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, any police officer may arrest without warrant any person offending in his view against any of the provisions of this Act, and take him before a Magistrate's Court to be dealt with according to law.

[10/89]

(2) Any animal, conveyance or article concerning by or for which an offence has been committed may be seized and taken to a pound or police station unless given up sooner by order of a Magistrate's Court, until the charge is decided in due course of law.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY
MISCELLANEOUS OFFENCES (PUBLIC ORDER AND
NUISANCE) ACT
(CHAPTER 184)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act. It is not part of the Order.

1. Ordinance 13 of 1906 — Minor Offences Ordinance 1906

Date of First Reading	: 4 May 1906
Date of Second Reading	: 11 May 1906
Date of Third Reading	: 29 June 1906
Date of commencement	: 6 July 1906

2. Ordinance 33 of 1907 — The Repeals Ordinance 1907

Date of First Reading	: 29 November 1907
Date of Second Reading	: 6 December 1907
Date of Third Reading	: 20 December 1907
Date of commencement	: 1 April 1908

3. Ordinance 14 of 1908 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1908

Date of First Reading	: 21 August 1908
Date of Second Reading	: 28 August 1908
Date of Third Reading	: 11 September 1908
Date of commencement	: 1 January 1909

4. Ordinance 24 of 1926 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1926

Date of First Reading	: 12 July 1926
Date of Second Reading	: 6 September 1926
Date of Third Reading	: 11 October 1926
Date of commencement	: 2 October 1926

5. Ordinance 2 of 1931 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1931

Date of First Reading	: 26 January 1931
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 23 March 1931
Date of commencement	: 17 April 1931

- 6. Ordinance 12 of 1933 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1933**
- Date of First Reading : 6 March 1933
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 1 May 1933
- Date of commencement : 19 May 1933
- 7. Ordinance 19 of 1933 — Traffic Regulations Ordinance 1933**
(Consequential amendments made by)
- Date of First Reading : 16 January 1933
- Date of Second Reading : 6 March 1933
- Date of Third Reading : 31 July 1933
- Date of commencement : 29 September 1933
- 8. Ordinance 6 of 1934 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1934**
- Date of First, Second and Third Readings : Dates not available
- Date of commencement : 29 March 1934
- 9. Ordinance 40 of 1935 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1935**
- Date of First Reading : 26 August 1935
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 28 October 1935
- Date of commencement : 15 November 1935
- 10. Ordinance 63 of 1935 — Statute Law Revision Ordinance 1935**
- Date of First Reading : 20 November 1935
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 9 December 1935
- Date of commencement : 31 December 1935
- 11. Ordinance 41 of 1936 — Statute Law (Revised Edition) Amendment Ordinance 1936**
- Date of First, Second and Third Readings : 7 December 1936
- Date of commencement : 8 January 1937
- 12. Ordinance 26 of 1937 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1937**
- Date of First Reading : 14 June 1937
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 30 August 1937
- Date of commencement : 17 September 1937

13. Ordinance 32 of 1937 — Minor Offences (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance 1937

Date of First Reading	: 30 August 1937
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 25 October 1937
Date of commencement	: 26 November 1937

14. Ordinance 27 of 1938 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1938

Date of First Reading	: 31 October 1938
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 23 November 1938
Date of commencement	: 9 December 1938

15. Ordinance 37 of 1939 — Vagrancy Ordinance 1939

(Consequential amendments made by)

Date of First Reading	: 28 August 1939
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 16 October 1939
Date of commencement	: 15 December 1939

16. Ordinance 7 of 1940 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1940

Date of First Reading	: Date not available
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 12 February 1940
Date of commencement	: 11 March 1940

17. Ordinance 26 of 1949 — Married Women and Children (Maintenance) Ordinance 1949

(Consequential amendments made by)

Date of First Reading	: 21 June 1949 (Bill published on 24 June 1949. No Bill number given)
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 28 July 1949
Date of commencement	: 19 August 1949

18. Ordinance 31 of 1950 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1950

Date of First Reading	: 25 April 1950 (Bill published on 28 April 1950. No Bill number given)
Date of Second Reading	: 23 May 1950

Referred to Select Committee	: Council Paper No. 58 of 1950 presented to Legislative Council on 18 July 1950
Date of Third Reading	: 15 August 1950
Date of commencement	: 23 August 1950

19. Ordinance 32 of 1950 — Vagrancy (Amendment) Ordinance 1950

Date of First Reading	: 25 April 1950 (Bill published on 28 April 1950. No Bill number given)
Date of Second Reading	: 23 May 1950
Referred to Select Committee	: Council Paper No. 59 of 1950 presented to Legislative Council on 18 July 1950
Date of Third Reading	: 15 August 1950
Date of commencement	: 26 August 1950

20. Ordinance 37 of 1952 — Law Revision (Penalties Amendment) Ordinance 1952

Date of First Reading	: 16 September 1952 (Bill No. 32/52 published on 19 September 1952)
Date of Second and Third Readings	: 14 October 1952
Date of commencement	: 30 April 1955

21. Ordinance 20 of 1954 — Criminal Justice (Punishment — Amendment) Ordinance 1954

Date of First Reading	: 17 August 1954 (Bill No. 28/54 published on 20 August 1954)
Date of Second Reading	: 21 September 1954
Date of Third Reading	: 12 October 1954
Date of commencement	: 18 December 1954

22. Ordinance 8 of 1955 — Revised Edition of the Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Ordinance 1955

Date of First Reading	: 14 December 1954 (Bill No. 45/54 published on 17 December 1954)
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Date of Second and Third Readings : 28 January 1955
 Date of commencement : 11 February 1955

23. Ordinance 23 of 1956 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1956

Date of First Reading : 5 September 1956
 (Bill No. 54/56 published on
 12 September 1956)
 Date of Second and Third Readings : 3 October 1956
 Date of commencement : 19 October 1956

24. Ordinance 24 of 1959 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1959

Date of First Reading : 11 February 1959
 (Bill No. 204/59 published on
 19 February 1959)
 Date of Second and Third Readings : 3 March 1959
 Date of commencement : 20 March 1959

25. Ordinance 69 of 1959 — Minor Offences (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance 1959

Date of First Reading : 22 September 1959
 (Bill No. 33/59 published on
 30 September 1959)
 Date of Second and Third Readings : 14 October 1959
 Date of commencement : 23 October 1959

26. Ordinance 71 of 1959 — Transfer of Powers Ordinance 1959

Date of First Reading : 22 September 1959
 (Bill No. 30/59 published on
 30 September 1959)
 Date of Second and Third Readings : 11 November 1959
 Date of commencement : 20 November 1959

27. Ordinance 72 of 1959 — Transfer of Powers (No. 2) Ordinance 1959

Date of First Reading : 22 September 1959
 (Bill No. 31/59 published on
 30 September 1959)
 Date of Second and Third Readings : 11 November 1959
 Date of commencement : 20 November 1959

28. Ordinance 58 of 1960 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1960

Date of First Reading : 20 October 1960
(Bill No. 97/60 published on
28 October 1960)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 16 November 1960

Date of commencement : 25 November 1960

29. Ordinance 10 of 1962 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Ordinance 1962

Date of First Reading : 15 January 1962
(Bill No. 167/62 published on
2 February 1962)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 14 March 1962

Date of commencement : 23 March 1962

30. Act 33 of 1966 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Act 1966

Date of First Reading : 17 August 1966
(Bill No. 28/66 published on
17 August 1966)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 26 August 1966

Date of commencement : 16 September 1966

31. Act 34 of 1967 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Act 1967

Date of First Reading : 31 October 1967
(Bill No. 31/67 published on
4 November 1967)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 14 November 1967

Date of commencement : 1 December 1967

32. 1970 Revised Edition — Minor Offences Act (Cap. 102)

Date of operation : 15 April 1971

33. Act 14 of 1969 — Statute Law Revision Act 1969

Date of First Reading : 15 October 1969
(Bill No. 22/69 published on
20 October 1969)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 22 December 1969

Date of commencement : 2 January 1970

34. Act 18 of 1970 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Act 1970

Date of First Reading : 30 March 1970
(Bill No. 12/70 published on
2 April 1972)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 30 March 1970

Date of commencement : 19 June 1970

35. Act 24 of 1972 — Dangerous Fireworks Act 1972

(Consequential amendments made by)

Date of First Reading : 21 March 1972
(Bill No. 20/72 published on
28 March 1972)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 2 June 1972

Date of commencement : 1 August 1972

36. Act 21 of 1973 — Statutes of the Republic of Singapore (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1973

Date of First Reading : 7 March 1973
(Bill No. 17/73 published on
9 March 1973)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 20 March 1973

Date of commencement : 6 April 1973

37. Act 2 of 1986 — Statute Law Revision Act 1986

Date of First Reading : 31 October 1985
(Bill No. 2/85 published on
8 November 1985)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 10 January 1986

Date of commencement : 31 January 1986

38. 1985 Revised Edition — Minor Offences Act

Date of operation : 30 March 1987

39. Act 10 of 1989 — Minor Offences (Amendment) Act 1989

Date of First Reading : 19 January 1989
(Bill No. 16/89 published on
19 January 1989)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 16 February 1989

Date of commencement : 9 June 1989

40. Act 12 of 1996 — Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) (Amendment) Act 1996

Date of First Reading : 18 January 1996
(Bill No. 2/96 published on
19 January 1996)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 27 February 1996

Date of commencement : 15 May 1996

41. 1997 Revised Edition — Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act

Date of operation : 30 May 1997

42. Act 3 of 2005 — CISCO (Dissolution) Act 2005

(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

Date of First Reading : 19 October 2004
(Bill No. 52/2004 published on
20 October 2004)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 25 January 2005

Date of commencement : 10 June 2005
(item (5) in the Schedule)

43. Act 38 of 2007 — Private Security Industry Act 2007

(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

Date of First Reading : 16 July 2007
(Bill No. 26/2007 published on
17 July 2007)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 27 August 2007

Date of commencement : 27 April 2009
(section 42 — consequential
amendment to Miscellaneous
Offences (Public Order and
Nuisance) Act)

44. Act 15 of 2009 — Public Order Act 2009

(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

Date of First Reading : 23 March 2009
(Bill No. 8/2009 published on
23 March 2009)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 13 April 2009

- Date of commencement : 9 October 2009
(section 49(1) — consequential amendments to section 5 of the Miscellaneous Offences (Public Order and Nuisance) Act)
- 45. Act 15 of 2010 — Criminal Procedure Code 2010**
(Consequential amendments made to Act by)
- Date of First Reading : 26 April 2010
(Bill No. 11/2010 published on 26 April 2010)
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 19 May 2010
- Date of commencement : 2 January 2011
(item (62) of the Sixth Schedule)
- 46. Act 2 of 2012 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2012**
- Date of First Reading : 21 November 2011
(Bill No. 22/2012 published on 21 November 2011)
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 18 January 2012
- Date of commencement : 1 March 2012
- 47. Act 17 of 2014 — Protection from Harassment Act 2014**
- Date of First Reading : 3 March 2014 (Bill No. 12/2014 published on 3 March 2014)
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 13 March 2014
- Date of commencement : 15 November 2014
- 48. Act 5 of 2015 — Liquor Control (Supply and Consumption) Act 2015**
- Date of First Reading : 19 January 2015 (Bill No. 1/2015 published on 19 January 2015)
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 30 January 2015
- Date of commencement : 1 April 2015