



# THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

## OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT 1935

### 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 1/4/2025

# Official Secrets Act 1935

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### Section

1. Short title
  2. Interpretation
  3. Penalties for spying
  4. Cameras prohibited except under permit
  5. Wrongful communication, etc., of information
  6. Unauthorised use of uniforms, falsification of reports, forgery, personation and false documents
  7. Communications with foreign agents to be evidence of commission of certain offences
  8. Interfering with police officers or members of the armed forces
  9. Power to require production of messages
  10. Duty of giving information as to commission of offences
  11. Harboursing
  12. Attempts, incitements, etc.
  13. Power to arrest
  14. Restriction on prosecution
  15. Search warrants
  16. Trial of offences
  17. Punishment
  - 17A. Jurisdiction of District Court
  18. Minister may confer police powers on suitable person
  19. Powers under Criminal Procedure Code 2010 not restricted
- The Schedule — Specified organisations
- 

An Act to prevent the disclosure of official documents and information.

[5 July 1935]

### Short title

1. This Act is the Official Secrets Act 1935.

**Interpretation**

2.—(1) In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context —

“armed forces” shall be deemed to include all regular and volunteer forces of Singapore or of Malaysia or any visiting forces lawfully present in Singapore;

“document” includes part of a document;

“drawing” includes any plan, sketch, tracing, painting, print or other pictorial representation;

“model” includes design, pattern and specimen;

“munitions of war” includes the whole or any part of any ship, submarine, aircraft, tank or similar engine, arms and ammunition, bomb, torpedo or mine, intended or adapted for use in war, and any other article, material or device, whether actual or proposed, intended for such use;

“office under the Government” includes any office or employment in or under any department of the Government or any specified organisation and, in the event of war, of the government of any ally of Singapore;

“officer of police” includes any person upon whom the powers of a police officer not below the rank of sergeant are conferred by the Minister under section 18;

“photograph” includes a photographic or process negative and any printed or other pictorial representation or drawing produced in whole or in part by photographic means;

“prohibited place” means —

- (a) any work of defence, arsenal, naval, military or air force establishment, barrack, camp or station, factory, dockyard, mine, minefield, ship or aircraft belonging to or occupied by or on behalf of the armed forces or any telegraph, telephone, wireless or signal station or office so belonging or occupied, and any place belonging to or occupied by or on behalf of the armed forces and used for the purpose of building,

- repairing, making, proving, testing or storing any munitions of war, or any photographs, drawings, plans, models or documents relating thereto, or for the purpose of getting or storing any metals, oil, mechanical transport spirit or aviation spirit or minerals of use in time of war;
- (b) any place not belonging to the armed forces where any munitions of war, oil, mechanical transport spirit, aviation spirit, fuel or supplies or any photographs, drawings, models, plans or documents relating thereto, are being made, repaired, gotten or stored under contract with, or with any person on behalf of the armed forces, or otherwise on behalf of the armed forces;
- (c) any place belonging to or used for the purposes of the armed forces which is for the time being declared by the Minister, by order published in the *Gazette*, to be a prohibited place for the purposes of this section on the ground that information with respect thereto, or damage thereto, would be useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy;
- (d) any railway, roadway or channel or other means of communication by land or water (including any bridges, tunnels, piers, works or structures being part thereof, or connected or used therewith), or any beach, foreshore or the whole or any part of the territorial waters of Singapore, or any searchlight, lighthouse, buoy or other navigational aid, or any public building, fire station, aerodrome or air station, or any signal telegraph or radio station, or any place used for gas, water, electricity or engineering works or other works for purposes of a public character, or any place where any munitions of war or oil, mechanical transport spirit, aviation spirit, fuel or supplies or any photographs, drawings, models, plans or documents relating thereto are being made, repaired or stored otherwise than on behalf of the

armed forces, any of the aforesaid being a place which is for the time being declared by the Minister, by order published in the *Gazette*, to be a prohibited place for the purposes of this section, on the ground that information with respect thereto, or the destruction or obstruction thereof, or interference therewith would be useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy;

- (e) any area (being in the vicinity of any work of defence, arsenal, naval, military or air force establishment or station, factory, dockyard, mine, minefield, camp, ship or aircraft, belonging to or occupied by or on behalf of the armed forces) which is declared by the Minister, by order published in the *Gazette*, to be a prohibited place for the purposes of this section, on the ground that information with respect thereto, or damage thereto, would be useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy; or
- (f) any area specified in any notice under any written law for the time being in force relating to military manoeuvres or any area declared by proclamation of the Minister under such written law to be a manoeuvring ground or a firing ground, which is declared by order of the Minister to be a prohibited place for the purposes of this section;

“specified organisation” means any organisation specified in the Schedule.

(2) Expressions referring to —

- (a) communicating or receiving include any communicating or receiving, whether in whole or in part, and whether the photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note, document or information itself or the substance, effect or description thereof is communicated or received;
- (b) obtaining or retaining any photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note or document include the copying or causing to be copied the whole or any part of any

photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note or document; and

- (c) the communication of any photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note or document include the transfer or transmission of the photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note or document.

(3) The President may, by notification in the *Gazette*, amend the Schedule.

### **Penalties for spying**

3.—(1) If any person for any purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore —

- (a) approaches, inspects, passes over or is in the neighbourhood of, or enters any prohibited place within the meaning of this Act;
- (b) makes any photograph, drawing, plan, model or note which is calculated to be or might be or is intended to be directly or indirectly useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy; or
- (c) obtains, collects, records, publishes or communicates to any other person any secret official code word, countersign or password, or any photograph, drawing, plan, model, article or note, or other document or information which is calculated to be or might be or is intended to be directly or indirectly useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who takes or makes any photograph, drawing, map, measurement, sounding or survey of or within a prohibited place, shall, unless he proves that the thing so taken or made is not prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore and is not intended to be directly or indirectly useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy, be guilty of an offence:

Provided that it shall not be an offence under this subsection to take or make, outside a prohibited place, a photograph or drawing in which such place or part thereof is included, unless it is proved that the photograph or drawing is intended to be prejudicial to the safety

or interests of Singapore or to be directly or indirectly useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy. This proviso does not apply to any photograph taken from an aircraft.

(3) The taking or making of any photograph, drawing, map, measurement, sounding or survey in accordance with the terms and conditions in such permit as the competent authority sees fit to give shall not be an offence under subsection (2). It may be a term or condition of that permit that anything so taken or made shall immediately be submitted to the competent authority for examination who, if satisfied that there is reasonable cause to believe that the thing so taken or made contains matter or information prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore and directly or indirectly useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy, shall send it to the Minister, and the Minister may give such orders in respect of the thing as he is empowered to give under subsection (8).

(4) The Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, provide who shall be the competent authority for the purposes of subsection (3).

(5) Any person who makes or assists in making a declaration or statement which is false in any material respect for the purpose of obtaining a permit from a competent authority shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction before a District Court to a fine not exceeding \$2,000, or before a Magistrate's Court to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

(6) On a prosecution under this section, it shall not be necessary to show that the accused person was guilty of any particular act tending to show a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore, and, notwithstanding that no such act is proved against him, he may be convicted if, from the circumstances of the case, or his conduct, or his known character as proved, or from his having acted in contravention of section 6 or in the manner mentioned in section 7, it appears that his purpose was a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore and if any photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note, document or information relating to or used in any prohibited place within the meaning of this Act, or anything in such a place, or any secret official code word, countersign or password is made, obtained, collected, recorded, published or communicated by

any person other than a person acting under lawful authority, it shall be deemed to have been made, obtained, collected, recorded, published or communicated for a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore unless the contrary is proved.

(7) If a Magistrate's Court is satisfied that there is reasonable cause to believe that a photograph or drawing contains matter or information prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore and directly or indirectly useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy, the Court may issue a search warrant to search for and seize such photograph or drawing even though an offence under this Act is not alleged to have been committed.

(8) The photograph or drawing, if seized under the search warrant or voluntarily produced by the person in whose possession it is, shall be sent by the Court to the Minister, and the Minister may if he considers that the photograph or drawing contains matter or information prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore and directly or indirectly useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy, order the photograph or drawing to be forfeited, or order that any part of the photograph or drawing be obliterated, erased or removed.

### **Cameras prohibited except under permit**

4.—(1) Any person who within a prohibited place has any apparatus for taking or making photographs in his possession without a permit in writing in that behalf signed by the competent authority shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$200:

Provided that it shall not be an offence under this section for any person residing within any prohibited place to possess any such apparatus within that place without a permit.

(2) Any such apparatus in respect of which an offence has been or is suspected of having been committed may be seized by any person duly authorised in that behalf by the competent authority for such prohibited place and any plate or film in or belonging to such apparatus may also be seized and may be subjected to such process of development as the competent authority may direct either generally or in any particular case.



(3) In this section, “competent authority” means the competent authority referred to in section 3.

### **Wrongful communication, etc., of information**

**5.—(1)** If any person having in his possession or control any secret official code word, countersign or password, or any photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note, document or information which —

- (a) relates to or is used in a prohibited place or anything in such a place;
- (b) relates to munitions of war;
- (c) has been made or obtained in contravention of this Act;
- (d) has been entrusted in confidence to him by any person holding office under the Government; or
- (e) he has obtained, or to which he has had access, owing to his position as a person who holds or has held office under the Government, or as a person who holds, or has held a contract made on behalf of the Government or any specified organisation, or as a person who is or has been employed under a person who holds or has held such an office or contract,

does any of the following:

- (f) communicates directly or indirectly any such information or thing as aforesaid to any foreign Power other than a foreign Power to whom he is duly authorised to communicate it, or to any person other than a person to whom he is authorised to communicate it or to whom it is his duty to communicate it;
- (g) uses any such information or thing as aforesaid for the benefit of any foreign Power other than a foreign Power for whose benefit he is authorised to use it, or in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore;
- (h) retains in his possession or control any such thing as aforesaid when he has no right to retain it, or when it is

contrary to his duty to retain it, or fails to comply with all lawful directions issued by lawful authority with regard to the return or disposal thereof;

- (i) fails to take reasonable care of, or so conducts himself as to endanger the safety or secrecy of, any such information or thing as aforesaid,

that person shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) If any person receives any secret official code word, countersign, password, or any photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note, document or information knowing, or having reasonable ground to believe, at the time when he receives it, that the code word, countersign, password, photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note, document or information is communicated to him in contravention of this Act, he shall be guilty of an offence unless he proves that the communication to him of the code word, countersign, password, photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note, document or information was contrary to his desire.

(3) In any proceedings against a person for an offence under this section, where it is proved that that person is or has been in the employment or service of any foreign Power or government in breach of any undertaking which he has made with the Government or any specified organisation, he shall be deemed to be in possession or control of such information or thing as is referred to in subsection (1) and to have unlawfully communicated that information to a foreign Power or to have used that information or thing in a manner prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore.

(4) In subsection (3), “undertaking” means any undertaking in writing which a public officer or any other person has made with the Government or any specified organisation whereby the officer or person undertakes not to serve or be employed by any foreign Power or government within a specified period after his retirement or resignation from the public service or that specified organisation or otherwise unless he has obtained the prior approval of the Government or that specified organisation.

**Unauthorised use of uniforms, falsification of reports, forgery, personation and false documents**

6.—(1) If any person gains or assists any other person to gain admission to a prohibited place otherwise than by an authorised point of entry or, for the purpose of gaining admission, or of assisting any other person to gain admission, to a prohibited place, or for any other purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore within the meaning of this Act —

- (a) uses or wears, without lawful authority, any naval, military, air force, police or other official uniform, or any uniform so nearly resembling the same as to be calculated to deceive, or falsely represents himself to be a person who is or has been entitled to use or wear any such uniform;
- (b) makes use of any disguise or false name, or knowingly conceals his identity or nationality;
- (c) orally, or in writing in any declaration or application, or in any document signed by him or on his behalf, knowingly makes or connives at the making of any false statement or any omission;
- (d) forges, alters or tampers with any passport or any naval, military, air force, police or official pass, permit, certificate, licence or other document of a similar character (referred to in this section as an official document), or uses or has in his possession any such forged, altered or irregular official document;
- (e) personates, or falsely represents himself to be, a person holding or in the employment of a person holding office under the Government, or personates, or falsely represents himself to be or not to be, a person to whom an official document or secret official code word, countersign or password has been duly issued or communicated; or
- (f) uses, or has in his possession or under his control, without the authority of the Government department or any specified organisation or the authority concerned, any key, badge, device, die, seal or stamp of or belonging to, or

used, made or provided by any Government department or any specified organisation, or by any diplomatic, naval, military or air force authority appointed by or acting under the authority of the Government or that specified organisation, or any key, badge, device, die, seal or stamp so nearly resembling any such articles as aforesaid as to be calculated to deceive, or counterfeits any such articles as aforesaid, or uses, or has in his possession, or under his control, any such counterfeited articles as aforesaid,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) If any person —

- (a) retains for any purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore any official document, whether or not completed or issued for use, when he has no right to retain it, or when it is contrary to his duty to retain it, or fails to comply with any directions issued by any Government department or any specified organisation or any person authorised by that department or specified organisation with regard to the return or disposal thereof;
- (b) allows any other person to have possession of any official document issued for his use alone, or communicates any secret official code word, countersign or password so issued, or, without lawful authority or excuse, has in his possession any official document or secret official code word, countersign or password issued for the use of some person other than himself, or on obtaining possession of any official document by finding or otherwise, neglects or fails to restore it to the person or authority by whom or for whose use it was issued, or to the Deputy Commissioner of Police;
- (c) without lawful authority or excuse, manufactures or sells, or has in his possession for sale, any such key, badge, device, die, seal or stamp as aforesaid; or
- (d) with intent to obtain an official document, secret official code word, countersign or password, whether for himself

or for any other person, knowingly makes any false statement,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) In the case of any prosecution under this section involving the proof of a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore, section 3(6) shall apply in like manner as it applies to prosecutions under that section.

### **Communications with foreign agents to be evidence of commission of certain offences**

7.—(1) In any proceedings against a person for an offence under section 3, the fact that he has been in communication with, or attempted to communicate with, a foreign agent, whether within or without Singapore, shall be evidence that he has, for a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of Singapore, obtained or attempted to obtain or to communicate information which is calculated to be or might be or is intended to be directly or indirectly useful to a foreign Power or to an enemy.

(2) For the purpose of this section, but without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) —

- (a) a person shall, unless he proves the contrary, be deemed to have been in communication with a foreign agent if —
  - (i) he has, either within or without Singapore, visited the address of a foreign agent or consorted or associated with a foreign agent; or
  - (ii) either within or without Singapore, the name or address of, or any other information regarding a foreign agent has been found in his possession, or has been supplied by him to any other person, or has been obtained by him from any other person;
- (b) “foreign agent” includes any person who is or has been or is reasonably suspected of being or having been employed by a foreign Power either directly or indirectly for the purpose of committing an act, either within or without Singapore, prejudicial to the safety or interests of

Singapore, or who has or is reasonably suspected of having, either within or without Singapore, committed, or attempted to commit, such an act in the interests of a foreign Power; and

- (c) any address, whether within or without Singapore, reasonably suspected of being an address used for the receipt of communications intended for a foreign agent, or any address at which a foreign agent resides, or to which he resorts for the purpose of giving or receiving communications, or at which he carries on any business, shall be deemed to be the address of a foreign agent, and communications addressed to such an address to be communications with a foreign agent.

### **Interfering with police officers or members of the armed forces**

8. No person within or in the vicinity of any prohibited place shall obstruct, knowingly mislead or otherwise interfere with or impede, any police officer, or any member of the armed forces engaged on duty in relation to the prohibited place, and, if any person acts in contravention of, or fails to comply with this provision, he shall be guilty of an offence.

### **Power to require production of messages**

9.—(1) Where it appears to the Minister that such a course is expedient in the public interest, he may by warrant under his hand, require any person who owns or controls any telecommunication system, used for the sending or receipt of messages to or from any place out of Singapore, to produce to him, or to any person named in the warrant, the originals and transcripts, either of all messages, or of messages of any specified class or description, or of messages sent from or addressed to any specified person or place, sent or received to or from any place out of Singapore by means of any such telecommunication system, and all other papers relating to any such messages as aforesaid.

(2) Any person who, on being required to produce any such original or transcript or paper as aforesaid, refuses or neglects to do so, or mutilates or destroys the same, shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) In this section “message” and “telecommunication system” shall have the same meanings as in the Telecommunications Act 1999.

### **Duty of giving information as to commission of offences**

**10.** It shall be the duty of every person to give on demand to any police officer not below the rank of sergeant, or to any officer of the armed forces on duty, or to any member of the armed forces engaged on guard, sentry, patrol or other similar duty, any information in his power relating to an offence or suspected offence under this Act, and, if so required, and upon tender of his reasonable expenses, to attend at such reasonable time and place as may be specified for the purpose of furnishing the information, and, if any person fails to give any such information or to attend as aforesaid, he shall be guilty of an offence.

### **Harbouring**

**11.—(1)** If any person knowingly harbours any person whom he knows, or has reasonable grounds for supposing, to be a person who is about to commit or who has committed an offence under this Act, or knowingly permits to meet or assemble in any premises in his occupation or under his control any such persons, or if any person having harboured any such person, or permitted to meet or assemble in any premises in his occupation or under his control any such persons, wilfully omits or refuses to disclose to a police officer any information which it is in his power to give in relation to any such person, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) In this section, “harbour” includes supplying a person with shelter, food, drink, money, clothes, arms, ammunition or means of conveyance, or assisting a person in any way to commit an offence.

### **Attempts, incitements, etc.**

**12.** Any person who attempts to commit any offence under this Act, or solicits or incites or endeavours to persuade, or conspires with another person to commit an offence, or aids or abets or does any act preparatory to the commission of an offence under this Act, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to the same

punishment, and to be proceeded against in the same manner, as if he had committed the offence.

### **Power to arrest**

**13.**—(1) Any person who is found committing an offence under this Act, or who is reasonably suspected of having committed, or having attempted to commit, or being about to commit, such an offence, may be arrested without a warrant.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), any commissioned officer, warrant officer, petty officer, non-commissioned officer or leading rating of the armed forces and any police officer may, with or without a warrant or other process, apprehend or cause to be apprehended any person found in a prohibited place or on lands or premises in the occupation of the armed forces offending against this Act or suspected of so offending, and shall forthwith bring or cause to be brought the person so apprehended before a Magistrate's Court for the purpose of being dealt with according to law.

### **Restriction on prosecution**

**14.**—(1) A prosecution for an offence under this Act shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Public Prosecutor:

Provided that a person charged with such an offence may be arrested, or a warrant for his arrest may be issued and executed, and any such person may be remanded in custody or on bail, notwithstanding that the consent of the Public Prosecutor to the institution of a prosecution for the offence has not been obtained, but the case shall not be further prosecuted until that consent has been obtained.

(2) When a person is brought before a court under this section before the Public Prosecutor has consented to the prosecution the charge shall be explained to him but he shall not be called upon to plead, and section 230 of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 shall not apply.



**Search warrants**

**15.**—(1) A Justice of the Peace if he is satisfied by information on oath or affirmation that there is reasonable ground for suspecting that an offence under this Act has been or is about to be committed, may grant a search warrant authorising any police officer named therein, or authorising if so requested any police officer accompanied by an officer of the armed forces deputed by the officer in command of such armed forces, to enter at any time any premises or place specified in the warrant, if necessary by force, and to search the premises or place and every person found therein, and to seize and retain any photograph, drawing, plan, model, article, note or document or anything of a like nature or anything which is or may be evidence of an offence under this Act having been or being about to be committed, which he may find on the premises or place or on any such person, and with regard to or in connection with which he has reasonable ground for suspecting that an offence under this Act has been or is about to be committed. The seal of a court shall not be necessary to validate a warrant issued under this section.

(2) A Justice of the Peace is authorised to administer an oath or affirmation for the purposes of this section.

(3) The information shall, unless the warrant has been issued by a Magistrate under the seal of his court, be returned without undue delay to a District Court.

(4) A search warrant issued under this section shall, if issued by a Magistrate under the seal of his court, be returned to his court and in any other case shall be returned to a District Court.

(5) When it appears to an officer of police not below the rank of sergeant that the case is one of great emergency and that in the interests of Singapore immediate action is necessary, he may, by a written order under his hand, give to any constable the like authority as may be given by the warrant of a Justice of the Peace under this section.

**Trial of offences**

**16.**—(1) For the purposes of the trial of a person for an offence under this Act, the offence shall be deemed to have been committed

either at the place in which the same actually was committed, or at any place in Singapore in which the offender may be found.

(2) In addition and without prejudice to any powers which a court may possess to order the exclusion of the public from any proceedings, if, in the course of proceedings before a court against any person for an offence under this Act or the proceedings on appeal, or in the course of the trial of a person for an offence under this Act, application is made by the prosecution, on the ground that the publication of any evidence to be given or of any statement to be made in the course of the proceedings would be prejudicial to the safety of Singapore, that all or any portion of the public shall be excluded during any part of the hearing, the court may make an order to that effect, but the passing of sentence shall in any case take place in public.

(3) Where the person guilty of an offence under this Act is a company or corporation or a member or an employee of a partnership or firm, acting in the course of the business of the partnership or firm, every director and officer of the company or corporation or every member of the partnership or firm (as the case may be) shall be guilty of the like offence unless he proves that the act or omission constituting the offence took place without his knowledge or consent.

## **Punishment**

17.—(1) A person who is guilty of an offence under this Act by reason of section 3 shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 14 years.

(2) A person who is guilty of an offence under this Act by reason of section 5, 6, 8 or 11 shall be liable on conviction before a District Court to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years. A person charged with an offence by reason of a section mentioned in this subsection may with the consent of the Public Prosecutor be tried before a Magistrate's Court, and such person shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

(3) A person who is guilty of an offence under this Act by reason of section 9 or 10 shall be liable on conviction before a District Court to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, and shall be liable on conviction before a Magistrate's Court to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

### **Jurisdiction of District Court**

**17A.** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, a District Court shall have jurisdiction to try any offence under this Act and shall have power to impose the full penalty or punishment in respect of the offence.

### **Minister may confer police powers on suitable person**

**18.** The Minister may confer upon any person, whom he considers fit and suitable, the powers of a police officer not below the rank of sergeant for the purposes of this Act.

### **Powers under Criminal Procedure Code 2010 not restricted**

**19.** Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to limit or restrict any powers conferred by the Criminal Procedure Code 2010.

## THE SCHEDULE

Section 2(1) and (3)

### SPECIFIED ORGANISATIONS

1. Building and Construction Authority
2. *[Deleted by Act 14 of 2022 wef 01/08/2022]*
3. Central Provident Fund Board
4. Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore
5. Civil Service College
- 5A. Communicable Diseases Agency  
*[Act 4 of 2025 wef 01/04/2025]*
6. Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore
7. SkillsFuture Singapore Agency
8. Defence Science and Technology Agency

THE SCHEDULE — *continued*

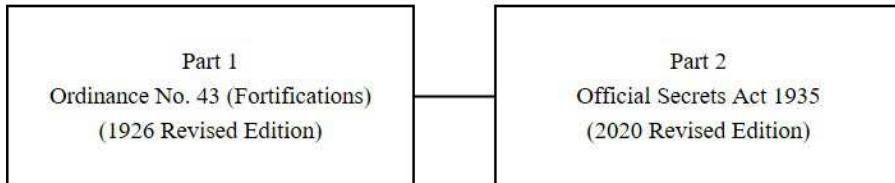
9. DSO National Laboratories
10. Economic Development Board
11. Energy Market Authority of Singapore
- 11A. Gambling Regulatory Authority of Singapore  
*[Act 14 of 2022 wef 01/08/2022]*
12. Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Private Limited and its subsidiary corporations
13. Government Technology Agency
14. Home Team Science and Technology Agency
15. Housing and Development Board
16. Info-communications Media Development Authority
17. Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore
18. Enterprise Singapore Board
19. Jurong Town Corporation
20. Land Transport Authority of Singapore
21. Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
22. Monetary Authority of Singapore
23. National Environment Agency
24. National Heritage Board
25. Public Utilities Board
26. Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board
27. Singapore Land Authority
28. Workforce Singapore Agency
29. Urban Redevelopment Authority.  
*[20/2016; 22/2016; 23/2016; 24/2016; 10/2018; 21/2019]*

# LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

## OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT 1935

This Legislative History is a service provided by the Law Revision Commission on a best-efforts basis. It is not part of the Act.

### PICTORIAL OVERVIEW OF PREDECESSOR ACTS



### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY DETAILS

#### PART 1

#### ORDINANCE NO. 43 (FORTIFICATIONS) (1926 REVISED EDITION)

**1. Ordinance XIX of 1887 — An Ordinance to prevent unauthorised persons from trespassing on or making sketches of fortifications and other Naval or Military works or positions**

Bill	:	Information not available
First and Second Readings	:	21 December 1887
Notice of Amendments	:	21 December 1887
Third Reading	:	21 December 1887
Commencement	:	21 December 1887

**2. 1920 Revised Edition — Ordinance No. 43 (Fortifications)**

Operation	:	28 November 1921
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**3. 1926 Revised Edition — Ordinance No. 43 (Fortifications)**

Operation	:	1 August 1926
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PART 2  
OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT 1935  
(2020 REVISED EDITION)

**4. Ordinance 25 of 1935 — Official Secrets Ordinance, 1935**

Bill	:	G.N. No. 893/1935
First Reading	:	15 April 1935
Second Reading	:	17 June 1935
Notice of Amendments	:	17 June 1935
Third Reading	:	17 June 1935
Commencement	:	2 July 1935 (assent) 5 July 1935 (publication)

**5. 1936 Revised Edition — Official Secrets Ordinance (Chapter 102)**

Operation	:	1 September 1936
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**6. Ordinance 11 of 1936 — Official Secrets (Amendment) Ordinance, 1936**

Bill	:	G.N. No. 1839/1936
First Reading	:	24 August 1936
Second and Third Readings	:	26 October 1936
Commencement	:	10 November 1936

**7. Ordinance 12 of 1939 — Official Secrets (Amendment) Ordinance, 1939**

Bill	:	G.N. No. 664/1939
First Reading	:	24 April 1939
Second and Third Readings	:	12 June 1939
Commencement	:	24 June 1939

**8. Ordinance 6 of 1952 — Official Secrets (Amendment) Ordinance, 1952**

Bill	:	5/1952
First Reading	:	20 February 1952
Second and Third Readings	:	18 March 1952
Commencement	:	27 March 1952

**9. Ordinance 37 of 1952 — Law Revision (Penalties Amendment)  
Ordinance, 1952**

(Amendments made by section 2 read with item 25 of the Schedule to the above Ordinance)

Bill	:	32/1952
First Reading	:	16 September 1952
Second and Third Readings	:	14 October 1952
Commencement	:	30 April 1955 (section 2 read with item 25 of the Schedule)

**10. 1955 Revised Edition — Official Secrets Ordinance (Chapter 84)**

Operation	:	1 July 1956
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**11. G.N. No. S (N.S.) 67/1959 — Singapore Constitution (Modification of Laws) (No. 2) Order 1959**

Commencement	:	21 August 1959
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**12. Ordinance 72 of 1959 — Transfer of Powers (No. 2) Ordinance, 1959**  
(Amendments made by section 2 read with the First Schedule to the above Ordinance)

Bill	:	31/1959
First Reading	:	22 September 1959
Second Reading	:	11 November 1959
Notice of Amendments	:	11 November 1959
Third Reading	:	11 November 1959
Commencement	:	20 November 1959 (section 2 read with the First Schedule)

**13. G.N. No. S (N.S.) 178/1959 — Singapore Constitution (Modification of Laws) (No. 4) Order, 1959**

Commencement	:	20 November 1959
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**14. G.N. No. S (N.S.) 179/1959 — Singapore Constitution (Modification of Laws) (No. 5) Order, 1959**

Commencement	:	20 November 1959
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**15. G.N. No. S 16/1966 — Modification of Laws (Official Secrets) Order, 1966**

Commencement	:	18 January 1966
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**16. 1966 Reprint — Official Secrets Ordinance (Chapter 84)**

Reprint : 19 January 1966

**17. Act 15 of 1967 — Official Secrets (Amendment) Act, 1967**

Bill : 12/1967

First Reading : 24 May 1967

Second and Third Readings : 29 June 1967

Commencement : 18 August 1967

**18. 1970 Revised Edition — Official Secrets Act (Chapter 233)**

Operation : 31 July 1971

**19. Act 21 of 1973 — Statutes of the Republic of Singapore (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 1973**

(Amendments made by section 2 read with the Schedule to the above Act)

Bill : 16/1973

First Reading : 7 March 1973

Second and Third Readings : 20 March 1973

Commencement : 6 April 1973 (section 2 read with the Schedule)

**20. 1985 Revised Edition — Official Secrets Act (Chapter 213)**

Operation : 30 March 1987

**21. Act 7 of 1997 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1997**

(Amendments made by section 7 read with item (18) of the Second Schedule to the above Act)

Bill : 6/1997

First Reading : 11 July 1997

Second and Third Readings : 25 August 1997

Commencement : 1 October 1997 (section 7 read with item (18) of the Second Schedule)

**22. Act 43 of 1999 — Telecommunications Act 1999**

(Amendments made by section 76(4) of the above Act)

Bill : 33/1999

First Reading : 11 October 1999

Second Reading : 23 November 1999



- |                      |   |                                 |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Notice of Amendments | : | 23 November 1999                |
| Third Reading        | : | 23 November 1999                |
| Commencement         | : | 1 December 1999 (section 76(4)) |
- 23. Act 27 of 2001 — Official Secrets (Amendment) Act 2001**
- |                           |   |                  |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| Bill                      | : | 26/2001          |
| First Reading             | : | 11 July 2001     |
| Second and Third Readings | : | 25 July 2001     |
| Commencement              | : | 1 September 2001 |
- 24. G.N. No. S 573/2001 — Official Secrets Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2001**
- |              |   |                  |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| Commencement | : | 23 November 2001 |
|--------------|---|------------------|
- 25. Act 25 of 2002 — Currency (Amendment) Act 2002**  
(Amendments made by section 9 read with item (7) of the Schedule to the above Act)
- |                           |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Bill                      | : | 23/2002   |
| First Reading             | : | 8 July 2002   |
| Second and Third Readings | : | 23 July 2002  |
| Commencement              | : | 1 October 2002 (section 9 read with item (7) of the Schedule) |
- 26. Act 9 of 2003 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2003**  
(Amendments made by section 16 read with item (4) of the Schedule to the above Act)
- |                           |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Bill                      | : | 7/2003  |
| First Reading             | : | 20 March 2003   |
| Second and Third Readings | : | 24 April 2003   |
| Commencement              | : | 16 May 2003 (section 16 read with item (4) of the Schedule) |
- 27. G.N. No. S 420/2003 — Official Secrets Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2003**
- |              |   |                  |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| Commencement | : | 1 September 2003 |
|--------------|---|------------------|
- 28. G.N. No. S 274/2004 — Official Secrets Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2004**
- |              |   |             |
|--------------|---|-------------|
| Commencement | : | 1 June 2004 |
|--------------|---|-------------|

**29. G.N. No. S 287/2005 — Official Secrets Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2005**

Commencement : 6 May 2005

**30. Act 3 of 2005 — CISCO (Dissolution) Act 2005**

(Amendments made by section 16 read with item (7) of the Schedule to the above Act)

Bill : 52/2004

First Reading : 19 October 2004

Second and Third Readings : 25 January 2005

Commencement : 10 June 2005 (section 16 read with item (7) of the Schedule)

**31. G.N. No. S 598/2005 — Official Secrets Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 2) Notification 2005**

Commencement : 14 September 2005

**32. G.N. No. S 177/2008 — Official Secrets Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2008**

Commencement : 2 April 2008

**33. G.N. No. S 588/2009 — Official Secrets Act (Amendment of Schedule) Notification 2009**

Commencement : 1 December 2009

**34. G.N. No. S 632/2009 — Official Secrets Act (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 2) Notification 2009**

Commencement : 28 December 2009

**35. Act 15 of 2010 — Criminal Procedure Code 2010**

(Amendments made by section 430 read with item 69 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 69 of the Sixth Schedule)

**36. 2012 Revised Edition — Official Secrets Act (Chapter 213)**

Operation : 30 November 2012

- 37. Act 23 of 2016 — Government Technology Agency Act 2016**  
(Amendments made by section 82(3) of the above Act)
- Bill : 22/2016
- First Reading : 11 July 2016
- Second and Third Readings : 16 August 2016
- Commencement : 1 October 2016 (section 82(3))
- 38. Act 22 of 2016 — Info-communications Media Development Authority Act 2016**  
(Amendments made by section 102(4) of the above Act)
- Bill : 21/2016
- First Reading : 11 July 2016
- Second and Third Readings : 16 August 2016
- Commencement : 1 October 2016 (section 102(4))
- 39. Act 24 of 2016 — SkillsFuture Singapore Agency Act 2016**  
(Amendments made by section 78(4) of the above Act)
- Bill : 24/2016
- First Reading : 11 July 2016
- Second and Third Readings : 16 August 2016
- Commencement : 3 October 2016 (section 78(4))
- 40. Act 20 of 2016 — Singapore Workforce Development Agency (Amendment) Act 2016**  
(Amendments made by section 20(4) of the above Act)
- Bill : 19/2016
- First Reading : 11 July 2016
- Second and Third Readings : 16 August 2016
- Commencement : 4 October 2016 (section 20(4))
- 41. Act 10 of 2018 — Enterprise Singapore Board Act 2018**  
(Amendments made by section 78(7) of the above Act)
- Bill : 3/2018
- First Reading : 8 January 2018
- Second and Third Readings : 5 February 2018
- Commencement : 1 April 2018 (section 78(7))

**42. Act 21 of 2019 — Home Team Science and Technology Agency Act 2019**  
(Amendments made by section 51(3) of the above Act)

Bill	:	15/2019
First Reading	:	8 July 2019
Second and Third Readings	:	6 August 2019
Commencement	:	1 December 2019 (section 51(3))

**43. 2020 Revised Edition — Official Secrets Act 1935**

Operation	:	31 December 2021
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**44. Act 14 of 2022 — Gambling Regulatory Authority of Singapore Act 2022**  
(Amendments made by the above Act)

Bill	:	5/2022
First Reading	:	14 February 2022
Second and Third Readings	:	11 March 2022
Commencement	:	1 August 2022

**45. Act 4 of 2025 — Communicable Diseases Agency Act 2025**  
(Amendments made by the above Act)

Bill	:	46/2024
First Reading	:	2 January 2025
Second and Third Readings	:	7 January 2025
Commencement	:	1 April 2025

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)