



# THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

## PAWNBROKERS ACT 2015

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# Pawnbrokers Act 2015

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An Act to repeal and re-enact the Pawnbrokers Act (Chapter 222 of the 1994 Revised Edition).

[1 April 2015]

**PART 1****PRELIMINARY****Short title**

1. This Act is the Pawnbrokers Act 2015.

**General interpretation**

- 2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
  - “company” means a company limited by shares under the Companies Act 1967;
  - “identification information” means —
    - (a) in relation to an individual —
      - (i) the individual’s full name (including any alias);
      - (ii) the individual’s address in Singapore for the service of any notice or document for the purposes of this Act;
      - (iii) the individual’s country of citizenship;
      - (iv) if the individual is a citizen or permanent resident of Singapore, the individual’s Singapore identity card number;

- (v) if the individual is not a citizen or permanent resident of Singapore, the individual's foreign passport number; and
  - (vi) where provided by the individual, the individual's telephone number or email address (or any other means by which the individual can be contacted); or
- (b) in relation to an entity —
- (i) its full name;
  - (ii) the address of its registered office or place of business in Singapore;
  - (iii) its legal form;
  - (iv) its place of incorporation or registration;
  - (v) if it is incorporated or registered in Singapore, its unique entity number;
  - (vi) if it is not incorporated or registered in Singapore, its foreign incorporation or registration number; and
  - (vii) where provided by the entity, its telephone number or email address (or any other means by which it can be contacted);

“licence” means a licence for pawnbroking granted or renewed under this Act;

“licensed place of business” means a place specified in a licence as a place at which a licensee can carry on the business of pawnbroking;

“licensee” means a person holding a licence, and includes a person whose licence is suspended;

“limited liability partnership” has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2005;

“loan agreement” means an agreement for the loan of money on the security of a pledge;

“manager”, in relation to a pawnbroker, means a person (including a director of the pawnbroker) responsible for managing the whole or any part of the pawnbroker’s business of pawnbroking;

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

“profit”, in relation to a loan secured by a pledge, includes interest on the loan;

“redemption period”, in relation to a pledge, is to be reckoned in accordance with section 54(2) and (3);

“Registrar” means the Registrar of Pawnbrokers appointed under section 5, and includes any Deputy Registrar of Pawnbrokers or Assistant Registrar of Pawnbrokers exercising the functions of the Registrar;

“repealed Act” means the repealed Pawnbrokers Act (Cap. 222, 1994 Revised Edition) in force immediately before 1 April 2015;

“sell” includes agree to sell;

“substantial shareholder”, in relation to a company, has the meaning given by section 81 of the Companies Act 1967.

(2) For the purposes of this Act —

(a) an entity is a disqualified person if —

- (i) it has been convicted of an offence under this Act or the repealed Act;
- (ii) it has contravened a provision of this Act or the repealed Act;
- (iii) it has been convicted of any offence under sections 50 to 57 of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992, the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002 or any



- regulations made under the United Nations Act 2001;
- (iv) it has been convicted in Singapore or elsewhere of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty, or a finding of fraud or dishonesty;
  - (iva) it has been convicted of an offence under any provision of any other written law relating to —
    - (A) the prevention of money laundering;
    - (B) the prevention of terrorism financing; or
    - (C) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
  - (ivb) it has been convicted of an offence under the law of any foreign country or territory relating to —
    - (A) the prevention of money laundering;
    - (B) the prevention of terrorism financing; or
    - (C) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
  - (v) it is a company and has been ordered to be wound up or liquidated under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 or any previous written law; or
  - (vi) it has been ordered to be dissolved under any written law; and
- (b) an individual is a disqualified person if —
- (i) the individual has been convicted of an offence under this Act or the repealed Act;
  - (ii) the individual has contravened a provision of this Act or the repealed Act;
  - (iii) the individual has been convicted of any offence under sections 50 to 57 of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992, the Terrorism (Suppression of

Financing) Act 2002 or any regulations made under the United Nations Act 2001;

- (iv) the individual has been convicted in Singapore or elsewhere of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty, or a finding of fraud or dishonesty;
- (iva) the individual has been convicted of an offence under any provision of any other written law relating to —
  - (A) the prevention of money laundering;
  - (B) the prevention of terrorism financing; or
  - (C) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (ivb) the individual has been convicted of an offence under the law of any foreign country or territory relating to —
  - (A) the prevention of money laundering;
  - (B) the prevention of terrorism financing; or
  - (C) the prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (v) the individual is or was a director or substantial shareholder of an entity and, in that capacity, consented to or connived in the commission by the entity of an offence under this Act or the repealed Act; or
- (vi) the individual is an undischarged bankrupt.  
*[40/2018]*

### **Meanings of “pawn”, “pawnbroker”, “pawner” and “pledge”, etc.**

- 3.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
- “business of pawnbroking” means the business of lending money on the security of pledges;

“pawn” means to give possession of goods to a lender of money as security for the repayment of a loan;

“pawnbroker” means a person who carries on a business of lending money on the security of pledges;

“pawnbroking” means lending money on the security of a pledge;

“pawner” means a person who pawns goods to a pawnbroker, whether or not the person has any title to, or is authorised to deal in, those goods;

“pledge” means goods that are taken into possession by a lender of money as security for the repayment of a loan.

(2) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, goods are taken in pawn if the goods are taken into possession by a lender of money as security for the repayment of a loan.

(3) For the purposes of this Act, in determining whether a person is lending money on the security of a pledge, and whether goods have been pawned —

(a) regard must be had —

(i) to the substance of the transaction and not to its form or legal technicalities; and

(ii) in particular, to the ordinary understanding of the person giving possession of the goods as to —

(A) the nature of the transaction; and

(B) the reason or basis on which possession of goods is given to the lender;

(b) it does not matter that the terms of the loan transaction provide that the lender has taken possession of the goods at the request of or on behalf of the person giving possession of the goods or otherwise, so as to give the appearance that the lender does not rely on possession of the goods as security for the repayment of the loan; and

- (c) goods can be considered pawned, and money can be considered lent, on the security of a pledge even if the loan also gives rise to a mortgage of the goods.
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, the First Schedule may specify —
- (a) any transaction where goods are deemed or deemed not to be pawned; and
  - (b) in respect of any transaction where goods are deemed to be pawned —
    - (i) the person deemed to be the pawner;
    - (ii) the sum deemed to be loaned; and
    - (iii) the profit deemed to be taken for the loan.

### **Application of Act**

4. This Act does not apply to any entity regulated or exempted by the Monetary Authority of Singapore under any written law, to the extent that the entity is permitted or authorised to carry on the business of pawnbroking or is not prohibited from carrying on the business of pawnbroking under that written law.

### **Appointment of Registrar, Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars**

- 5.—(1) The Minister must appoint a Registrar of Pawnbrokers.
- (2) The Minister may in addition appoint Deputy Registrars of Pawnbrokers and Assistant Registrars of Pawnbrokers.
- (3) Subject to any direction that the Registrar of Pawnbrokers may give, a Deputy Registrar of Pawnbrokers or an Assistant Registrar of Pawnbrokers may exercise and perform all or any of the powers, duties and functions of the Registrar of Pawnbrokers under this Act.

## PART 2

## REGULATION OF PAWNBROKERS, ETC.

*Division 1 — Licensing of pawnbrokers***No pawnbroking without licence, etc.**

6.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), it shall be an offence for a person to carry on the business of pawnbroking in Singapore or to hold out that the person is carrying on that business.

(2) A person may carry on the business of pawnbroking, and hold out that the person is carrying on that business, only in accordance with —

- (a) a licence granted under this Act;
- (b) the Registrar’s directions under section 41;
- (c) a waiver certificate under section 43; or
- (d) a class waiver under section 46.

(3) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) shall be liable on conviction —

- (a) if the person has no previous qualifying conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$50,000; and
- (b) if the person has any previous qualifying conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

(4) In subsection (3), “qualifying conviction” means a conviction for an offence under subsection (1) or under section 8(5) of the repealed Act.

**Grant of licence**

7.—(1) The Registrar may grant a licence in accordance with this Act.

(2) An application for the grant of a licence must be —

- (a) made in the form and manner specified by the Registrar; and

(b) accompanied by the payment of the prescribed fee.

(3) The Registrar may grant more than one licence to a person.

### **Duration of licence**

**8.**—(1) A licence takes effect on the date it is granted.

(2) Unless a licence earlier lapses or is revoked, the licence has effect until —

(a) 31 December of the year in which it is granted; or

(b) any other date that the Registrar may specify.

### **Renewal of licence**

**9.**—(1) A licensee must inform the Registrar, no later than one month before the date of expiry of its licence, whether it intends to apply to renew the licence.

(2) The Registrar may, on the application of a licensee, renew its licence in accordance with this Act.

(3) An application for the renewal of a licence must be —

(a) made in the form and manner specified by the Registrar;  
and

(b) accompanied by the payment of the prescribed fee.

(4) The renewal of a licence takes effect from —

(a) the date on which the licence would have expired but for the renewal; or

(b) any other date that the Registrar may specify.

(5) Unless a renewed licence earlier lapses or is revoked, the renewed licence has effect until —

(a) 31 December of the year in which it is renewed; or

(b) any other date that the Registrar may specify.

### **Grounds for refusing to grant or renew licence**

**10.**—(1) A licence cannot be granted to a person who is not a company incorporated in Singapore.

(2) A licence may be granted or renewed only in the prescribed circumstances.

(3) The Registrar may, in particular, refuse to grant or renew a licence on the following grounds:

- (a) the prescribed fee for the grant or renewal (as the case may be) of the licence is not paid;
- (b) the application for the grant or renewal (as the case may be) —
  - (i) contains materially false or misleading information; or
  - (ii) is materially incomplete;
- (c) the applicant for the grant or renewal (as the case may be) —
  - (i) does not have a paid-up share capital that is equal to or greater than the prescribed amount; or
  - (ii) has carried on the business of pawnbroking in Singapore or elsewhere in a way that, in the Registrar's opinion, makes the applicant unfit to hold a licence;
- (d) in the Registrar's opinion, the proposed place of business —
  - (i) is unsuitable for carrying on the business of pawnbroking; or
  - (ii) is situated at a location that is unsuitable for carrying on the business of pawnbroking;
- (e) a substantial shareholder of the applicant —
  - (i) is a disqualified person; or
  - (ii) has carried on the business of pawnbroking in Singapore or elsewhere in a way that, in the Registrar's opinion, makes the applicant unfit to hold a licence;

- (f) a person who is (or is proposed to be) a director or a manager of the applicant —
- (i) is below 21 years of age;
  - (ii) is a disqualified person;
  - (iii) is, in the Registrar’s opinion, not of good character;
  - (iv) is, in the Registrar’s opinion, not a fit and proper person to carry on or manage the applicant’s business of pawnbroking; or
  - (v) has carried on the business of pawnbroking in Singapore or elsewhere in a way that, in the Registrar’s opinion, makes the applicant unfit to hold a licence; or
- (g) a person who is (or is proposed to be) a manager of the applicant —
- (i) is not ordinarily resident in Singapore;
  - (ii) will not be ordinarily resident in Singapore while the person holds that position; or
  - (iii) does not, in the Registrar’s opinion, possess adequate qualifications or experience for that position.

### **Appeal to Minister**

**11.** A person aggrieved by the Registrar’s refusal to grant or renew a licence may appeal to the Minister.

#### *Division 2 — Approval of substantial shareholders, directors and managers*

### **Substantial shareholding, etc., to be approved by Registrar**

**12.—(1)** It shall be an offence for a person to —

- (a) become a substantial shareholder of a licensee by increasing the person’s shareholding in the licensee without the Registrar’s approval;



- (b) increase the person's substantial shareholding in a licensee without the Registrar's approval; or
  - (c) refuse to comply with the Registrar's direction under subsection (2)(c) to reduce the person's shareholding in a licensee.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Registrar may —
  - (a) approve a person to become a substantial shareholder of a licensee by an increase of the person's shareholding;
  - (b) approve an increase of a person's substantial shareholding in a licensee; or
  - (c) subject to section 16, direct a substantial shareholder to reduce its shareholding in a licensee.
- (3) A direction under subsection (2)(c) may not require a person's shareholding to be reduced beyond what is necessary for the person to cease to be a substantial shareholder in the licensee.

### **Grounds for declining to approve substantial shareholding, etc.**

**13.** Approval under section 12(2)(a) or (b) may be refused, and a direction under section 12(2)(c) may be given, on the following grounds in particular:

- (a) the relevant person is a disqualified person; or
- (b) the relevant person has carried on the business of pawnbroking in Singapore or elsewhere in a way that, in the Registrar's opinion, makes the person unfit to hold a licence.

### **Directors and managers to be approved by Registrar**

**14.—**(1) A person cannot be appointed or act as a director or a manager of a licensee without the Registrar's approval.

(2) Where a person contravenes subsection (1), the person and the licensee shall each be guilty of an offence.

- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), the Registrar may —
- (a) approve a person to be appointed or to act as a director or a manager of the licensee; or
  - (b) subject to section 16, withdraw any such approval.

**Grounds for declining to approve director or manager, etc.**

**15.** Approval under section 14(3) may, in particular, be refused or withdrawn if the relevant person —

- (a) is below 21 years of age;
- (b) is or becomes a disqualified person;
- (c) is, in the Registrar's opinion, not of good character;
- (d) is, in the Registrar's opinion, not a fit and proper person to carry on or manage the licensee's business of pawnbroking;
- (e) has carried on the business of pawnbroking in Singapore or elsewhere in a way that, in the Registrar's opinion, makes the licensee unfit to hold a licence; or
- (f) in any case where the approval is for the person to be appointed or to act as a manager of the licensee —
  - (i) is not ordinarily resident in Singapore;
  - (ii) will not be ordinarily resident in Singapore while the person holds that position; or
  - (iii) does not in the Registrar's opinion, possess adequate qualifications or experience for that position.

**Registrar to give opportunity to make representations before withdrawing approval under section 12 or 14**

**16.—(1)** The following provisions are to apply before the Registrar makes a decision to give a direction under section 12(2)(c) or withdraw any approval under section 14(3)(b).

- (2) The Registrar must give the affected person written notice of —
- (a) the Registrar's intention to make the decision; and

(b) the date on which the Registrar intends to make the decision.

(3) The date in subsection (2)(b) must not be earlier than 21 days after the date of the written notice in subsection (2).

(4) The affected person may make representations to the Registrar at any time before the date in subsection (2)(b).

(5) The Registrar must consider any representation made by the affected person before the date in subsection (2)(b).

(6) The Registrar must, on or after the date in subsection (2)(b), give the affected person written notice of the Registrar's final decision.

(7) The Registrar's final decision takes effect 14 days (or any longer period that the Registrar may specify) after the date of the written notice in subsection (6).

(8) In this section, "affected person", in relation to a decision under section 14(3)(b), includes the licensee whose director or manager is affected.

### **Appeal to Minister**

**17.** A person aggrieved by any of the following decisions of the Registrar may appeal to the Minister:

- (a) the refusal of any approval under section 12(2)(a) or (b);
- (b) a direction under section 12(2)(c);
- (c) the refusal of any approval under section 14(3)(a) or withdrawal of any approval under section 14(3)(b).

### *Division 3 — Conditions of licence and statutory duties of licensee*

#### **Conditions of licence**

**18.—(1)** A licensee must comply with such conditions of its licence as the Registrar may specify.

- (2) For the purpose of subsection (1), the Registrar may specify —
- (a) conditions applicable to all licensees;
  - (b) conditions applicable to a specified class of licensees; or
  - (c) conditions applicable to a specified licensee only.
- (3) The Registrar may, by written notice to a licensee, add to, vary or cancel any condition of a licence.

### **Licensee to comply with statutory duties**

**19.**—(1) A licensee must comply with its statutory duties in sections 20 to 29.

(2) A licensee that fails to comply with any of its statutory duties in sections 20 to 29 shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.

### **Licensee to maintain paid-up share capital**

**20.** A licensee must maintain the prescribed paid-up share capital.

### **Carrying on of pawnbroking business and other businesses, etc.**

**21.**—(1) A licensee must not carry on the business of pawnbroking at any place other than a licensed place of business, unless the Registrar gives written permission.

(2) A licensee must not carry on any business other than the business of pawnbroking at a licensed place of business, unless the Registrar gives written permission.

(3) A licensee must —

- (a) keep each licensed place of business in a suitable condition for carrying on the business of pawnbroking; and
- (b) comply with any requirements that the Registrar may specify for this purpose.

(4) A licensee must comply with any security requirements for each licensed place of business that the Registrar may specify.

**Licensee to display sign and rates, etc.**

**22.**—(1) A licensee must display, at each of its licensed places of business, a conspicuous sign stating, in English, the licensee’s name and the words “Pawnbroker’s Shop”, “Pawnbroker” or “Pawnshop”.

(2) A licensee must display, at each of its licensed places of business, a conspicuous notice stating, in English, the maximum profit and the fees it can charge under section 50.

**Licensee to keep records of pawnbroking business and transactions**

**23.**—(1) A licensee must keep the prescribed records in relation to —

- (a) its business of pawnbroking; and
  - (b) its transactions.
- (2) The records under subsection (1) —
- (a) must be kept —
    - (i) in English;
    - (ii) in electronic form;
    - (iii) from the prescribed time;
    - (iv) for the prescribed period, or any longer period that the Registrar may, in writing, require; and
    - (v) in accordance with any other prescribed requirement; and
  - (b) must be kept or be available for inspection at the licensed place of business where the goods are pawned.

**Licensee to submit statement on pawnbroking business and transactions**

**24.**—(1) A licensee must submit to the Registrar, at such intervals and in such form and manner as the Registrar may require, statements containing such particulars as may be prescribed in relation to —

- (a) its business of pawnbroking; and

(b) its transactions.

(2) A licensee must explain any particular in a statement submitted under subsection (1) if the Registrar so requires.

### **Licensee to conduct annual audit**

**25.** A licensee must at its own cost appoint an auditor to carry out annual audits of its business of pawnbroking, including an audit of any matters that the Registrar may specifically require.

### **Licensee to maintain adequate insurance**

**26.** A licensee must maintain adequate and appropriate insurance, or any other forms of protection that the Registrar may approve in writing, against the damage, theft or loss of all pledges taken by it.

### **Licensee to maintain security deposit**

**27.—(1)** A licensee must place with the Accountant-General a deposit of the prescribed amount.

(2) The deposit must be in cash or any other form that the Registrar may, in writing, allow.

(3) The deposit is to be security for the licensee's compliance with the conditions of its licence and the provisions of this Act, including the payment of any financial penalty imposed under section 37(2)(a).

(4) If the deposit or part of the deposit is forfeited by the Registrar, the licensee must replace the forfeited amount within 14 days (or any longer period that the Registrar may allow) after the forfeiture.

### **Licensee to inform Registrar if substantial shareholder, etc., becomes disqualified person**

**28.** A licensee must, within 7 days after it becomes aware or has reason to believe that any of the following persons is or has become a disqualified person, inform the Registrar in writing of the fact:

- (a) a substantial shareholder of the licensee;
- (b) a director of the licensee;
- (c) a manager of the licensee.

**Licensee to inform Registrar of proceedings, etc.**

**29.—**(1) A licensee must notify the Registrar in writing of the occurrence of any of the following events, no later than 14 days after the licensee becomes aware that the event has occurred:

- (a) a receiver or a manager is or will be appointed in respect of the property of the licensee;
- (b) a meeting of the creditors or shareholders of the licensee has been summoned for the purpose of winding up the licensee;
- (c) an application has been made to the court for an order summoning all or any class of the creditors or shareholders of the licensee to meet for the purpose of a proposed compromise or arrangement between the licensee and those creditors or shareholders;
- (d) an application has been made to the court for an order under section 71 of the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 in respect of the licensee;
- (e) an application has been made to the court for a judicial management order under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 in respect of the licensee;
- (f) a written notice of the appointment of an interim judicial manager has been lodged under section 94(5)(a) of the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018 in respect of the licensee;
- (g) an application has been made to the court for the licensee to be wound up or otherwise dissolved under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018;
- (h) legal proceedings have been commenced against the licensee;
- (i) any event in paragraphs (a) to (h) occurs in relation to a company that is a substantial shareholder of the licensee (instead of the licensee);
- (j) an entity that is a substantial shareholder of the licensee is dissolved under the law applicable to the entity;

(k) any other event that may be prescribed.

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

- (a) the Registrar may require the licensee to notify the Registrar of any further event in relation to that event; and
- (b) the licensee must notify the Registrar of the further event no later than 14 days after the licensee becomes aware that the further event has occurred.

#### *Division 4 — Investigative powers*

### **Power to order production of information, document or thing**

**30.**—(1) The Registrar may, in writing, order a person —

- (a) to produce any information, document or thing in the person's possession or control that the Registrar considers relevant for deciding whether this Act has been contravened; or
- (b) to give the Registrar access to that information, document or thing.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to customer information (as defined in section 40A of the Banking Act 1970) kept by a financial institution.

(3) A person ordered to produce any information, document or thing may cause the information, document or thing to be produced instead of producing it in person.

(4) It shall be an offence for a person to —

- (a) fail to comply with the Registrar's order under subsection (1) without reasonable excuse; or
- (b) knowingly obstruct or prevent, or attempt to obstruct or prevent, a person from complying with the Registrar's order under subsection (1).



**Power to seize property, etc., in certain circumstances**

- 31.—**(1) The Registrar may seize any property —
- (a) in respect of which a contravention of this Act is suspected to have been committed;
  - (b) that is suspected to have been used or intended to be used in a contravention of this Act; or
  - (c) that is suspected to constitute evidence of a contravention of this Act.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to property held or suspected to be held in an account or a safe deposit box in a financial institution.
- (3) The occupier or person-in-charge of a place from which property is to be seized under subsection (1), or a representative of the occupier or person-in-charge, may attend during the seizure.
- (4) The Registrar must prepare and sign a list of any property seized under subsection (1), recording the location from which each item of property is seized.
- (5) A signed copy of the list must be given to the occupier or person-in-charge of the place from which property was seized, or a representative of the occupier or person-in-charge.
- (6) Instead of seizing any property under subsection (1), the Registrar may, by written order —
- (a) prohibit any person from dealing with the property; and
  - (b) require any person to affix the order or a copy of the order on or near the property.
- (7) It shall be an offence for a person to —
- (a) knowingly obstruct or prevent, or attempt to obstruct or prevent, the Registrar from exercising the powers under subsection (1) or (6); or
  - (b) dispose of or deal in any property contrary to the Registrar's order under subsection (6).

**Power of court over seized property, etc.**

**32.**—(1) Sections 370, 371 and 372 of the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 apply, with the necessary modifications, when the Registrar seizes property or prohibits any dealing in property under section 31.

(2) Despite subsection (1), when the Registrar seizes a pledge or prohibits any dealing in a pledge under section 31, the court may, at any time and on the application of a person interested in the pledge, order that the pledge be released to the person or dealt with as the court sees fit.

**Registrar's powers may be exercised by authorised persons**

**33.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2), the Registrar's powers and duties under this Division may be exercised and performed by a person authorised by the Registrar.

(2) The Minister may prescribe —

- (a) any class of persons who may, or cannot, be authorised to exercise the Registrar's powers and perform the Registrar's duties under this Division; and
- (b) the conditions to be complied with by any person authorised under subsection (1) to exercise the Registrar's powers or perform the Registrar's duties.

*Division 5 — Regulatory action***Power to give directions**

**34.**—(1) For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, the Registrar may give written directions, either of a general or specific nature, to a licensee.

(2) The Registrar may, in particular, give directions setting out the manner in which a licensee is to conduct the business of pawnbroking.

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

(4) A direction under subsection (1) need not be published in the *Gazette*.

### **Composition of offences**

**35.**—(1) The Minister may prescribe any offence under this Act as a compoundable offence.

(2) The Registrar may compound any offence under this Act that is prescribed as a compoundable offence by collecting a sum not exceeding \$5,000 from a person reasonably suspected of having committed the offence.

(3) On payment of the sum of money under subsection (2), no further criminal proceedings are to be taken against that person in respect of the offence.

(4) All sums collected under this section must be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

### **Variation, suspension or revocation of licence**

**36.**—(1) This section applies where —

- (a) a licensee is convicted of an offence under this Act;
- (b) the Registrar compounds an offence under this Act committed by the licensee;
- (c) a licensee contravenes a provision of this Act, which contravention is not an offence;
- (d) the Registrar is satisfied that a licensee has conducted its business of pawnbroking in an improper or unsatisfactory manner; or
- (e) the Registrar is satisfied that a licensee is not able to carry on its business of pawnbroking in a proper and satisfactory manner.

(2) On the occurrence of any event specified in subsection (1), the Registrar may —

- (a) do either or both of the following:
  - (i) vary any condition of the licensee's licence;

- (ii) suspend the licensee's licence in respect of all or any of the licensee's places of business; or
- (b) revoke the licensee's licence with effect from a specified date.

### **Financial penalty and forfeiture of security deposit**

**37.**—(1) This section applies where —

- (a) a licensee contravenes a provision of this Act, which contravention is not an offence;
- (b) the Registrar is satisfied that a licensee has conducted its business of pawnbroking in an improper or unsatisfactory manner; or
- (c) the Registrar is satisfied that a licensee is not able to carry on its business of pawnbroking in a proper and satisfactory manner.

(2) On the occurrence of an event specified in subsection (1), the Registrar may, in addition to taking any action under section 36(2) —

- (a) order the licensee to pay a financial penalty of an amount not exceeding \$20,000 for each occurrence of the event, up to a cumulative maximum of \$100,000 at a time; and
- (b) if the licensee fails to pay any financial penalty ordered under paragraph (a), enforce the payment by forfeiting the whole or any part of the deposit placed by the licensee under section 27.

### **Registrar to give opportunity to make representations before taking action under section 36 or 37**

**38.**—(1) The following provisions are to apply before the Registrar makes a decision to take any action against a licensee under section 36 or 37.

(2) The Registrar must give the licensee written notice of —

- (a) the Registrar's intention to make the decision; and
- (b) the date on which the Registrar intends to make the decision.

(3) The date in subsection (2)(b) must not be earlier than 21 days after the date of the written notice in subsection (2).

(4) The licensee may make representations to the Registrar at any time before the date in subsection (2)(b).

(5) The Registrar must consider any representation made by the licensee before the date in subsection (2)(b).

(6) The Registrar must, on or after the date in subsection (2)(b), give the licensee written notice of the Registrar's final decision.

(7) In the case of a decision to suspend or revoke a licence, the Registrar's final decision takes effect 14 days (or any longer period that the Registrar may specify) after the date of the written notice in subsection (6).

### **Appeal to Minister**

**39.** A person aggrieved by the Registrar's decision under section 36 or 37 may appeal to the Minister.

#### *Division 6 — Lapsing, expiry or revocation of licence*

### **Lapsing of licence**

**40.** A licence lapses on the earliest of the following dates (so far as they are applicable):

- (a) on the date the Registrar approves the licensee's application to surrender the licence;
- (b) on the date the licensee goes into liquidation or is wound up or otherwise dissolved under the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018;
- (c) where the licensee has not commenced the business of pawnbroking for a continuous period of 6 months (or any longer period that the Registrar may allow) after the grant of or renewal of the licence, on the date immediately after the expiry of that period;
- (d) where the licensee has ceased to carry on its business of pawnbroking for a continuous period of 6 months (or any

longer period that the Registrar may allow), on the date immediately after the expiry of that period;

(e) on any other date that may be prescribed.

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### **Registrar's powers when licence lapses, expires or is revoked**

**41.**—(1) This section applies —

- (a) where a licence has lapsed;
- (b) where a licence has expired; or
- (c) where a licensee has been informed by the Registrar under section 38(6) of the Registrar's final decision to revoke the licence under section 36(2)(b), even if the licensee has appealed against the Registrar's decision.

(2) This section has effect for the purposes of securing the orderly cessation of the licensee's business of pawnbroking, protecting the interests of pawners and securing the licensee's compliance with the provisions of this Act.

(3) The Registrar may, for the purposes of this section —

- (a) give directions to —
  - (i) the licensee;
  - (ii) any director or manager of the licensee; and
  - (iii) if there is no such director or manager who is able to comply with the directions of the Registrar, any person who was a director of the licensee in the 6 months before the date of the relevant event in subsection (1);
- (b) in particular, give all or any of the following directions:
  - (i) direct the licensee to continue complying with all or any of its statutory duties under Division 3;
  - (ii) direct that any records kept by the licensee be delivered to the Registrar, a police officer, the liquidator of the licensee (if any) or any other person;

- (iii) direct that the licensee's place or places of business be kept open for the redemption of pledges for such period and at such times as the Registrar may specify;
- (iv) direct the licensee to forfeit and sell any pledges taken by it that are unredeemed;
- (c) intervene in any proceedings involving the licensee; and
- (d) apply or forfeit the whole or any part of the deposit placed by the licensee under section 27(1).

(4) The Registrar may not take any action under subsection (1) that is inconsistent with any order of court in any proceedings involving the licensee.

(5) A person who complies with a direction of the Registrar under subsection (3)(a) or (b) is not liable for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result.

(6) A person who, without reasonable excuse, fails to comply with a direction of the Registrar under subsection (3)(a) or (b) shall be guilty of an offence.

(7) In this section, "licensee" includes a pawnbroker whose licence has lapsed or expired or is revoked.

### **Validity of transactions not affected**

**42.** The lapsing, expiry or revocation of a licence does not affect the validity of any transaction entered into by the licensee.

### *Division 7 — Waivers*

#### **Waiver certificate**

**43.—**(1) The Minister may, on the application of a person —

- (a) grant a waiver certificate, with or without conditions, waiving the application of all or any of the requirements of this Act as they concern the person, for a period that the Minister may specify;
- (b) add to, vary or cancel any condition of the waiver; or

(c) extend the period of the waiver.

(2) The Minister may require a person granted a waiver certificate under subsection (1)(a) to pay a fee for the purpose of recovering the costs of regulating the person's compliance with the conditions of the waiver.

(3) A waiver certificate granted under subsection (1)(a) need not be published in the *Gazette*.

(4) An application under this section —

(a) must be made in the form that the Registrar may specify;

(b) must include the information that the Registrar may require in any case; and

(c) must be accompanied by the payment of the prescribed fee.

### **Revocation, etc., of waiver certificate**

**44.** Subject to section 45, the Minister may by written notice to a person granted a waiver certificate under section 43(1)(a) —

(a) add to, vary or cancel any condition of the waiver;

(b) reduce the period of the waiver; or

(c) revoke the waiver.

### **Minister to give opportunity to make representations before revoking waiver certificate, etc.**

**45.—**(1) The following provisions are to apply before the Minister makes a decision under section 44 in relation to a person granted a waiver certificate under section 43(1)(a).

(2) The Minister must give the person written notice of —

(a) the Minister's intention to make the decision; and

(b) the date on which the Minister intends to make the decision.

(3) The date in subsection (2)(b) must not be earlier than 21 days after the date of the written notice in subsection (2).



(4) The person may make representations to the Minister at any time before the date in subsection (2)(b).

(5) The Minister must consider any representation made by the person before the date in subsection (2)(b).

(6) The Minister must, on or after the date in subsection (2)(b), give the person written notice of the Minister's final decision.

(7) The Minister's final decision takes effect 14 days (or any longer period that the Minister may specify) after the date of the written notice in subsection (6).

### **Class waiver**

**46.** The Minister may make rules for the waiver of the application of any (but not all) of the requirements of this Act as they concern any class of persons, subject to any condition prescribed in those rules.

### **Validity of transactions not affected by variation or revocation of waiver**

**47.** The variation or revocation of a waiver certificate granted to a person under section 43(1)(a), or a class waiver under section 46 that applied to a person, does not affect the validity of any transaction entered into by the person before the variation or revocation, as the case may be.

## **PART 3**

### **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS WHEN GOODS ARE PAWNED**

#### *Division 1 — Pawning of goods*

### **Valuation to be given beforehand**

**48.—(1)** A pawnbroker must, before taking goods in pawn, give the person offering to pawn the goods a valuation of the goods offered to be pawned.

(2) A loan agreement is voidable at the instance of the pawner unless subsection (1) is fully complied with.

(3) A pawnbroker is not liable for any loss or damage suffered (whether by the pawner or by any third party) as a result of relying on a valuation given under subsection (1), unless the pawnbroker did not act in good faith, or did not take reasonable care, in giving the valuation.

### **Pawn ticket to be issued**

**49.**—(1) A pawnbroker must not take goods in pawn unless the pawnbroker issues to the pawner a pawn ticket in accordance with this section.

(2) A pawn ticket must be marked with a unique identification number, and must contain the prescribed particulars in the prescribed format.

(3) The pawner must sign a copy of the pawn ticket.

(4) The pawnbroker must keep a signed copy of the pawn ticket.

(5) A loan agreement is voidable at the instance of the pawner unless subsections (1), (2), (3) and (4) are fully complied with.

### **Permitted profit and fees**

**50.**—(1) When a pawnbroker lends money on the security of a pledge, the pawnbroker must not take any profit on the loan or charge any fee other than what is permitted under the Second Schedule.

(2) A loan agreement is void to the extent that it purports to confer on a pawnbroker a right to take any profit on the loan or charge any fee other than what is permitted under the Second Schedule.

(3) A pawnbroker that contravenes subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence.

### **Sections 48, 49 and 50 to apply, with modifications, to agreement to extend redemption period**

**51.**—(1) Where the redemption period for a pledge is extended by agreement, sections 48, 49 and 50 apply as if the pledge is offered to be pawned for the first time, subject to the modifications in subsections (2) to (5).

(2) The pawnbroker must cancel the original pawn ticket.

(3) The new pawn ticket issued by the pawnbroker must state the profit due at the date of the agreement to extend the redemption period, in addition to the particulars required under section 49(2).

(4) The rights and obligations under the original agreement to pawn the goods are deemed to have merged in the agreement to extend the redemption period.

(5) Where the pawnbroker fails to give a valuation in accordance with section 48(1), or purports to take any profit or charge any fee contrary to section 50(1) —

- (a) the validity of the agreement to extend the redemption period is not thereby affected; but
- (b) the pawnbroker is not entitled to take any profit on the loan in respect of the extended redemption period.

### *Division 2 — Redemption of pledges*

#### **Persons entitled to redeem**

**52.** The following persons are entitled to redeem a pledge, unless they have assigned or otherwise transferred the right to do so:

- (a) the pawner;
- (b) a person stated on the pawn ticket as the person on whose behalf the goods are pawned;
- (c) a person to whom the right of redemption has been assigned or otherwise transferred.

#### **Right to redeem may be freely transferred, etc.**

**53.—**(1) A pawn ticket, and the right to redeem a pledge, may be assigned or otherwise transferred to any person (including to the pawnbroker who issued the pawn ticket and any other pawnbroker) at any time (including during the redemption period).

(2) An agreement is void to the extent that it purports —

- (a) to provide that a pawn ticket, or the right to redeem a pledge, may not be assigned or otherwise transferred; or

- (b) to place any restriction or condition on that assignment or transfer.
- (3) In particular, the following terms of an agreement are void:
- (a) a term that requires a person to offer to assign or otherwise transfer a pawn ticket to the pawnbroker that issued the pawn ticket before the person can assign or transfer the pawn ticket to any other person;
  - (b) a term that requires a person to offer to assign or otherwise transfer the right to redeem a pledge to the pawnbroker that issued the pawn ticket before the person can assign or transfer the right to any other person.

### **Time for redeeming pledge**

**54.**—(1) A pledge can be redeemed —

- (a) at any time during the redemption period; and
  - (b) at any time after the end of the redemption period but before the pledge is forfeited.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the redemption period is 6 months after the date on which the pledge was made, or any longer period that the parties may agree in the loan agreement or in a subsequent agreement.
- (3) Where the redemption period under subsection (2) ends on a day when the pawnbroker is closed for business —
- (a) the redemption period is extended to the next day the pawnbroker is open for business; and
  - (b) the pawnbroker must not charge any further profit or fee if a pledge is redeemed on the day mentioned in paragraph (a).

### **Extension of redemption period**

**55.**—(1) The redemption period may be extended for one or more times by agreement between the pawnbroker and a person entitled to redeem the pledge.

(2) The redemption period may be extended even after it has expired.

(3) Section 51 applies to every extension of the redemption period under this section.

### **How pledge may be redeemed**

**56.** A person entitled to redeem a pledge may do so by complying with all of the following requirements at any time within the redemption period or before the pledge is forfeited:

- (a) presenting the pawn ticket (including a replacement pawn ticket but excluding any pawn ticket that has been cancelled);
- (b) repaying the loan and profit secured by the pledge;
- (c) providing the person's identification information.

### **Pawnbroker to allow redemption of pledge except in certain circumstances**

**57.—**(1) A pawnbroker must allow a person who has complied with section 56 to redeem a pledge, except in the circumstances in subsection (2).

(2) A pawnbroker must not allow a person to redeem a pledge in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) the pawnbroker knows that the person presenting the pawn ticket is not a person entitled to redeem the pledge;
- (b) the pawnbroker has reason to believe that the person presenting the pawn ticket is not a person entitled to redeem the pledge, and continues to have reason to so believe even after taking reasonable steps to ascertain whether the person is entitled to redeem the pledge;
- (c) the pawn ticket is a replacement pawn ticket issued by the pawnbroker pursuant to an application under section 66, and the pawnbroker, after the application is made, becomes aware or has reason to believe that the matters stated in the application are materially false or incomplete.

### **Protection from liability when pawnbroker acts according to section 57**

**58.**—(1) Subject to subsection (2), a pawnbroker is not liable to any person for any loss or damage suffered as a result of the pawnbroker allowing or refusing, in accordance with section 57, the redemption of a pledge.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exclude a pawnbroker's liability (if any) to the rightful owner of goods pawned without the owner's authority, unless the pawnbroker has, before taking possession of the goods as a pledge, taken reasonable steps to satisfy itself that the pawner was the rightful owner of the goods or had the authority to pawn them.

### **Pawnbroker's obligations when goods redeemed**

**59.**—(1) When a pledge is redeemed, a pawnbroker must —

- (a) issue a receipt to the person redeeming the goods; and
- (b) cancel the pawn ticket.

(2) The receipt must be in the form that the Registrar may specify.

### **Pawnbroker's liability if unable to produce goods, etc., upon redemption**

**60.**—(1) This section applies where —

- (a) a pawnbroker is required under section 57 to allow a person to redeem the pledge; but
- (b) the pawnbroker is unable for any reason to —
  - (i) produce the pledge; or
  - (ii) produce the pledge in the physical condition the pledge was in when the pawnbroker first took possession of the pledge.

(2) Where the pawnbroker is unable to produce the pledge, the pawnbroker is liable to compensate the person for the value of the pledge.

(3) Where the pawnbroker is unable to produce the pledge in the physical condition the pledge was in when the pawnbroker first took

possession of the pledge, the person may choose either of the following remedies:

- (a) compensation by the pawnbroker for the value of the pledge;
- (b) the return of the pledge, and compensation by the pawnbroker for any decrease in the value of the pledge caused by the change in physical condition.

(4) If the person chooses the remedy in subsection (3)(a), the pledge becomes the absolute property of the pawnbroker.

(5) For the purposes of this section, the value of the pledge is the value as determined by the valuation provided under section 48(1) when the pawnbroker first took possession of the pledge.

### *Division 3 — Forfeiture of unredeemed pledges*

#### **Forfeiture and effect**

**61.**—(1) A pledge is forfeited one month after the pawnbroker serves a notice of forfeiture in accordance with sections 62 and 63, unless it is earlier redeemed.

(2) When a pledge is forfeited —

- (a) the pledge becomes the pawnbroker's absolute property; and
- (b) the loan and any profit secured on the pledge are deemed to be fully repaid.

#### **Notice of forfeiture**

**62.**—(1) A notice of forfeiture must contain the following information:

- (a) the name of the pawnbroker;
- (b) the pawn ticket number;
- (c) a statement that the pledge will be forfeited one month after the date on which the notice is served, and that the pledge may be redeemed at any time before it is forfeited;

- (d) the amount to be paid to redeem the pledge or extend the redemption period;
- (e) a valuation of the pledge at the time the notice is issued;
- (f) the address and business hours of the licensed place of business at which the pledge can be redeemed;
- (g) any other particulars that may be prescribed.

(2) A pawnbroker is not liable for any loss or damage suffered (whether by the pawner or by any other person) as a result of relying on a valuation provided under subsection (1)(e), unless the pawnbroker did not act in good faith or take reasonable care in providing the valuation.

### **Time for, and manner of, serving notice of forfeiture**

**63.**—(1) A notice of forfeiture must be served —

- (a) within 2 months after the expiry of the redemption period;
- (b) in the prescribed manner; and
- (c) at the pawnbroker's cost.

(2) A notice of forfeiture is deemed to be served in any circumstances that may be prescribed.

### **Forfeiture to be sole remedy of pawnbroker**

**64.** A pawnbroker —

- (a) cannot sue, in debt or otherwise, for the loan or profit secured by the pledge; and
- (b) cannot realise the pawnbroker's security interest in the pledge other than by forfeiture under section 61.

### **Consequences if pawnbroker purports to realise security interest other than by forfeiture**

**65.**—(1) Where a pawnbroker purports to realise the pawnbroker's security interest in a pledge other than by forfeiture under section 61 —



- (a) if the value of the pledge exceeds the loan and profit secured by the pledge, the pawnbroker is liable to the person entitled to redeem the pledge for the surplus;
- (b) if the value of the pledge is equal to or less than the total amount of the loan and profit secured by the pledge, the loan and profit are extinguished; and
- (c) the pawnbroker does not thereby acquire any property in the pledge.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), the value of the pledge is the value as determined by the valuation provided under section 48(1) when the pawnbroker first took possession of the pledge.

#### *Division 4 — Related matters*

### **Protection of person entitled to redeem pledge but not having pawn ticket**

**66.**—(1) This section seeks to protect a person who is entitled to redeem a pledge but does not have a pawn ticket.

(2) A person who claims to be entitled to redeem a pledge, but who does not have a pawn ticket, may make an application to a pawnbroker in accordance with this section.

(3) An application under this section must state —

- (a) the identification information of the applicant;
- (b) the grounds on which the applicant claims to be entitled to redeem a pledge;
- (c) the matters that the applicant relies on in support of paragraph (b);
- (d) that the applicant has not assigned or otherwise transferred the applicant's right to redeem the pledge; and
- (e) any other matters that may be prescribed.

(4) Upon receiving an application under this section and the prescribed fee, the pawnbroker must make reasonable inquiries as to the truth of the matters stated in the application, including inquiries with the pawner.

(5) After a pawnbroker has made reasonable inquiries under subsection (4), the pawnbroker must issue a replacement pawn ticket to the applicant and cancel the existing pawn ticket, unless the pawnbroker knows or has any reason to believe that the applicant is not entitled to redeem the pledge.

(6) An applicant who has been issued a pawn ticket under subsection (5) has the rights and remedies against the pawnbroker that the pawner would have, and may freely assign or otherwise transfer the pawn ticket.

(7) A pawnbroker that, in relation to a pledge, does or omits to do anything in accordance with this section is not liable to any person entitled to redeem the pledge for any loss or damage caused by the act or omission.

(8) An application under this section is deemed to be a declaration for the purposes of sections 199 and 200 of the Penal Code 1871.

### **Protection of rightful owner of goods wrongfully pawned**

**67.—**(1) This section seeks to protect the rightful owner of goods that are wrongfully pawned.

(2) A person who claims to be the rightful owner of goods that are wrongfully pawned may serve a notice on a pawnbroker in accordance with this section.

(3) A notice under this section must state —

- (a) the identification information of the person serving the notice;
- (b) that the person is the owner of goods which have been wrongfully pawned;
- (c) the matters that the person relies on in support of paragraph (b); and
- (d) any other information that may be prescribed.

(4) Upon receiving a notice under this section and the prescribed fee —

- (a) if there is a court order for the pledge to be disposed or otherwise dealt with — the pawnbroker must deal with the pledge according to the court order; or
- (b) if there is no court order for the pledge to be disposed or otherwise dealt with — the pawnbroker may refuse to deal with the pledge, including by refusing to allow the pledge to be redeemed —
  - (i) for a period of 3 months after the date on which the notice is served on the pawnbroker; or
  - (ii) if an action is commenced in respect of that pledge within the period in sub-paragraph (i), for so long as that action is pending.

(5) A pawnbroker that, in relation to a pledge, does or omits to do anything in accordance with subsection (4) is not liable to any person for any loss or damage caused by the act or omission.

(6) No profit is chargeable on the loan secured on the pledge during the period that the pawnbroker refuses to deal with the pledge under subsection (4)(b).

(7) A notice under this section is deemed to be a declaration for the purposes of sections 199 and 200 of the Penal Code 1871.

### **Preservation of rights and remedies**

**68.** Unless the context otherwise requires, nothing in this Part limits, restricts or otherwise affects any right, title, interest, privilege, obligation or liability of a person.

### **No contracting out of this Part or any rule of law**

**69.** Any term of an agreement, and anything stated on a pawn ticket, is void to the extent that it purports to exclude or modify the operation of this Part or any rule of law relating to the pawning of goods.

PART 4  
OFFENCES

**Providing false information to Registrar**

**70.**—(1) A person —

- (a) must not provide to the Registrar, for the purposes of this Act, any information that the person knows or has reason to believe is materially false or misleading; and
- (b) must not omit to provide any information to the Registrar for the purposes of this Act, if the person knows or has reason to believe that the omission will create a materially false or misleading impression.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1)(a) or (b) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$40,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

**Offences relating to pawning of goods and redemption of pledges**

**71.** A person shall be guilty of an offence if —

- (a) the person pawns or attempts to pawn any goods, knowing or having reason to believe that the person is not authorised by the owner of the goods to pawn the goods;
- (b) the person pawns or attempts to pawn any goods that the person knows or has reason to believe were stolen or obtained through fraudulent or dishonest means;
- (c) the person redeems or attempts to redeem a pledge when the person knows or has reason to believe that the person has no title to the goods and is not entitled to redeem the goods;
- (d) the person redeems or attempts to redeem a pledge with a pawn ticket that the person knows or has reason to believe was forged or fraudulently obtained; or

- (e) the person knowingly gives any false information when pawning goods or redeeming a pledge.

### **Offences by pawnbroker**

**72.—**(1) It shall be an offence for a pawnbroker to take goods in pawn —

- (a) from a person who appears to be intoxicated;
- (b) from a person below 18 years of age; or
- (c) without taking reasonable steps to satisfy itself that the goods were not stolen or obtained through fraudulent or dishonest means.

(2) It shall be an offence for a pawnbroker to make an advance on a pledge in any manner other than in money that is legal tender in Singapore.

### **Offences, etc., when goods are reported to be lost, etc.**

**73.—**(1) A police officer may provide a pawnbroker with information concerning property that is lost, stolen or fraudulently or dishonestly disposed of.

(2) If a pawnbroker discovers that any goods in the possession of the pawnbroker, or offered to be pawned to the pawnbroker, have been reported to the police as lost, stolen or fraudulently or dishonestly obtained, the pawnbroker —

- (a) must immediately detain the goods;
- (b) must, as soon as practicable, inform a police officer; and
- (c) may detain the person offering the goods until a police officer arrives.

(3) A pawnbroker that fails to comply with subsection (2)(a) or (b) shall be guilty of an offence.

## PART 5

PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING, TERRORISM  
FINANCING AND FINANCING OF PROLIFERATION OF  
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

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

**Programmes and measures to prevent money laundering,  
terrorism financing and financing of proliferation of weapons  
of mass destruction**

74.—(1) A pawnbroker must implement adequate programmes and measures to prevent money laundering, terrorism financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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

(2) A pawnbroker must, in particular —

(a) take appropriate steps to identify, assess and understand the risks of money laundering, terrorism financing and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in relation to —

- (i) its pawners;
- (ii) the countries or jurisdictions that its pawners are from or in;
- (iii) the countries or jurisdictions in which it has operations; and
- (iv) its products, services, transactions and delivery channels;

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

(b) for the purpose of paragraph (a) —

- (i) document its risk assessments;
- (ii) consider all relevant risk factors before determining the overall level of risk and the appropriate type and extent of mitigation to be applied;
- (iii) keep its risk assessments up to date; and
- (iv) have appropriate mechanisms to provide its risk assessments to the Registrar;

- (c) develop and implement internal policies, procedures and controls, which must be approved by its senior management, to manage and effectively mitigate the risks of money laundering, terrorism financing and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, identified by it or notified to it by the Registrar, including —
- (i) making appropriate compliance management arrangements, including the appointment of a compliance officer at the management level; and
  - (ii) applying adequate screening procedures when hiring employees;

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- (d) have an ongoing programme to train employees on the internal policies, procedures and controls in paragraph (c);
- (e) have an independent audit function to test the internal policies, procedures and controls in paragraph (c); and
- (f) monitor the implementation of the internal policies, procedures and controls in paragraph (c), and enhance them if necessary.

(3) The type and extent of the measures to be taken under subsections (1) and (2) must be appropriate having regard to —

- (a) the risks of money laundering, terrorism financing and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and
- (b) the size of the pawnbroker's business.

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

(4) Where a pawnbroker is a company incorporated in Singapore and has a branch or subsidiary, whether in Singapore or elsewhere, the pawnbroker must develop and implement a group-level programme to prevent money laundering, terrorism financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which programme —

- (a) must be applicable to the pawnbroker's branches and subsidiaries, whether in Singapore or elsewhere;

- (b) must include the measures specified under subsection (2);
  - (c) must be appropriate to the business of the pawnbroker's branches and subsidiaries;
  - (d) must be implemented effectively at the level of the pawnbroker's branches and subsidiaries;
  - (e) must include policies and procedures for providing and sharing information required for the purposes of customer due diligence measures under Part 2 of the Third Schedule and generally for the management of risks relating to money laundering, terrorism financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
  - (f) must include adequate safeguards on the confidentiality and use of information exchanged between the pawnbroker and its branches and subsidiaries.  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (5) Where a pawnbroker mentioned in subsection (4) has a branch or subsidiary in a country or territory outside Singapore that has laws for the prevention of money laundering, prevention of terrorism financing or prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, that differ from those in Singapore —
- (a) the pawnbroker must require the management of that branch or subsidiary to apply the more stringent set of laws, to the extent that the law of the host country or territory permits; and
  - (b) where that branch or subsidiary is unable to fully apply the more stringent set of laws, the pawnbroker must report this to the Registrar and must, in lieu of paragraph (a), comply with any directions that may be given by the Registrar.  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (6) A pawnbroker that contravenes subsection (1), (2), (4) or (5) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.



### **Cash transaction reports**

**74A.**—(1) A pawnbroker that enters into any relevant transaction specified in Part 1 of the Third Schedule must submit to a Suspicious Transaction Reporting Officer a cash transaction report relating to the relevant transaction, within the time and in the form and manner specified in Part 2 of the Third Schedule.

[7/2019]

(2) A pawnbroker must keep a copy of each cash transaction report submitted under subsection (1) for the period specified in Part 2 of the Third Schedule.

[7/2019]

(3) A pawnbroker must, at the time of submitting a cash transaction report under subsection (1) or immediately thereafter, submit a copy of the cash transaction report to the Registrar.

[7/2019]

(4) A pawnbroker that fails to comply with subsection (1), (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

[7/2019]

### **Customer due diligence measures, additional measures and measures relating to targeted financial sanctions**

**75.**—(1) A pawnbroker must perform the customer due diligence measures specified in Part 2 of the Third Schedule.

(2) A pawnbroker must perform the additional measures specified in Part 3 of the Third Schedule.

(3) A pawnbroker must perform the measures relating to targeted financial sanctions against terrorism in Part 4 of the Third Schedule.

(4) A pawnbroker that contravenes subsection (1), (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

### **Record-keeping**

**76.**—(1) A pawnbroker must keep all documents and information (including any analysis performed) relating to a person that the

pawnbroker obtained as a result of performing the measures specified in the Third Schedule, for a period of 5 years after the latest of the following dates (so far as they are applicable):

- (a) the date on which the person offered to pawn goods to the pawnbroker;
- (b) the date on which the person redeemed a pledge from the pawnbroker;
- (c) the date on which the pawnbroker forfeited a pledge made by the person;
- (d) the date on which the pawnbroker ended any transaction or relationship with the person;
- (e) the date of occurrence of any other prescribed matter relating to this Part.

(2) A pawnbroker must keep the documents and information required to be kept under subsection (1) in the prescribed form.

(3) A pawnbroker must make the documents and information required to be kept under subsection (1) available upon request to the Registrar and any other prescribed authority.

(4) A pawnbroker that contravenes subsection (1), (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

(5) This section is in addition to the pawnbroker's statutory duty under section 23.

## PART 6

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### **Power of court when goods wrongfully pawned**

77. When in any civil or criminal proceedings the court finds that goods have been wrongfully pawned, the court may —

- (a) order that the goods be delivered to their rightful owner, with or without a further order that the rightful owner pay a sum to another person;

- (b) order the sale of the goods, and the payment of the proceeds to the rightful owner of the goods or into court;
- (c) order that compensation be paid to the rightful owner of the goods; or
- (d) forfeit the goods.

### **Provisions relating to appeals to Minister**

**78.**—(1) An appeal to the Minister against a decision of the Registrar must be made within 14 days after the date of the decision appealed against.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a decision appealed against is suspended until the appeal is determined, unless the Minister or Registrar otherwise orders.

(3) Any part of a decision that is not appealed against continues to have effect.

(4) The Minister may determine an appeal by confirming, varying or reversing the Registrar's decision.

(5) The Minister's decision in an appeal is final.

### **General penalty**

**79.** A person guilty of an offence under this Act for which no penalty is expressly provided shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.

### **Offences by bodies corporate, etc.**

**80.**—(1) Where an offence under this Act committed by a body corporate is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer; or

(b) to be attributable to any neglect on the part of an officer, the officer as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) applies in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with the member's functions of management as if the member were a director of the body corporate.

(3) Where an offence under this Act committed by a partnership is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of a partner; or

(b) to be attributable to any neglect on the part of a partner, the partner as well as the partnership shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(4) Where an offence under this Act committed by an unincorporated association (other than a partnership) is proved —

(a) to have been committed with the consent or connivance of an officer of the unincorporated association or a member of its governing body; or

(b) to be attributable to any neglect on the part of the officer or member,

the officer or member as well as the unincorporated association shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(5) In this section —

“body corporate” includes a limited liability partnership;

“officer” —

(a) in relation to a body corporate, means any director, partner, member of the committee of management, chief executive, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity; or

(b) in relation to an unincorporated association (other than a partnership), means the president, the secretary, or any member of the committee of the unincorporated association, or any person holding a

position analogous to that of president, secretary or member of such a committee, and includes any person purporting to act in any such capacity;

“partner” includes a person purporting to act as a partner.

### **Jurisdiction of District and Magistrates’ Courts**

**81.** Despite any provision to the contrary in the Criminal Procedure Code 2010, a District Court or a Magistrate’s Court —

- (a) may try any offence under this Act; and
- (b) may impose the full punishment for the offence.

### **Amendment of Schedules**

**82.—**(1) The Minister may, by order in the *Gazette*, amend the First, Second or Third Schedule.

(2) The Minister may, in an order under subsection (1), make any incidental, consequential or supplementary provisions that may be necessary or expedient.

(3) An order made under subsection (1) must be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.

### **Rules**

**83.—**(1) The Minister may make rules —

- (a) prescribing the circumstances in which a licence must not be granted or renewed;
- (b) prescribing different classes of licences, the persons eligible to hold each class of licence, and the conditions applicable to each class of licence;
- (c) prescribing the records to be kept by a pawnbroker and the manner in which the records are to be kept;
- (d) prescribing the form of a pawn ticket to be issued by a pawnbroker and the particulars to be entered therein;

- (e) prescribing generally the manner in which, and the conditions under which, the business of pawnbroking is to be conducted;
- (f) prescribing the fees to be paid for the purposes of this Act, including licence fees;
- (g) prescribing the procedure to be followed by an applicant for a licence;
- (h) to provide for the prevention of money laundering, terrorism financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (ha) to provide for the reporting of transactions that may involve money laundering, terrorism financing or the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (i) prescribing the offences under this Act that may be compounded;
- (j) prescribing anything that is required or permitted to be prescribed under this Act; and
- (k) generally for carrying out the purposes of and giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

(2) The rules made under this section may provide that any contravention of any provision of the rules shall be an offence punishable with a fine not exceeding \$20,000 or with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or with both.

### **Saving and transitional provisions**

**84.**—(1) The persons appointed as the Registrar of Pawnbrokers and Assistant Registrars of Pawnbrokers under the repealed Act are deemed to be appointed as the Registrar of Pawnbrokers and Assistant Registrars of Pawnbrokers, respectively, under this Act.

(2) An offence under the repealed Act may be investigated under the Criminal Procedure Code 2010 and the provisions of this Act.

(3) Where an article (called in this subsection the pledge) is pawned with a pawnbroker under the repealed Act —

- (a) subject to paragraph (b), the pledge may be redeemed in accordance with sections 17 and 19 of the repealed Act as if those sections had not been repealed;
- (b) the period under section 17 of the repealed Act within which the pledge is redeemable may be extended by agreement in accordance with section 55, and upon the extension of that period, this Act applies to the pledge and to the agreement to extend that period; and
- (c) if the pledge is not redeemed in accordance with sections 17 and 19 of the repealed Act and the period mentioned in paragraph (b) is not extended by agreement in accordance with section 55, the pledge must be disposed of as follows:
  - (i) if the pledge is pawned for \$50 or less, the pledge must be disposed of in accordance with section 18 of the repealed Act as if that section had not been repealed; or
  - (ii) if the pledge is pawned for more than \$50 —
    - (A) the pledge must be disposed of —
      - (AA) by sale by an auctioneer in accordance with section 20 of the repealed Act as if that section had not been repealed, if the disposal occurs within the period of 8 months after 1 April 2015; or
      - (AB) by sale in the manner that the Registrar may specify, if the disposal occurs after the period mentioned in sub-paragraph (AA);
    - (B) where the pledge is sold at a price exceeding the loan and profit secured by the pledge, the surplus must be dealt with —

(BA) in accordance with sections 23 and 24(1), (2), (3), (5) and (6) of the repealed Act as if those provisions had not been repealed; and

(BB) in accordance with sub-paragraph (C); and

(C) where a claim is made to the Registrar for any surplus paid to the Accountant-General under section 24(2) of the repealed Act read with sub-paragraph (B), the Registrar may, if the Registrar considers the claimant to be entitled to the surplus, order the Accountant-General to pay the surplus to the claimant.

(4) Any subsidiary legislation made under the repealed Act and in force immediately before 1 April 2015 continues in force as if made under this Act, so far as the subsidiary legislation is not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act and until the subsidiary legislation is revoked or repealed.

(5) Any written law or document referring to the repealed Act or any provision of that Act is, as far as may be necessary for preserving its effect, to be construed as referring, or as including a reference to, this Act or the corresponding provision of this Act, as the case may be.

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## FIRST SCHEDULE

Sections 3(4) and 82(1)

### TRANSACTIONS WHERE GOODS ARE DEEMED TO BE OR NOT TO BE PAWNED

#### **Sale and repurchase agreement**

1.—(1) This paragraph applies to an agreement between 2 persons, X and Y, where —

(a) X sells goods to Y for a price; and

(b) X is required to re-purchase the goods from Y at a higher price.



FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (2) In such an agreement —
- (a) the goods are deemed to be pawned;
  - (b) X is deemed to be the pawner;
  - (c) the sale price is deemed to be the sum loaned; and
  - (d) the difference between the sale price and the repurchase price is deemed to be the profit taken for the loan.

## SECOND SCHEDULE

Sections 50 and 82(1)

## PERMITTED PROFIT AND FEES

1. A pawnbroker's profit on a loan must not exceed —
  - (a) 1.5% of the total amount of the loan for each whole month of the term of the loan; and
  - (b) if the term of the loan cannot be divided into whole months, 1.5% of the total amount of the loan for the balance of the term that is part of a month.
2. A pawnbroker must not take, or continue to take, any profit on a loan 2 months after the expiry of the redemption period.
3. A pawnbroker must not take any profit for any period that the pawnbroker refuses to deal with a pledge upon being served a notice under section 67.
4. A pawnbroker may charge a fee of \$2 for issuing a pawn ticket under section 49, or under section 49 read with section 51 or 55, but only if —
  - (a) the pawn ticket is not issued only for any of the following purposes in relation to an earlier pawn ticket:
    - (i) changing —
      - (A) the pawner's address, telephone number or email address; or
      - (B) the name or address of the pawnbroker's business;
    - (ii) correcting any error in the particulars prescribed for the purposes of section 49(2); and
  - (b) the pawnbroker offers any of the following modes of payment for the fee (even if the mode of payment is not used by the pawner):
    - (i) by charging to a debit card;

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (ii) by an electronic funds transfer to a bank account;
- (iii) by a transfer of e-money within the meaning given by the Payment Services Act 2019.

*[S 986/2022 wef 01/01/2023]*

5. A pawnbroker may charge a fee of \$10 for an application under section 66 by a person claiming to be entitled to redeem a pledge but not having a pawn ticket.

*[S 986/2022 wef 01/01/2023]*

6. A pawnbroker may charge a fee of \$10 for a notice under section 67 by a person claiming to be the rightful owner of goods wrongfully pawned.

*[S 986/2022 wef 01/01/2023]*

## THIRD SCHEDULE

Sections 74(4), 75, 76(1) and 82(1)

MEASURES FOR PREVENTION OF  
MONEY LAUNDERING, TERRORISM FINANCING  
AND FINANCING OF PROLIFERATION OF  
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

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

## PART 1

## PRELIMINARY

**Definitions**

1.—(1) In this Schedule, unless the context otherwise requires —

“beneficial owner”, in relation to an entity or a legal arrangement, means —

- (a) the individual who ultimately owns all the assets or undertakings of the entity or legal arrangement; or
- (b) the individual who exercises effective control over the entity or legal arrangement;

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

“cash” means currency notes and coins (whether of Singapore or of a foreign country or territory) which are legal tender and circulate as money in the country or territory of issue;

“cash equivalent” means any physical or electronic form of a voucher, token, stamp, coupon, card or other article the redemption of which in accordance with its terms entitles the holder to receive any precious stone, precious metal or precious product up to the value stated on or

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

recorded in or in respect of the voucher, token, stamp, coupon, card or other article;

“close associate”, in relation to a politically-exposed person, means —

- (a) a partner of the politically-exposed person;
- (b) a person accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the politically-exposed person;
- (c) a person whose directions, instructions or wishes the politically-exposed person is accustomed or under an obligation, whether formal or informal, to act in accordance with; or
- (d) a person with whom the politically-exposed person has an agreement or arrangement, whether oral or in writing and whether express or implied, to act together;

“customer” means a person to whom a pawnbroker sells or intends to sell any precious stone, precious metal or precious product;

“family member”, in relation to a politically-exposed person, means a spouse or child, an adopted child, or a stepchild, a sibling, an adopted sibling or a stepsibling or a parent or step-parent, of the politically-exposed person;

“FATF” means the intergovernmental body known as the Financial Action Task Force;

“foreign country or territory” means a country, territory or jurisdiction other than Singapore;

“foreign government entity” means the government of a foreign country or territory, a ministry or department within that government, or an agency established by written law in that country or territory;

“officer” has the meaning given by section 80(5);

“pawner” includes a person offering to pawn goods;

“politically-exposed person” means an individual who is or has been entrusted with a prominent public function —

- (a) in Singapore;
- (b) in a foreign country or territory; or
- (c) in an international organisation;

“precious metal”, “precious product” and “precious stone” have the meanings given by section 2 of the Precious Stones and Precious

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

Metals (Prevention of Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing and Proliferation Financing) Act 2019;

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

“prominent public function” includes the role held by a head of state, head of government, government minister, senior civil or public servant, senior judicial or military official, senior executive of a state-owned corporation, senior political party official, member of the legislature or member of the senior management of an international organisation (including a director, deputy director or member of a board or an equivalent function);

“relevant country or territory” means a foreign country or territory that is subject to a call made by the FATF (through a public statement, notice or directive published on its official website at <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/>) for countermeasures or enhanced customer due diligence measures;

“relevant foreign regulatory authority”, in relation to a pawnbroker, means an authority of a foreign country or territory exercising any function in respect of the pawnbroker that corresponds to a regulatory function of the Registrar under this Act;

“relevant loan” means a loan exceeding \$20,000;

“relevant transaction” means any of the following transactions conducted wholly or partly in Singapore:

- (a) a sale of any precious stone, precious metal or precious product by a pawnbroker to a customer, for which cash or a cash equivalent exceeding \$20,000 is received as payment;
- (b) 2 or more sales of any precious stone, precious metal or precious product in a single day by a pawnbroker to the same customer, or to customers whom the pawnbroker knows act on behalf of the same person, for which cash or a cash equivalent in total exceeding \$20,000 is received as payment;

“Singapore government entity” means a ministry or department of the Government, an organ of State or a statutory board.

(2) In this Schedule, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to a financial institution supervised by the Monetary Authority of Singapore does not include a person who is exempted from being licensed, approved, registered or otherwise regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore under any written law.

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

## PART 2

## CUSTOMER DUE DILIGENCE AND OTHER MEASURES

**Pawnbroker to perform customer due diligence measures in certain circumstances**

2.—(1) A pawnbroker must perform the customer due diligence measures specified in paragraph 3 in the following circumstances:

- (a) before the pawnbroker makes a relevant loan;
- (b) before the pawnbroker enters into a relevant transaction;
- (c) where the pawnbroker has reason to suspect money laundering, terrorism financing or the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (d) where the pawnbroker has reason to doubt the veracity or adequacy of information obtained from earlier customer due diligence measures.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(a), where a pawnbroker suspects that 2 or more loans are or may be related, linked, or the result of a deliberate restructuring of an otherwise single relevant loan into smaller transactions in order to evade the provisions of this Part, the pawnbroker must aggregate them and treat them as a single loan.

(3) A pawnbroker may choose not to perform or complete performing any measure it is required to perform under this Part if —

- (a) the pawnbroker has reason to suspect that the transaction relates to money laundering, terrorism financing or the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*
- (b) the pawnbroker has reason to believe that performing the measure will tip off the pawner, the customer or any other person.

(4) Where, in relation to any pawner or customer, a pawnbroker is unable or chooses not to complete performing any measure it is required to perform under this Part for any reason, the pawnbroker must —

- (a) decline to enter into any transaction with the pawner or customer;
- (b) terminate any transaction entered into with the pawner or customer;
- (c) determine whether to make a disclosure under section 45(1) of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992 or Part 3 of the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002; and

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

(d) record the basis of its determination under sub-paragraph (c).

**Customer due diligence measures: generally**

3.—(1) For the purposes of paragraph 2(1), a pawnbroker must perform the customer due diligence measures specified in this paragraph.

(2) The pawnbroker must identify and verify the identity of the pawner, the customer, any person on whose behalf the pawner or customer is acting, and any beneficial owner of that person, in accordance with paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 (as applicable). For this purpose, the pawnbroker may rely on information already obtained in accordance with paragraph 7, or rely on third parties in accordance with paragraph 8.

(3) The pawnbroker must understand and, where appropriate, obtain information on the purpose and intended nature of the business relationship with the pawner or customer.

(4) The pawnbroker must conduct ongoing due diligence on the business relationship with the pawner or customer, and scrutinise all transactions entered into with the pawner or customer throughout the course of that relationship, to ensure that the transactions are consistent with the pawnbroker's knowledge of the pawner or customer and the pawner's or customer's business, risk profile and source of funds.

(5) A pawnbroker must perform the measures in sub-paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) in a face-to-face meeting with the pawner or customer, unless the pawnbroker assesses that the risks of money laundering, terrorism financing and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are low.

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(6) The pawnbroker must, in addition to performing the measures in sub-paragraphs (2), (3) and (4), perform the enhanced customer due diligence measures required under paragraph 9, in the circumstances specified in that paragraph.

(7) The pawnbroker may, in lieu of performing the measures in sub-paragraphs (2), (3) and (4), perform simplified customer due diligence measures in accordance with paragraph 10.

**Pawnbroker to ascertain whether pawner or customer acting on own behalf or on behalf of another person**

4.—(1) A pawnbroker must obtain the pawner's or the customer's identification information.

(2) A pawnbroker must ascertain whether a pawner or customer is acting on the pawner's or the customer's own behalf or on behalf of another person.

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

(3) Where a pawnbroker ascertains that a pawnor or customer is acting on behalf of another person, the pawnbroker must —

- (a) identify and verify the identity of the person in accordance with paragraph 5 or 6 (as the case may be) depending on whether the person is an individual, an entity or a legal arrangement; and
- (b) verify that the pawnor or customer is authorised to act on behalf of the person.

**Pawnor or customer acting on behalf of individual**

5.—(1) This paragraph applies where a pawnor or customer is acting on behalf of an individual.

(2) The pawnbroker must identify and verify the identity of the individual by obtaining the individual's identification information.

**Pawnor or customer acting on behalf of entity or legal arrangement**

6.—(1) This paragraph applies where a pawnor or customer is acting on behalf of a person which is an entity or a legal arrangement (called in this paragraph the legal person).

(2) The pawnbroker must identify and verify the identity of the legal person by obtaining the following information:

- (a) the name of the legal person;
- (b) the legal form of the legal person;
- (c) proof of the legal person's existence;
- (d) the place under which the legal person is incorporated, registered or otherwise constituted;
- (e) the instrument under which the legal person is constituted;
- (f) if the legal person is incorporated or registered in Singapore, its unique entity number;
- (g) if the legal person is incorporated or registered outside Singapore, its foreign incorporation or registration number;
- (h) if the legal person is an entity, the identity of each individual having a senior management position in the legal person;
- (i) the address of the legal person's registered office and its principal place of business.

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

(3) The pawnbroker must identify each beneficial owner of the legal person and take reasonable measures to verify the identity of each beneficial owner by obtaining the following information:

- (a) if the legal person is an entity —
  - (i) the identification information of each individual (if any) who ultimately has a controlling ownership interest in the legal person, according to the law and instrument under which the legal person is constituted;
  - (ii) if it is doubtful whether all or any of the individuals who ultimately have a controlling interest in the legal person are its beneficial owners, or where no individual exerts control through ownership interests, the identification information of each individual (if any) exercising control of the legal person through other means; or
  - (iii) if no individual is identified under sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii), the identification information of each individual having a senior management position in the legal person;
- (b) if the legal person is a legal arrangement —
  - (i) in any case where the legal arrangement is a trust, the identities of —
    - (A) the settlor;
    - (B) each trustee;
    - (C) the protector (if any);
    - (D) each beneficiary or class of beneficiaries; and
    - (E) any other individual exercising ultimate effective control over the trust; or
  - (ii) in any case where the legal arrangement is not a trust, the identity of each person holding a position equivalent or similar to any position in sub-paragraph (i).

(4) A pawnbroker need not identify each beneficial owner of the legal person where the legal person is —

- (a) an entity listed on the Singapore Exchange;
- (b) a financial institution that is subject to and supervised for compliance with requirements for the prevention of money laundering, prevention of terrorism financing and prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, by the Monetary Authority of



THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

Singapore, as listed in Appendix 1 of the direction known as MAS Notice 626 issued by the Monetary Authority of Singapore; or  
*[Act 6 of 2024 wef 01/05/2024]*

- (c) a financial institution incorporated or established outside Singapore that is subject to and supervised for compliance with requirements for the prevention of money laundering, prevention of terrorism financing and prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, consistent with standards set by the FATF.

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

(5) Where a pawnbroker determines that the legal person is of a type specified in sub-paragraph (4), the pawnbroker must record the basis for its determination.

**Reliance on identification and verification already obtained**

7. Where a pawnbroker is required to identify and verify the identity of a person under paragraph 4, 5 or 6, the pawnbroker may rely on the information that it has obtained through prior customer due diligence measures conducted on the person, unless the pawnbroker has doubts about the veracity of that information.

**Reliance on third parties**

8.—(1) A pawnbroker may rely on a third party to perform the customer due diligence measures that the pawnbroker is required to perform under paragraphs 4, 5 and 6, only if —

- (a) the pawnbroker has obtained the prior written approval of the Registrar to rely on the third party; and
- (b) the pawnbroker complies with all conditions and restrictions imposed by the Registrar in giving that written approval.

(2) The Registrar must refuse to grant written approval under sub-paragraph (1) unless the Registrar is satisfied that —

- (a) the pawnbroker will immediately obtain the identification information and any relevant documentation from the third party; and
- (b) the third party —
- (i) is subject to and supervised for compliance with requirements for the prevention of money laundering, prevention of terrorism financing and prevention of the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, consistent with standards set by the FATF; and

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

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

(ii) has adequate measures in place to comply with those requirements.

(3) The Registrar may, where the Registrar considers it necessary or expedient, grant written approval under sub-paragraph (1) in respect of a class or description of pawners, customers or third parties.

(4) To avoid doubt, the pawnbroker remains responsible for compliance with its obligations to perform the customer due diligence measures under paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 despite its use of a third party under this paragraph.

**Enhanced customer due diligence measures**

9.—(1) A pawnbroker must perform enhanced customer due diligence measures if —

- (a) the relevant loan mentioned in paragraph 2(1)(a) is complex or unusually large;
- (b) the pawner has taken up 2 or more relevant loans that have no apparent or visible economic or lawful purpose;
- (c) the pawner, a person on whose behalf the pawner is acting or a beneficial owner of the person, in any relevant loan —
  - (i) is a resident of or originates from, or the relevant loan relates to, a relevant country or territory; or
  - (ii) is, or the relevant loan is, a person or a loan that the Registrar has notified the pawnbroker is a person or loan that presents a high risk of money laundering, terrorism financing or financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; or

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

- (d) the pawnbroker has reason to believe that the pawner, a person on whose behalf the pawner is acting, a beneficial owner of the person, or the relevant loan referred to in paragraph 2(1)(a), may present a high risk of money laundering, terrorism financing or financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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

(2) A pawnbroker who enters or intends to enter into a relevant transaction must perform enhanced customer due diligence measures if —

- (a) the relevant transaction is unusually large;
- (b) the customer has entered into 2 or more relevant transactions that have no apparent or visible economic or lawful purpose;

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (c) the customer, a person on whose behalf the customer is acting or a beneficial owner of the person, in any relevant transaction —
- (i) is a resident of or originates from, or the relevant transaction relates to, a relevant country or territory; or
  - (ii) is, or the relevant transaction is, a person or a transaction that the Registrar has notified the pawnbroker is a person or transaction that presents a high risk of money laundering, terrorism financing or financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; or

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

- (d) the pawnbroker has reason to believe that the customer, the person on whose behalf the customer is acting, a beneficial owner of the person, or the relevant transaction, may present a high risk of money laundering, terrorism financing or financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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

(3) For the purpose of determining whether a person mentioned in sub-paragraph (1)(d) or (2)(d) may present a high risk of money laundering, terrorism financing or financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the pawnbroker must consider whether that person is a resident of or originates from —

- (a) a foreign country or territory which the FATF (by a public statement, notice or directive published on its official website at <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/>) identifies as a foreign country or territory subject to increased monitoring; or
- (b) a foreign country or territory which the Registrar has notified the pawnbroker to be a foreign country or territory with inadequate measures to prevent money laundering, terrorism financing or the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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

(4) A pawnbroker must keep a record of —

- (a) the pawnbroker's reasons for performing enhanced customer due diligence measures;
- (b) the enhanced customer due diligence measures that the pawnbroker has performed; and
- (c) the pawnbroker's findings from performing the enhanced customer due diligence measures.

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

(5) In this paragraph —

“enhanced customer due diligence measures” includes —

- (a) examining, so far as reasonably possible, the background and purpose of the relevant loan or relevant transaction;
- (b) increasing the degree and nature of monitoring of the business relationship with the pawner, in order to determine whether the relevant loan is unusual or suspicious; and
- (c) increasing the degree and nature of monitoring of the transactions entered into with a customer so as to identify suspicious transactions, including transactions or patterns of transactions which are inconsistent with the customer’s profile.

**Simplified customer due diligence measures**

10.—(1) A pawnbroker may perform simplified customer due diligence measures proposed by the pawnbroker instead of the measures mentioned in paragraph 3(2), (3) and (4), only if —

- (a) the pawnbroker has assessed that the risks of money laundering, terrorism financing and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are low;

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

- (b) the pawnbroker has obtained the prior written approval of the Registrar to perform the simplified customer due diligence measures; and
- (c) the pawnbroker complies with any conditions imposed by the Registrar in giving that written approval.

(2) The Registrar must not grant written approval under sub-paragraph (1) if the Registrar is of the view that —

- (a) either or both of the following apply:
  - (i) any of the circumstances in paragraph 9(1)(a) to (d) or 9(2)(a) to (d) exists;
  - (ii) the pawner, the customer, any person on whose behalf the pawner or customer is acting, or any beneficial owner of that person, is a politically-exposed person or a family member or close associate of a politically-exposed person;
- (b) the risks of money laundering, terrorism financing and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are high; or

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THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (c) the simplified customer due diligence measures proposed by the pawnbroker will not effectively identify and verify the identity of the pawner, the customer, any person on whose behalf the pawner or customer is acting, or any beneficial owner of that person.

(3) The Registrar may, where the Registrar considers it necessary or expedient, grant written approval under sub-paragraph (1) in respect of a class or description of pawners or customers.

**Customer due diligence measures for existing customers**

11. A pawnbroker may, based on the pawnbroker's assessment of materiality and risk, perform the customer due diligence measures mentioned in paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 in relation to an existing customer using information previously obtained from customer due diligence measures in relation to the same customer, taking into account —

- (a) when customer due diligence measures (if any) were last applied to that customer; and
- (b) the adequacy of information already obtained by the pawnbroker in relation to that customer.

**Existing pawners**

12.—(1) A pawnbroker must perform customer due diligence measures in respect of its existing pawners with effect from 1 April 2015, and must perform those measures within 12 months after that date.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), customer due diligence measures must be performed —

- (a) having regard to the pawnbroker's assessment of materiality and risk; and
- (b) at appropriate times, having regard to whether and when customer due diligence measures have previously been undertaken and to the adequacy of the information obtained.

**Ongoing customer due diligence**

13. A pawnbroker must, from time to time, review the information and documents obtained as a result of measures taken under this Part, particularly in cases where there is a higher risk of money laundering, terrorism financing or financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to ensure that the information and those documents are kept up-to-date and relevant.

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THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued***Suspicious transaction reporting**

14.—(1) A pawnbroker must consider whether to make a disclosure under section 45(1) of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992 or Part 3 of the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002, and document the basis for its decision, in the following circumstances:

- (a) the pawnbroker is unable to complete performing the customer due diligence measures in this Part for any reason;
- (b) a pawner is unable or unwilling to provide any information requested by the pawnbroker, or decides to withdraw the application for the relevant loan when requested to provide information;
- (c) the relevant loan is part of an unusual pattern of loans with no apparent economic or lawful purpose;
- (d) a customer is unable or unwilling to provide any information requested by the pawnbroker, or decides not to proceed with a transaction when requested to provide information;
- (e) the relevant transaction is part of an unusual pattern of transactions with no apparent economic or lawful purpose;
- (f) any other circumstance exists for the making of a disclosure under section 45(1) of the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act 1992 or Part 3 of the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002.

(2) If the pawnbroker decides to make such a disclosure, it must submit a copy of the report relating to the disclosure to the Registrar.

**Cash transaction report**

15.—(1) For the purposes of section 74A(1) —

- (a) the form for a cash transaction report is Form NP 784 as set out at the website at <https://www.police.gov.sg>; and
- (b) the time for the submission of a cash transaction report is not later than the 15th business day after the date on which the relevant transaction is entered into.

(2) For the purposes of section 74A(2), the period for which a copy of a cash transaction report must be kept is 5 years after the date of submission of the cash transaction report.

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

## PART 3

## ADDITIONAL MEASURES

**Pawnbroker to assess whether pawner or customer, etc., is politically-exposed person**

16.—(1) A pawnbroker must have appropriate risk-management systems, and take reasonable measures, to assess whether a relevant person is a politically-exposed person or a family member or close associate of a politically-exposed person.

(2) Where the pawnbroker determines that a relevant person is a politically-exposed person or a family member or close associate of a politically-exposed person, the pawnbroker must —

- (a) obtain the approval of one of the pawnbroker’s directors or managers for establishing or continuing any business relationship with the relevant person;
- (b) take reasonable measures to establish the relevant person’s source of wealth and source of funds; and
- (c) conduct enhanced ongoing monitoring of any business relationship with the relevant person.

(3) Where the pawnbroker assesses that a relevant person is a politically-exposed person or a family member or close associate of a politically-exposed person, the pawnbroker must record the basis of its assessment.

(4) To avoid doubt, the measures that a pawnbroker is required to take under this paragraph are in addition to any other measures that the pawnbroker is required to take under this Schedule.

(5) In this paragraph, “relevant person” means a pawner, a customer, any person on whose behalf a pawner or customer is acting, and any beneficial owner of that person.

**New technologies**

17. A pawnbroker must, before it launches a new product or a new business practice (including a new delivery mechanism) or uses a new or developing technology for any new or existing product —

- (a) identify and assess the risks of money laundering, terrorism financing and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, that

THIRD SCHEDULE — *continued*

may arise in relation to the product, business practice or technology;  
and

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- (b) take appropriate measures to manage and mitigate those risks.

## PART 4

MEASURES RELATING TO TARGETED FINANCIAL  
SANCTIONS AGAINST TERRORISM**Pawnbroker to assess whether pawner or customer, etc., is terrorist or  
terrorist entity**

18.—(1) A pawnbroker must, before making a relevant loan or entering into a relevant transaction, take reasonable measures to assess whether the relevant person is a terrorist or terrorist entity under the First Schedule to the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002.

(2) If a pawnbroker has reason to suspect that a relevant person is a terrorist or terrorist entity under the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act 2002, the pawnbroker must —

- (a) decline to enter into any transaction with the relevant person;
- (b) terminate any transaction entered into with the relevant person; and
- (c) make a report to the police.

(3) In this paragraph, “relevant person” means a pawner, a customer, any person on whose behalf a pawner or customer is acting, and any beneficial owner of that person.

*[S 308/2019; S 993/2020]*



## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

### PAWNBROKERS ACT 2015

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

**1. Act 2 of 2015 — Pawnbrokers Act 2015**

Bill	:	42/2014
First Reading	:	4 November 2014
Second and Third Readings	:	19 January 2015
Commencement	:	1 April 2015

**2. G.N. No. S 190/2015 — Pawnbrokers Act (Amendment of Second Schedule) Order 2015**

Commencement	:	1 April 2015
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**3. Act 7 of 2019 — Precious Stones and Precious Metals (Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing) Act 2019**  
(Amendments made by section 41 of the above Act)

Bill	:	1/2019
First Reading	:	14 January 2019
Second and Third Readings	:	11 February 2019
Commencement	:	10 April 2019 (section 41)

**4. G.N. No. S 308/2019 — Pawnbrokers Act 2015 (Amendment of Third Schedule) Order 2019**

Commencement	:	10 April 2019
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**5. Act 40 of 2018 — Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018**  
(Amendments made by section 500 of the above Act)

Bill	:	32/2018
First Reading	:	10 September 2018
Second and Third Readings	:	1 October 2018
Commencement	:	30 July 2020 (section 500)

**6. G.N. No. S 993/2020 — Pawnbrokers Act 2015 (Amendment of Third Schedule) Order 2020**

Commencement	:	14 December 2020
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**7. 2020 Revised Edition — Pawnbrokers Act 2015**

Operation : 31 December 2021

**8. G.N. No. S 986/2022 — Pawnbrokers Act 2015 (Amendment of Second Schedule) Order 2022**

Date of commencement : 1 January 2023

**9. Act 6 of 2024 — Prevention of Proliferation Financing and Other Matters Act 2024**

Date of First Reading : 9 January 2024  
(Bill No. 2/2024)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 6 February 2024

Date of commencement : 1 May 2024

**Abbreviations**

(updated on 29 August 2022)

G.N.	Gazette Notification
G.N. Sp.	Gazette Notification (Special Supplement)
L.A.	Legislative Assembly
L.N.	Legal Notification (Federal/Malaysian)
M.	Malaya/Malaysia (including Federated Malay States, Malayan Union, Federation of Malaya and Federation of Malaysia)
Parl.	Parliament
S	Subsidiary Legislation
S.I.	Statutory Instrument (United Kingdom)
S (N.S.)	Subsidiary Legislation (New Series)
S.S.G.G.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette
S.S.G.G. (E)	Straits Settlements Government Gazette (Extraordinary)

**COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**PAWNBROKERS ACT 2015**

This Act has undergone renumbering in the 2020 Revised Edition. This Comparative Table is provided to help readers locate the corresponding provisions in the last Revised Edition.

<b>2020 Ed.</b>	<b>Act 2 of 2015</b>
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	<b>84</b>
<b>84</b>	<b>85</b>
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	(3)
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	(4)
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	(5)
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	(6)
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	(7)
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	(8)
(3)	(9)
(4)	(10)
(5)	(11)
<i>[Omitted as spent]</i>	(12)
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	<b>86</b>
<i>[Omitted as having had effect]</i>	<b>FOURTH SCHEDULE</b>