



**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS ACT**

**(CHAPTER 219)**

**(Original Enactment: Act 24 of 1978)**

**REVISED EDITION 1996**

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# Parliamentary Pensions Act

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An Act to provide for the grant of pensions and gratuities in respect of service as Members of Parliament and as holders of ministerial and other offices and for purposes connected therewith.

[1st September 1978]

## PART I

## PRELIMINARY

**Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Pensions Act.

**Interpretation**

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

“elected Member”, “non-constituency Member” and “nominated Member” shall have the same meanings as in Article 39(1)(a), (b) and (c) of the Constitution, respectively;

“future Member” means a person —

- (a) who becomes, by election or appointment, a Member at any time after 1st January 1995 without previously having been, before or after that date, a Member or an office-holding Member;
- (b) who, having been a Member before 1st January 1995 but not being a Member on that date, becomes, by election or appointment, a Member at any time after that date; or
- (c) who, being an elected Member on 1st January 1995, becomes —
  - (i) a non-constituency Member or nominated Member at any time after 1st January 1995 with or without a break in his service as a Member; or

- (ii) an elected Member at any time after 1st January 1995 with a break in his service as a Member after that date,

and for the purposes of paragraph (c), a Member's service shall be deemed not broken but continuous if, following the dissolution of Parliament or his seat therein becoming vacant under the provisions of the Constitution, he is elected as a Member at the ensuing general election or the ensuing by-election to fill that vacancy;

“Mayor” means a Mayor appointed under rules made under the People's Association Act (Cap. 227);

*[15/2002 wef 03/10/2002]*

“Member” means a Member of Parliament;

“office” means the office of Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker, Senior Minister, Minister, Senior Minister of State, Minister of State, Mayor, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Parliamentary Secretary or Political Secretary;

*[15/2002 wef 03/10/2002]*

“office-holding Member” means a Member who holds or has held any office and includes a Speaker who is not an elected Member of Parliament;

“prescribed commutation factor” and “prescribed discount rate” mean, respectively, such factor and rate as the President shall prescribe for the purposes of this Act;

“reckonable service” means —

- (a) in relation to service as a Member — service in Parliament as a Member of Parliament on and after 3rd June 1959 but not after 20th May 2011; and
- (b) in relation to service in any office — service in that office on and after 3rd June 1959 but not after 20th May 2011.

*[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]*

(2) The reference to service in Parliament in the definition of “reckonable service” in subsection (1) shall be read as including a

reference to service in the Legislative Assembly on and after 3rd June 1959 and before 9th August 1965.

(3) Where a Speaker is not, or has not been, an elected Member of Parliament for any period, “salary” shall, for that period, mean the salary payable to him in respect of his service as Speaker.

(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, where for any period a person who is eligible for any pension or other benefit under this Act voluntarily refrains from receiving the whole or any part of any salary due to him in respect of the office held by him, then, in calculating his pension or benefit he shall, for such period, be deemed to have received the full salary to which he was entitled as holder of that office.

## PART II

### PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES FOR MEMBERS, MINISTERS AND OTHER OFFICE-HOLDERS

#### **Future and Nominated Members’ eligibility for pension**

**2A.**—(1) Unless otherwise expressly provided, a future Member shall not be eligible for any pension or gratuity under the provisions of this Act in respect of his reckonable service as a future Member.

[13/95]

[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]

(2) For the avoidance of doubt —

- (a) a future Member who holds any office shall remain eligible for a pension under the provisions of this Act in respect of his reckonable service in that office; and
- (b) a person who, on the date immediately before he becomes a future Member, has the minimum period of reckonable service as a Member to be eligible for a pension under section 3 (including any period of reckonable service which may be counted by virtue of the repealed section 6), shall remain eligible for a pension under the provisions of this Act in respect of his reckonable service as a Member as of that date.

[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]

(3) Any person who on 1st January 1995 is a nominated Member shall not be eligible for a pension under the provisions of this Act in respect of his service as a Member on or after that date.

### **Pensions in respect of service as Members**

**3.—**(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person who, after 1st September 1978, ceases at any time to be a Member may be granted a pension under this section if he has not less than 9 years' reckonable service as a Member (whether continuously or not).

*[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]*

(2) The annual amount of pension payable to a Member shall be —

- (a) in respect of every completed year of reckonable service, at the rate of one-thirtieth ( $1/30$ ) of his annual salary; and
- (b) in respect of any remaining uncompleted year of reckonable service, at the rate of one-three-hundred and sixtieth ( $1/360$ ) part of his annual salary for each completed month of reckonable service.

(2A) The annual pension payable to any Member under subsection (2) shall not exceed two-thirds of his annual salary.

(3) Subject to sections 13 and 15, a pension under this section shall continue for the life of the person to whom it is payable but shall not be payable in respect of any period during which he is again a Member or is a candidate for election to Parliament; at the end of that period the pension shall again be payable and shall be re-computed under subsection (2) with the addition of any further period of reckonable service to the period of his former reckonable service as a Member.

(4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (2A), “annual salary” means the annual equivalent of the highest monthly rate of salary (excluding any non-pensionable allowances) received by a Member during any period of his reckonable service as a Member.

*[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]*

(5) For the purposes of subsection (3), a person who ceases to be a Member in consequence of the dissolution of Parliament shall be treated as a candidate for election from the date of the dissolution if he seeks re-election at the next general election.

**Pensions in respect of service as Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker, Ministers and other office-holders**

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person may be granted a pension under this section, in addition to any pension that may be granted to him under section 3, in respect of his reckonable service in any office if, after 1st September 1978, he ceases at any time to hold office and has not less than 8 years' reckonable service as an office-holding Member (whether continuously or not).

(a) [*Deleted by Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011*]

(b) [*Deleted by Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011*]

[*Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011*]

(2) The annual amount of pension payable to an office-holding Member shall be —

- (a) in respect of every completed year of reckonable service in any office, or where he has served in more than one office in each office, at the rate of one-twenty-seventh ( $1/27$ ) of his annual salary in that office; and
- (b) in respect of any remaining uncompleted year of reckonable service in any office, or where he has served in more than one office in each office, at the rate of one-three-hundred and twenty-fourth ( $1/324$ ) part of his annual salary for each completed month of reckonable service in that office.

(2A) The annual pension payable to any office-holding Member under subsection (2) shall not exceed two-thirds of the highest annual salary of any office held by him.

(3) Subject to sections 13 and 15, a pension granted under this section shall continue for the life of the person to whom it is payable but shall not be payable in respect of any period during which he is again an office-holding Member; at the end of that period the pension shall again be payable and shall be re-computed with the addition of that period comprising reckonable service to the period of his former reckonable service as an office-holding Member.

[*Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011*]

(4) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (2A), “annual salary”, in relation to any office, means the annual equivalent of the highest monthly rate of salary (excluding any non-pensionable allowances) received by an office-holding Member during any period of reckonable service as a holder of that office.

(5) Where the monthly rate of salary applicable to any office previously held by an office-holding Member is increased before 21st May 2011 during any continuous period of reckonable service while he is an office-holding Member but holding another office, he shall be deemed to have received such increased rate during his period of reckonable service as a holder of that office.

*[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]*

### **Pensions for serving office-holders after attaining 55 years of age**

5.—(1) Where an office-holding Member has —

- (a) not less than 8 years’ reckonable service as an office-holding Member (whether continuously or not);
- (b) attained the age of 55 years; and
- (c) not previously been granted a pension under section 4,

he may be granted a pension under that section notwithstanding the fact that he has not ceased to hold office.

*[18/82]*

(1A) Subsection (1) shall not apply to an office-holding Member who attains the age of 55 years on or after 21st May 2011.

*[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]*

(2) Subject to sections 13 and 15, where any pension is granted before 21st May 2011 to any office-holding Member under section 4 by virtue of subsection (1), payment of that pension as a full or reduced pension shall stop on or after 21st May 2011 and cease to be payable to that office-holding Member for the period that he remains an office-holding Member and any such pension paid in contravention of this subsection shall be immediately refunded to the Pension Fund; except that at the end of that period when he so ceases to hold office —

- (a) all that full or reduced pension which would have been payable, if not for this subsection, between 21st May 2011 and the date he so ceases to hold office (both dates inclusive) shall then be payable in a lump sum (without interest); and
- (b) his pension under section 4 shall be re-computed by adding the period of reckonable service between the date the pension was granted and 20th May 2011 (both dates inclusive) to the period of his former reckonable service which had been used in computing his pension.

*[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]*

(3) Where a person has been granted before 21st May 2011 a pension under section 4 after ceasing to hold office and —

- (a) becomes an office-holding Member again after having attained the age of 55 years; or
- (b) becomes an office-holding Member again before attaining the age of 55 years, on his attaining that age,

the pension shall stop on or after 21st May 2011 and cease to be payable to that person for the period that he remains an office-holding Member and any pension paid in contravention of this subsection shall be immediately refunded to the Pension Fund; except that at the end of that period when he so ceases to hold office —

- (i) all that pension which would have been payable, if not for this subsection, between 21st May 2011 and the date he so ceases to hold office (both dates inclusive) shall then be payable in a lump sum (without interest); and
- (ii) his pension under section 4 shall be re-computed by adding the period of reckonable service between the date the pension was granted and 20th May 2011 (both dates inclusive) to the period of his former reckonable service which had been used in computing his pension.

*[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]*

**6.** *[Repealed by Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]*

### Commutation of pensions

7.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person to whom a pension is granted under this Act may, at his option exercisable in accordance with this section, be paid —

- (a) in the case of a future Member who becomes an office-holding Member —
  - (i) a full pension under section 4 without any gratuity;  
or
  - (ii) a commuted pension gratuity without any pension, in respect of his reckonable service as a holder of any office;
- (b) in the case of a future Member who remains eligible for a pension under section 2A(2)(b), or a Member (including an office-holding Member) who is not a future Member —
  - (i) a full pension under section 3 or 4 without any gratuity;
  - (ii) a reduced pension at the rate of two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the full pension together with a gratuity equal to twelve and one-half ( $12\frac{1}{2}$ ) times the annual value of one-third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of the full pension; or
  - (iii) a commuted pension gratuity without any pension, in respect of his reckonable service as a Member (other than as a future Member) or as a holder of any office, as the case may be; or
- (c) in the case of a person who has been granted a pension under section 4 after ceasing to hold office and who becomes an office-holding Member again —
  - (i) a full pension under section 4 without any gratuity;  
or
  - (ii) a commuted pension gratuity without any pension, in respect of his further service as an office-holding Member.

[13/95]

- (2) The option referred to in subsection (1) shall be exercisable —
- (a) separately in respect of reckonable service as a Member and as a holder of any office; and
  - (b) not later than 30 days after the date when the person becomes eligible for the grant of a pension under this Act, except that if the person has not exercised an option within such time, the President may, if it appears in the circumstances equitable to do so, allow the person to exercise the option at any time prior to the date of payment of a pension or gratuity to him.

[13/95]

(2A) Where a person fails to exercise the option in accordance with this section, he shall be deemed to have opted to receive a commuted pension gratuity without any pension in respect of his reckonable service as a Member or as a holder of an office or both, as the case may be.

(3) Such option, once exercised by a person in respect of his reckonable service as a Member or as a holder of any office, as the case may be, shall not be revoked so far as concerns any pension or gratuity so granted to him under this Act in respect of such period of service prior to the exercise of the option.

[13/95]

(4) Subject to this section, the commuted pension gratuity referred to in subsection (1) shall be a capital sum ascertained by multiplying the prescribed commutation factor by the amount of such pension that the person concerned is eligible for under this Act.

[13/95]

(5) Where any pension granted to a person under this Act is required to be re-computed by adding his further reckonable service as a Member or as a holder of any office to any period of reckonable service previously used in computing his pension, the commuted pension gratuity shall be reduced by such amount of pension or gratuity already received by him in respect of the period of reckonable service previously used in computing his pension.

[13/95]

[Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]

(6) Any commuted pension gratuity to be granted to a person shall be computed in accordance with the provisions of this Act in force at the date when the person becomes eligible for the grant of a pension under this Act, and shall be paid in the prescribed manner.

[13/95]

(7) This section shall not apply to any person who before 1st January 1995 has been granted and paid a pension or gratuity under the provisions of this Act as in force before that date.

[13/95]

(8) Where the person is, on 1st January 1995, an office-holding Member who —

- (a) has already been granted a pension in respect of any period of his reckonable service in an office; and
- (b) on his ceasing to hold office, will be eligible to have his pension re-computed with the addition of his further period of reckonable service as an office-holding Member,

this section shall remain applicable to such person but only in respect of that further period of reckonable service as an office-holding Member.

### **Payment of pensions**

**8.** Pensions under this Act may be paid monthly at the end of each month in which the pensions fall due or at such other intervals as the President may determine either generally or in the circumstances of any particular case.

**9.** [Repealed by Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]

**10.** [Repealed by Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]

**11.** [Repealed by Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011]

## PART III

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Pension or gratuity not to be assignable**

**12.** A pension or gratuity granted under this Act shall not be assignable or transferable, except for the purpose of satisfying —

- (a) a debt due to the Government; or
- (b) an order of any court for the payment of periodical sums of money towards the maintenance of the wife or former wife or minor child, whether legitimate or not, of the person to whom the pension has been granted,

and shall not be liable to be attached, sequestered or levied upon for or in respect of any debt or claim whatever except a debt due to the Government.

**Pension or gratuity not of right and may be reduced or withheld by President upon conviction for corruption**

**13.—**(1) No person shall have an absolute right to compensation for past services or to any pension or gratuity under this Act.

(2) It shall be lawful for the President to reduce or altogether to withhold any pension or gratuity which has been granted to a person under this Act, or for which he has become eligible, where such person has been convicted by any court of an offence (even if only a fine and no term of imprisonment has been imposed) —

- (a) under the Prevention of Corruption Act [Cap. 241]; or
- (b) involving corruption under any other written law.

(3) The President shall, before exercising any power conferred on him by subsection (2), consider the record of the proceedings of the court.

**Restoration of whole or part of pension or gratuity at discretion of President**

**14.** Where any pension or gratuity which a person would have been eligible to receive under this Act has been reduced or altogether withheld under section 13, it shall be lawful for the President, in his

discretion, to direct that all or any part of the pension or gratuity be applied for the benefit of his wife and any child or children, and after the expiry of any term of imprisonment served by him, also for his benefit, in such proportions and manner as the President thinks fit.

### **Pension and gratuity to cease on bankruptcy**

**15.**—(1) No pension or gratuity which would under this Act be granted to a person shall be so granted if, at the date he became eligible for the grant of such pension, he has been adjudged a bankrupt or declared insolvent by judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction in Singapore or elsewhere and has not obtained his discharge from such adjudication or declaration.

(2) If any person to whom a pension has been granted under this Act is adjudged a bankrupt or is declared insolvent by judgment of any such court, then such pension shall forthwith cease.

(3) Where a pension or gratuity ceases or is not granted by virtue of this section, it shall be lawful for the President, from time to time, during the remainder of the life of the person whose pension has ceased or who would have been eligible to receive the pension, or during such shorter period or periods, either continuously or otherwise, as the President thinks fit, to direct all or any part of the moneys to which that person would have been eligible to receive by way of pension or gratuity, had he not become a bankrupt or insolvent, to be paid to or applied for the maintenance and benefit of all or any (to the exclusion of others) of the following, namely, the person himself and his wife, child or children, or other dependants in such proportions and manner as the President thinks proper; and such moneys shall be paid or applied accordingly.

(4) Moneys applied for the discharge of the debts of the person whose pension has ceased or not been granted shall, for the purposes of subsection (3), be regarded as applied for his benefit.

(5) When a person to whom a pension or gratuity has not been granted, or whose pension has ceased under the provisions of this section, obtains a full and proper discharge from his bankruptcy or insolvency, his pension or gratuity or both, as the case may be, shall be restored to him with effect from the date of the discharge.

## **Pensions and gratuities to be paid out of Pension Fund**

**16.** There shall be charged on and paid out of the Pension Fund established by the Pension Fund Act [Cap. 224A] all sums of money payable by way of pension or gratuity in accordance with this Act.

[8/95]

## **Regulations**

**17.—(1)** The President may make regulations for, or in respect of, all matters which he considers necessary or expedient for carrying out or giving effect to the purposes and provisions of this Act.

(2) The President may, in making regulations under this section, provide for any Member or class of Members to opt to be superannuated according to the provident fund scheme applicable to non-pensionable employees of the Government under the Central Provident Fund Act [Cap. 36], and for the terms and conditions of such option.

[13/95]

(3) Any Member who exercises an option in accordance with the regulations made under subsection (2) in respect of any period of his reckonable service as a Member shall be deemed to have become a future Member on the commencement of that period of service.

[13/95]

(4) All regulations made under this Act shall be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.

[13/95]

## **Saving**

**18.—(1)** Notwithstanding the repeal of the Parliamentary Pensions Act [Cap. 51, 1970 Ed.] (referred to in this section as the repealed Act), the provisions of the repealed Act in force immediately before 1st September 1978 shall be construed and shall have effect as if it had not been repealed by this Act in the case of any person who —

- (a) on 1st September 1978 is in receipt of a pension under the repealed Act; or
- (b) having ceased to be a Member before 1st September 1978 will become eligible for the grant of a pension under the repealed Act when he attains the age of 45 years.

- (2) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to —
- (a) any person referred to in subsection (1)(a) whether or not he is or becomes a Member after 1st September 1978; or
  - (b) any person referred to in subsection (1)(b) unless he becomes a Member after 1st September 1978.

(3) If in the case of a Member who on 1st September 1978 has not less than 9 years' reckonable service and has attained the age of 45 years, the pension which he is eligible to receive under section 3 on his ceasing to be a Member, together with any pension which he is eligible to receive under section 4, is less than the amount of pension which he would have been eligible to receive under the repealed Act in respect of his reckonable service before that date had he ceased to be a Member on that date, his pension under section 3 may be increased by the difference between that amount and the pensions which he is eligible to receive under sections 3 and 4.

(4) [*Deleted by Act 21 of 2012 wef 21/05/2011*]

(5) Any person who on 1st September 1978 is eligible to receive a pension under section 10 of the repealed Act in respect of his reckonable service under that Act if he had ceased to hold public office as defined by that section may, when he ceases to hold such public office, be granted a pension under the repealed Act in respect of the period of such reckonable service before that date as if the repealed Act had not been repealed by this Act.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY  
PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS ACT  
(CHAPTER 219)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Parliamentary Pensions Act. It is not part of the Act.

**1. Act 24 of 1978 — Parliamentary Pensions Act 1978**

Date of First Reading	:	31 January 1978 (Bill No. 1/78 published on 4 February 1978)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	31 July 1978
Date of commencement	:	1 September 1978

**2. Act 18 of 1982 — Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act 1982**

Date of First Reading	:	27 July 1982 (Bill No. 10/82 published on 4 August 1982)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	31 August 1982
Date of commencement	:	1 October 1982

**3. 1985 Revised Edition — Parliamentary Pensions Act**

Date of operation	:	30 March 1987
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**4. Act 8 of 1995 — Pension Fund Act 1995**

(Consequential amendments made by)

Date of First Reading	:	23 January 1995 (Bill No. 2/95 published on 24 January 1995)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	1 March 1995
Date of commencement	:	1 April 1995

**5. Act 13 of 1995 — Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act 1995**

Date of First Reading	:	1 March 1995 (Bill No. 7/95 published on 2 March 1995)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	23 March 1995
Date of commencement	:	1 January 1995

**6. 1996 Revised Edition — Parliamentary Pensions Act**

Date of operation	:	30 April 1996
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**7. Act 15 of 2002 — Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act 2002**

Date of First Reading : 4 April 2002  
(Bill No. 3/2002 published on  
5 April 2002)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 8 July 2002

Date of commencement : 3 October 2002

**8. Act 21 of 2012 — Parliamentary Pensions (Abolition) Act 2012**

Date of First Reading : 13 August 2012 (Bill No.  
18/2012 published on 13 August  
2012)

Date of Second and Third Readings : 10 September 2012

Date of commencement : 21 May 2011