



**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS  
ACT 1978**

**2020 REVISED EDITION**

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# Parliamentary Pensions Act 1978

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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.

[1 September 1978]

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

**Short title**

- 1. This Act is the Parliamentary Pensions Act 1978.

**Interpretation**

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

“elected Member”, “non-constituency Member” and “nominated Member” have the meanings given by 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 1 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 1 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 1 January 1995, becomes —
  - (i) a non-constituency Member or nominated Member at any time after 1 January 1995

with or without a break in his or her service as a Member; or

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

and for the purposes of paragraph (c), a Member's service is deemed not broken but continuous if, following the dissolution of Parliament or his or her seat therein becoming vacant under the provisions of the Constitution, he or she 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 1960;

“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;

“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 prescribes 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 3 June 1959 but not after 20 May 2011; and
- (b) in relation to service in any office — service in that office on and after 3 June 1959 but not after 20 May 2011.

*[15/2002; 21/2012]*

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

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

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

(4) Despite 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 the person in respect of the office held by him or her, then, in calculating his or her pension or benefit he or she is, for such period, deemed to have received the full salary to which he or she was entitled as holder of that office.

## PART 2

### 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 is not eligible for any pension or gratuity under the provisions of this Act in respect of his or her reckonable service as a future Member.

[21/2012]

(2) To avoid doubt —

- (a) a future Member who holds any office remains eligible for a pension under the provisions of this Act in respect of his or her reckonable service in that office; and
- (b) a person who, on the date immediately before he or she 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), remains eligible for a pension under the provisions of this Act in respect of his or her reckonable service as a Member as of that date.

[21/2012]

(3) Any person who on 1 January 1995 is a nominated Member is not eligible for a pension under the provisions of this Act in respect of his or her 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 1 September 1978, ceases at any time to be a Member may be granted a pension under this section if he or she has not less than 9 years' reckonable service as a Member (whether continuously or not).

[21/2012]

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

(a) in respect of every completed year of reckonable service — at the rate of one-thirtieth ( $1/30$ ) of his or her 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 or her annual salary for each completed month of reckonable service.

(3) The annual pension payable to any Member under subsection (2) must not exceed two-thirds of his or her annual salary.

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

(5) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3), “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 or her reckonable service as a Member.

[21/2012]

(6) For the purposes of subsection (4), a person who ceases to be a Member in consequence of the dissolution of Parliament is to be

treated as a candidate for election from the date of the dissolution if he or she 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 the person under section 3, in respect of his or her reckonable service in any office if, after 1 September 1978, he or she 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).

[21/2012]

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

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

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

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

[21/2012]

(5) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3), “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.

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

[21/2012]

**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 55 years of age; and
- (c) not previously been granted a pension under section 4,

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

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

[21/2012]

(3) Subject to sections 13 and 15, where any pension is granted before 21 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 stops on or after 21 May 2011 and ceases to be payable to that office-holding Member for the period that he or she remains an office-holding Member and any such pension paid in contravention of this subsection must be immediately refunded to the Pension Fund; except that at the end of that period when he or she so ceases to hold office —

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

[21/2012]

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

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

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

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

[21/2012]

6. [Repealed by Act 21 of 2012]

## **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 or her 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 or her 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 or her 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 or her further service as an office-holding Member.

- (2) The option mentioned in subsection (1) is 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 that 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 the person.

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

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

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

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

[21/2012]

(7) Any commuted pension gratuity to be granted to a person must 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 must be paid in the prescribed manner.

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

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

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

this section remains applicable to the 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*]

**10.** [*Repealed by Act 21 of 2012*]

**11.** [*Repealed by Act 21 of 2012*]

## **PART 3**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Pension or gratuity not to be assignable**

**12.** A pension or gratuity granted under this Act is not 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 has an absolute right to compensation for past services or to any pension or gratuity under this Act.

(2) It is 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 or she has become eligible, where the 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 1960; or

(b) involving corruption under any other written law.

(3) The President must, before exercising any power conferred on him or her 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 that a person would have been eligible to receive under this Act has been reduced or altogether withheld under section 13, it is lawful for the President, in his or her discretion, to direct that all or any part of the pension or gratuity be applied for the benefit of the person's wife and any child or children, and after the expiry of any term of imprisonment served by the person, also for the person's benefit, in such proportions and manner as the President thinks fit.

**Pension and gratuity to cease on bankruptcy**

**15.—**(1) No pension or gratuity that would under this Act be granted to a person may be so granted if, at the date he or she became eligible for the grant of such pension, the person 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 or her discharge from that 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 forthwith ceases.

(3) Where a pension or gratuity ceases or is not granted by virtue of this section, it is 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 that person 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 and the person's wife, child or children, or other dependants in such proportions and manner as the President thinks proper; and the moneys are to 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 must be regarded, for the purposes of subsection (3), as applied for the person's 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 the person's bankruptcy or insolvency, the person's pension or gratuity or both (as the case may be) are to be restored to the person 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 1995 all sums of money payable by way of pension or gratuity in accordance with this Act.

## **Regulations**

**17.—(1)** The President may make regulations for, or in respect of, all matters which he or she 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 1953, and for the terms and conditions of the option.

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

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

## **Saving**

**18.—(1)** Despite the repeal of the Parliamentary Pensions Act (Cap. 51, 1970 Revised Edition) (called in this section the repealed Act), the provisions of the repealed Act in force immediately before 1 September 1978 are to be construed and have effect as if it had not been repealed by this Act in the case of any person who —

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

(2) The provisions of this Act do not apply to —

(a) any person referred to in subsection (1)(a) whether or not the person is or becomes a Member after 1 September 1978; or

(b) any person referred to in subsection (1)(b) unless the person becomes a Member after 1 September 1978.

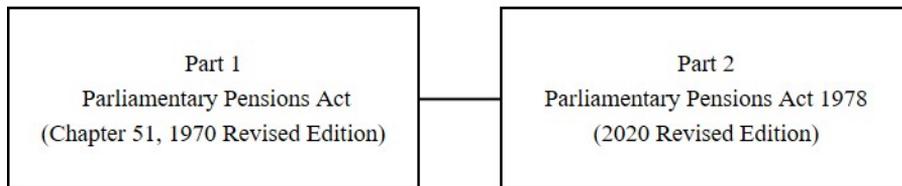
(3) If in the case of a Member who on 1 September 1978 has not less than 9 years' reckonable service and has attained 45 years of age, the pension that he or she is eligible to receive under section 3 on his or her ceasing to be a Member, together with any pension which he or she is eligible to receive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

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

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY  
PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS  
ACT 1978

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

PICTORIAL OVERVIEW OF PREDECESSOR ACTS



LEGISLATIVE HISTORY DETAILS

PART 1  
PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS ACT  
(CHAPTER 51, 1970 REVISED EDITION)

**1. Act 3 of 1969 — Parliamentary Pensions Act, 1969**

Bill	:	8/1969
First Reading	:	10 April 1969
Second and Third Readings	:	11 June 1969
Commencement	:	1 July 1969

**2. Act 9 of 1970 — Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1970**

Bill	:	13/1970
First Reading	:	7 May 1970
Second Reading	:	21 May 1970
Notice of Amendments	:	21 May 1970
Third Reading	:	21 May 1970
Commencement	:	1 July 1969

**3. Act 22 of 1971 — Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1971**

Bill	:	20/1971
First Reading	:	19 October 1971
Second and Third Readings	:	2 December 1971

Commencement : 1 July 1969

**4. 1970 Revised Edition — Parliamentary Pensions Act (Chapter 51)**

Operation : 1 April 1971

**5. Act 3 of 1975 — Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1975**

Bill : 17/1975

First Reading : 17 March 1975

Second and Third Readings : 27 March 1975

Commencement : 29 March 1975

**6. Act 3 of 1976 — Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1976**

Bill : 8/1976

First Reading : 15 March 1976

Second and Third Readings : 25 March 1976

Commencement : 30 March 1976

**7. Act 8 of 1977 — Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act, 1977**

Bill : 9/1977

First Reading : 27 May 1977

Second and Third Readings : 29 June 1977

Commencement : 22 July 1977

PART 2

PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS ACT 1978  
(2020 REVISED EDITION)

**8. Act 24 of 1978 — Parliamentary Pensions Act, 1978**

Bill : 1/1978

First Reading : 31 January 1978

Second Reading : 31 July 1978

Notice of Amendments : 31 July 1978

Third Reading : 31 July 1978

Commencement : 1 September 1978

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

Bill : 10/1982

First Reading	:	27 July 1982
Second and Third Readings	:	31 August 1982
Commencement	:	1 October 1982

**10. 1985 Revised Edition — Parliamentary Pensions Act (Chapter 219)**

Operation	:	30 March 1987
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**11. Act 8 of 1995 — Pension Fund Act 1995**

(Amendments made by section 18(1)(c) and (2)(b) of the above Act)

Bill	:	2/1995
First Reading	:	23 January 1995
Second and Third Readings	:	1 March 1995
Commencement	:	1 April 1995 (section 18(1)(c) and (2)(b))

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

Bill	:	7/1995
First Reading	:	1 March 1995
Second and Third Readings	:	23 March 1995
Commencement	:	1 January 1995

**13. 1996 Revised Edition — Parliamentary Pensions Act (Chapter 219)**

Operation	:	30 April 1996
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**14. Act 15 of 2002 — Parliamentary Pensions (Amendment) Act 2002**

Bill	:	3/2002
First Reading	:	4 April 2002
Second and Third Readings	:	8 July 2002
Commencement	:	3 October 2002

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

(Amendments made by section 5 of the above Act)

Bill	:	18/2012
First Reading	:	13 August 2012
Second and Third Readings	:	10 September 2012
Commencement	:	21 May 2011 (section 5)

Abbreviations

C.P.	Council Paper
G.N. No. S (N.S.)	Government Notification Number Singapore (New Series)
G.N. No.	Government Notification Number
G.N. No. S	Government Notification Number Singapore
G.N. Sp. No. S	Government Notification Special Number Singapore
L.A.	Legislative Assembly
L.N.	Legal Notification (Federal/Malaysian Subsidiary Legislation)
M. Act	Malayan Act/Malaysia Act
M. Ordinance	Malayan Ordinance
Parl.	Parliament
S.S.G.G. (E) No.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette (Extraordinary) Number
S.S.G.G. No.	Straits Settlements Government Gazette Number

**COMPARATIVE TABLE**  
**PARLIAMENTARY PENSIONS**  
**ACT 1978**

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>1996 Ed.</b>
<b>3—(3)</b>	<b>3—(2A)</b>
(4)	(3)
(5)	(4)
(6)	(5)
<b>4—(3)</b>	<b>4—(2A)</b>
(4)	(3)
(5)	(4)
(6)	(5)
<b>5—(2)</b>	<b>5—(1A)</b>
(3)	(2)
(4)	(3)
<b>7—(3)</b>	<b>7—(2A)</b>
(4)	(3)
(5)	(4)
(6)	(5)
(7)	(6)
(8)	(7)
(9)	(8)
—	<b>18—(4)</b> [ <i>Deleted by Act 21 of 2012</i> ]
<b>18—(4)</b>	(5)