



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

PUBLIC SERVICE (SERVICE COMMISSIONS) ACT 1956

2020 REVISED EDITION

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021.

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Public Service (Service Commissions) Act 1956

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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An Act to provide for the punishment of offences in connection with the exercise of the functions of the Public Service Commission, the Judicial Service Commission and the Legal Service Commission, for the protection of the members of these Commissions, and for matters connected therewith.

[Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022]

[29 January 1957]

Short title

1. This Act is the Public Service (Service Commissions) Act 1956.

[Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022]

Interpretation

- 1A. In this Act, “Commission” —

(a) means the Public Service Commission, the Judicial Service Commission or the Legal Service Commission; and

(b) includes a personnel board established under Article 110D, 111I or 111Q of the Constitution.

[Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022]

Offence to give false information to Commissions

2. Any person who, in connection with an application by any person for employment or appointment in the public service or with any matter upon which it is the duty of a Commission to act, wilfully gives to the Commission or to any member of it or to any person or body of persons appointed by the Commission to assist it in the exercise of its functions or the discharge of its duties any information which is false or misleading in any material particular shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

[Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022]

Communications of Commissions to be privileged

3. No person shall in any legal proceedings be permitted or compelled to produce or disclose any communication, written or oral, which has taken place between a Commission or any member of it and the Government or the President or a Minister or the head of a department of the Government or any other person, or any communication between members of the Commission in exercise of or in connection with the exercise of the functions of the Commission, unless the President consents in writing to such production or disclosure.

[5/2018]

[Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022]

Publication and disclosure of information to unauthorised persons prohibited

4.—(1) No member of a Commission nor any other person shall, without the written permission of the President, publish or disclose to any unauthorised person or otherwise than in the course of the duty of the member or other person the contents or any part of the contents of any document, communication or information which has come to the knowledge of that member or other person in the course of the member's or other person's duties under any written law relating to

the Commission in respect of any of the Commission's functions under any such law, and any person who knowingly acts in contravention of this subsection shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

[5/2018]

[Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022]

(2) If any person having possession of any information which to his knowledge has been disclosed in contravention of this section publishes or communicates that information to any other person otherwise than for the purpose of a prosecution under this Act, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to both.

Protection of members of Commissions

5. A member of a Commission shall have such and the like protection and privileges in case of any action or suit brought against him for any act done or omitted to be done in the execution of his duty as is by law given to any Magistrate acting in the execution of his office.

[Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022]

Offence to influence or attempt to influence Commissions

6.—(1) Every person who otherwise than in the course of his duty directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person in any manner whatsoever influences or attempts to influence any decision of a Commission or any member of a Commission shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

[Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022]

(2) Nothing in this section prohibits any person from giving a certificate or testimonial to any applicant or candidate for any public office.

[Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022]

Consent of Public Prosecutor to prosecution

7. A prosecution under this Act shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Public Prosecutor or his deputy.

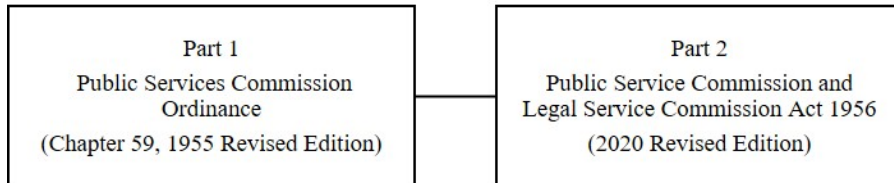
8. [*Repealed by Act 33 of 2021 wef 14/01/2022*]

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

PUBLIC SERVICE (SERVICE COMMISSIONS) ACT 1956

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

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 59, 1955 REVISED EDITION)

1. Ordinance 55 of 1949 — Public Services Commission Ordinance, 1949

Bill	:	G.N. No. S 317/1949
First Reading	:	28 July 1949
Second Reading	:	23 August 1949
Select Committee Report	:	Council Paper No. 154 of 1949
Third Reading	:	20 December 1949
Commencement	:	1 January 1951

2. 1955 Revised Edition — Public Services Commission Ordinance (Chapter 59)

Operation	:	1 July 1956
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PART 2

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND LEGAL SERVICE COMMISSION ACT 1956 (2020 REVISED EDITION)

3. Ordinance 41 of 1956 — Public Service Commission Ordinance, 1956

Bill	:	Information not available
First Reading	:	5 December 1956

Second and Third Readings : 6 December 1956

Commencement : 29 January 1957

4. G.N. No. S 293/1958 (S.I. 1956/1958) — Singapore (Constitution) Order in Council, 1958

Commencement : 3 June 1959 (except sections 121(5) and 123)

5. 1970 Revised Edition — Public Service Commission Act (Chapter 57)

Operation : 1 April 1971

6. 1985 Revised Edition — Public Service Commission Act (Chapter 259)

Operation : 30 March 1987

7. Act 18 of 1994 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1994

(Amendments made by section 2 read with item (7) of the Schedule to the above Act)

Bill : 25/1994

First Reading : 25 July 1994

Second and Third Readings : 25 August 1994

Commencement : 1 October 1994 (section 2 read with item (7) of the Schedule)

8. Act 32 of 2007 — Public Service Commission (Amendment) Act 2007

Bill : 19/2007

First Reading : 21 May 2007

Second and Third Readings : 16 July 2007

Commencement : 1 November 2007

Note: The Public Service Commission Act was renamed as the Public Service Commission and Legal Service Commission Act by this Act.

9. 2014 Revised Edition — Public Service Commission and Legal Service Commission Act (Chapter 259)

Operation : 31 August 2014

10. Act 5 of 2018 — Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018

(Amendments made by section 92 of the above Act)

Bill : 45/2017

First Reading : 6 November 2017

Second Reading	:	8 January 2018
Notice of Amendments	:	8 January 2018
Third Reading	:	8 January 2018
Commencement	:	1 April 2018 (section 92)

11. 2020 Revised Edition — Public Service Commission and Legal Service Commission Act 1956

Operation	:	31 December 2021
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12. Act 33 of 2021 — Judicial Service (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2021

Bill	:	30/2021
First Reading	:	4 October 2021
Second and Third Readings	:	3 November 2021
Commencement	:	14 January 2022

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