



**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**SINGAPORE CORPORATION OF REHABILITATIVE  
ENTERPRISES ACT**

**(CHAPTER 298)**

**(Original Enactment: Act 35 of 1975)**

**REVISED EDITION 1985**

**(30th March 1987)**

*Prepared and Published by*

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT (CHAPTER 275)

Informal Consolidation – version in force from 10/2/2020

# Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises Act

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### PART I

#### PRELIMINARY

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation

### PART II

#### ESTABLISHMENT, INCORPORATION AND CONSTITUTION OF CORPORATION

3. Establishment of Corporation
4. Constitution of Corporation
5. Salaries, fees and allowances payable to members
6. Meetings of Corporation
7. [*Repealed*]
8. Validity of acts of member
9. Powers of Minister in relation to Corporation

### PART III

#### TRANSFER TO CORPORATION OF GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKINGS, EMPLOYEES, ETC

10. Transfer to Corporation of Government undertakings
11. Transfer of employees
12. Existing contracts
13. Pending proceedings
14. No benefit for abolition or re-organisation of office

### PART IV

#### FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF CORPORATION

15. Functions of Corporation

## Section

16. Powers
17. Appointment of committees and delegation of powers

## PART V

## PROVISIONS RELATING TO STAFF

18. Chief executive officer
19. Staff and employees
20. Pension schemes, provident fund, etc.
21. Remuneration of staff not to be related to profits
22. Personal immunity of members and officers of Corporation
23. [*Repealed*]

## PART VI

## FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

24. Corporation's financial year
25. Expenses
26. Minister's approval of estimates
27. Grants
28. Loans
- 28A. Issue of shares, etc.
29. Power of investment
30. to 34. [*Repealed*]

## PART VII

## MISCELLANEOUS

35. Common seal
36. Regulations

---

An Act to establish the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises and for matters connected therewith.

[7th November 1975: Parts I, II, IV to VII ;  
1st April 1976: Part III ]

PART I  
PRELIMINARY**Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises Act.

**Interpretation**

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“Chairman” means the Chairman of the Corporation appointed under section 4(1);

“chief executive officer” means the chief executive of the Corporation, and includes any individual acting in that capacity;

*[Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018]*

“Corporation” means the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises established under section 3(1);

*[Act 2 of 2020 wef 10/02/2020]*

“Deputy Chairman” means the Deputy Chairman of the Corporation appointed under section 4(1);

“inmate” means a person who is detained in any approved institution under the Misuse of Drugs Act [Cap. 185] or in such other institution or place as may be prescribed;

*[Act 23/87 wef 01/11/1987]*

“member” means a member of the Corporation and includes the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman;

“prison officer” means any Chief Rehabilitation Officer, Principal Rehabilitation Officer, warder or other subordinate officer;

“prisoner” means any person, whether convicted or not, under detention in any prison or reformatory training centre.

## PART II

ESTABLISHMENT, INCORPORATION AND CONSTITUTION  
OF CORPORATION**Establishment of Corporation**

3.—(1) There is hereby established in accordance with the provisions of this Act a body to be called the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and with power to sue and be sued in its corporate name, and to acquire and dispose of property, movable and immovable, and to perform such other acts as bodies corporate may by law perform, and to exercise such other powers as are conferred under this Act.

[Act 2 of 2020 wef 10/02/2020]

(2) The Corporation may perform any of its functions or carry out any of its duties under one or more business names as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, specify.

[Act 2 of 2020 wef 10/02/2020]

**Constitution of Corporation**

4.—(1) The Corporation shall consist of the following members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Minister:

- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) a Deputy Chairman who shall be an officer from the Ministry of Home Affairs;
- (c) the Commissioner of Prisons or his representative; and
- (d) not less than 2 nor more than 12 other members.

[Act 1 of 2014 wef 01/07/2014]

[Act 23/87 wef 01/11/1987]

(2) All members shall, unless the Minister otherwise directs, hold office for a period of 3 years from the date of their respective appointments and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(3) The Minister may appoint a person to be a temporary member during the absence, or incapacity owing to illness or otherwise, of any other member.

(4) The Minister may, at any time, revoke the appointment of a member without assigning any reason therefor.

(5) The Minister may, at any time, accept the resignation of a member.

### **Salaries, fees and allowances payable to members**

5. There shall be paid to the members out of the funds of the Corporation such salaries, fees and allowances as the Minister may, from time to time, determine.

### **Meetings of Corporation**

6.—(1) Meetings of the Corporation shall be held —

(a) not less than once in 3 months; and

(b) at such times and places as the Corporation or the Chairman may from time to time determine.

(2) The quorum at every meeting of the Corporation shall be one-third of the total number of members or 3 members, whichever is the higher.

*[25/2009 wef 15/01/2010]*

(3) Decisions at meetings of the Corporation shall be adopted by a simple majority of the votes of the members present and voting; and in the event of an equality of votes the Chairman, or in his absence the Deputy Chairman or the member presiding, shall have a casting vote.

(4) The Chairman, or in his absence the Deputy Chairman, shall preside at meetings of the Corporation.

(5) Where both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman are absent at a meeting such member as the members present may elect shall preside at the meeting.

(6) The Corporation shall not be precluded from holding any meeting or acting in any matter merely by reason of a vacancy in its membership.

(7) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018, the Corporation may make standing orders to regulate its own procedure, and in particular, the holding of

meetings, the notice to be given of such meetings, the proceedings thereat, the keeping of minutes and the custody, production and inspection of such minutes.

*[Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018]*

7. *[Repealed by Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018]*

### **Validity of acts of member**

8. The acts of a member shall be valid notwithstanding any defect that may afterwards be discovered in his appointment or qualifications.

### **Powers of Minister in relation to Corporation**

9.—(1) The Minister may give to the Corporation any direction under section 5 of the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018.

*[Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018]*

(2) The Corporation shall furnish the Minister with such information or facilities for obtaining information with respect to its property and the exercise of its functions in such manner and at such times as the Minister may reasonably require.

## **PART III**

### **TRANSFER TO CORPORATION OF GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKINGS, EMPLOYEES, ETC**

#### **Transfer to Corporation of Government undertakings**

10.—(1) Upon the commencement of this Part, such vocational or industrial training institutions as were established by or vested in the Government for the purpose of training prisoners as the Minister may, after consultation with the Minister for Finance, determine shall be transferred to and shall vest in the Corporation without further assurance and such transfer shall include all lands, buildings, and other property, movable or immovable, assets, rights, privileges, obligations and liabilities held or enjoyed in connection therewith or appertaining thereto.

(2) Upon the commencement of this Part, such moneys held by the Government for the purpose of training prisoners in order to fit them

to earn their living after release as the Minister may, after consultation with the Minister for Finance, determine shall forthwith be paid and transferred to and held by the Corporation for the same purpose.

(3) All rights, privileges, obligations and liabilities which immediately before the commencement of this Part were held, enjoyed or incurred in connection with or appertaining to the vocational or industrial training institutions transferred under subsection (1) shall be deemed to be the rights, privileges, obligations and liabilities of the Corporation.

(4) Where anything has been commenced for the purpose of the vocational or industrial training institutions transferred under subsection (1), such thing may be carried on and completed by, or under the authority of, the Corporation.

(5) If any question arises as to which of the properties, movable or immovable, has been transferred to and vested in the Corporation under subsection (1) a certificate under the hand of the Minister for Finance shall be conclusive evidence of the vesting of such property in the Corporation.

### **Transfer of employees**

**11.—**(1) Upon the date of commencement of this Part —

(a) every person, other than prison officers, employed by the Government immediately before that date in the vocational or industrial training institutions transferred under section 10(1); and

(b) such other persons employed by the Government as the Minister may determine,

shall be transferred to the service of the Corporation on terms as near as may be to those they enjoyed immediately prior to their transfer and such terms (which shall be determined by the Corporation) shall take into account the salaries and conditions of service, including any accrued rights to leave, enjoyed by them while in the employment of the Government.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), such categories of persons who are transferred to the service of the Corporation, as the Minister may



determine, shall as soon as practicable be given the option of remaining in the service of the Government.

(3) Until such time as schemes and terms and conditions of service are drawn up by the Corporation, the regulations relating to salaries and terms and conditions of service in the Government shall continue to apply to every person transferred to the service of the Corporation under subsection (1).

### **Existing contracts**

**12.** All deeds, bonds, agreements, instruments and working arrangements subsisting immediately before the commencement of this Part affecting the vocational or industrial training institutions transferred under section 10(1) or any employee of the Government transferred to the service of the Corporation under section 11 shall be of full force and effect against or in favour of the Corporation and enforceable as fully and effectually as if, instead of the Government or any person acting on behalf of the Government, the Corporation had been named therein or had been a party thereto.

### **Pending proceedings**

**13.** A proceeding or cause of action pending or existing immediately before the commencement of this Part by or against the Government or any person acting on behalf of the Government in respect of the vocational or industrial training institutions transferred under section 10(1) and the rights, obligations and liabilities in connection therewith may be continued and enforced by or against the Corporation as it might have been by or against the Government or such person as if this Act had not been enacted.

### **No benefit for abolition or re-organisation of office**

**14.—(1)** Notwithstanding the provisions of the Pensions Act [Cap. 225], no person who is transferred to the service of the Corporation under section 11 shall be entitled to claim any benefit under the Pensions Act on the ground that he has been retired from the service of the Government on account of abolition or re-organisation of office in consequence of the establishment and incorporation of the Corporation under this Act.

(2) In every case where a person has been transferred to the service of the Corporation under section 11(1), the Government shall be liable to pay to the Corporation such portion of any gratuity, pension or allowance payable to that person or his dependants on his retirement, death or otherwise leaving the service of the Corporation as the same shall bear to the proportion which the aggregate amount of his pensionable emoluments during his service with the Government bears to the aggregate amount of his pensionable emoluments during his service under both the Government and the Corporation.

## PART IV

### FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF CORPORATION

#### **Functions of Corporation**

**15.** The functions of the Corporation shall be —

- (a) to manage and maintain the vocational or industrial training institutions transferred to the Corporation by this Act and such other institutions as the Corporation may establish under this Act for the employment, or vocational or industrial training of prisoners and inmates;  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (b) to provide or secure the provision of such employment or facilities for such training and to organise programmes therefor;
- (c) to provide technical training in skilled trades for suitable prisoners and inmates;  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (d) to promote the vocational skills of prisoners and inmates;  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (e) to provide any prisoner with work for the purposes of section 67 of the Prisons Act (Cap. 247);  
*[Act 1 of 2014 wef 01/07/2014]*

- (f) to advise the Government on all matters relating to the provision of vocational or industrial training and technical training in trades for prisoners and inmates; and  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (g) to provide or secure the provision of rehabilitative and aftercare services to prisoners and inmates before and after their discharge from custody and to assist the provision by others of such services.  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*

### **Powers**

**16.** The Corporation may do all things that are advantageous, necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may —

- (a) provide, whether by itself or with the co-operation of other persons, such vocational or industrial training schemes for any prisoner and inmate as the Corporation thinks fit;  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (b) carry on any trade or business whether by arrangement with other persons or by itself for the purpose of providing facilities for the training of or employment for prisoners and inmates;  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (c) pay such salaries, wages, remuneration or allowances as the Corporation thinks fit to prisoners and inmates who work for the Corporation;  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (d) acquire, hire, procure, construct, erect, manufacture, provide, operate, maintain or repair anything whatsoever required by the Corporation for the purposes of this Act;
- (e) levy such rates and charges for services performed as the Corporation may consider expedient;
- (f) receive donations and contributions from any source and raise funds by all lawful means;

- (g) make loans to persons, other than prisoners and inmates, who are employed by the Corporation (including loans to assist them to acquire housing accommodation) and guarantee loans made to persons so employed (including loans made by building societies and other bodies for housing purposes);  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (h) promote recreational activities for and activities conducive to the welfare of persons, other than prisoners and inmates, who are or have been engaged in the employment of the Corporation and assist the promotion by others of those activities;  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (i) enter into such contracts as the Corporation considers necessary for the discharge of its functions;
- (j) make grants or lend money to, or enter into guarantees on behalf of, any person or organisation in matters relating to the provision of industrial or vocational training for, or of rehabilitative and aftercare services to, prisoners and inmates before and after their discharge from custody;  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (ja) make grants or lend money to, or enter into guarantees on behalf of, prisoners and inmates after their discharge from custody for the purposes of any vocation, trade or business carrying on by them;  
*[23/1987 wef 01/11/1987]*
- (k) with the approval of the Minister, enter into joint ventures with any person or organisation, or cause to be formed under the provisions of the Companies Act [Cap. 50] an incorporated company or companies for the purpose of carrying out any of the functions of the Corporation; and
- (l) do all such other things as are incidental to or necessary for the performance of its functions.

### **Appointment of committees and delegation of powers**

17.—(1) The Corporation may appoint from among its own members or other persons who are not members such number of

committees as it thinks fit consisting of members or other persons or members and other persons for purposes which, in the opinion of the Corporation, would be better regulated and managed by means of those committees.

(2) The Corporation may, subject to such conditions or restrictions as it thinks fit, delegate to any such committee, the Chairman, any member or the chief executive officer all or any of the powers, functions and duties by this Act vested in the Corporation, except the power to borrow money; and any power, function or duty so delegated may be exercised or performed by that committee, the Chairman, member or the chief executive officer, as the case may be, in the name and on behalf of the Corporation.

(3) The Corporation may, subject to such conditions or restrictions as it thinks fit, delegate to any employee thereof all or any of the Corporation's powers, functions and duties by this Act vested in the Corporation, except the power to borrow money or to raise or grant loans or advances to or subscribe to or underwrite the issue of stocks, shares, bonds or debentures of industrial enterprises; and any power, function or duty so delegated may be exercised or performed by such employee in the name and on behalf of the Corporation.

(4) [*Deleted by Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018*]

## PART V

### PROVISIONS RELATING TO STAFF

#### **Chief executive officer**

**18.**—(1) There must be a chief executive officer of the Corporation, whose appointment, removal, discipline and promotion must be in accordance with the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018.

(2) The Corporation may, subject to the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018, appoint an individual to act temporarily as the chief executive officer during any period, or during all periods, when the chief executive officer —

(a) is absent from duty or Singapore; or

(b) is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

*[Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018]*

### **Staff and employees**

**19.** The Corporation may, subject to the Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018, appoint and employ, on such terms and conditions as it may determine, such other officers, employees, consultants and agents as may be necessary for the effective performance of its functions.

*[Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018]*

### **Pension schemes, provident fund, etc.**

**20.—**(1) The Corporation may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations for the establishment of a scheme or schemes for the payment of pensions, gratuities, provident fund or other superannuation benefits to such employees or classes of employees of the Corporation as it may determine, or to their legal personal representatives or dependants, on the death or retirement of such employees from the service of the Corporation or on their otherwise leaving the service of the Corporation.

(2) Where any person in the service of the Corporation, who does not come within the scope and effect of any pension or other schemes established under this section, retires or dies in the service of the Corporation or is discharged from that service, the Corporation may grant to him or to such other person or persons wholly or partly dependent on him as the Corporation may think fit such allowance or gratuity as the Corporation may determine.

### **Remuneration of staff not to be related to profits**

**21.** No salary, fee, wage or other remuneration or allowance paid by the Corporation to any member, employee or agent shall be computed by reference to the profits of the Corporation.

### **Personal immunity of members and officers of Corporation**

**22.** No matter or thing done and no contract of any kind entered into by the Corporation and no matter or thing done by any member or by

any employee of the Corporation or any other person whomsoever acting under its direction shall, if the matter or thing was done or the contract was entered into bona fide for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, subject any such member or employee or any other person acting under its direction personally to any action, liability, claim or demand whatsoever in respect thereof.

**23.** [*Repealed by Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018*]

## PART VI

### FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

#### **Corporation's financial year**

**24.** The financial year of the Corporation shall begin on 1 April each year and end on 31 March of the following year.

[*Act 23/87 wef 01/11/1987*]

[*Act 2 of 2020 wef 10/02/2020*]

#### **Expenses**

**25.** All expenses incurred in carrying out the purposes of this Act shall be met from the funds of the Corporation.

#### **Minister's approval of estimates**

**26.—(1)** A copy of all annual estimates of revenue and expenditure and supplementary estimates must, upon their adoption by the Corporation, be sent without delay to the Minister.

(2) The Minister may approve or disallow any item or portion of any item shown in the annual estimates or supplementary estimates.

(3) The Minister must return the annual estimates or supplementary estimates as amended under subsection (2) to the Corporation, and the Corporation is bound by the Minister's decision.

(4) The estimates as approved by the Minister must be published in the *Gazette*.

[*Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018*]

**Grants**

**27.** For the purpose of enabling the Corporation to carry out its functions under this Act, the Minister may, from time to time, make grants to the Corporation of such sums of money as the Minister may determine out of moneys to be provided by Parliament.

**Loans**

**28.** The Corporation may, from time to time, for the purposes of this Act, raise loans from the Government or, with the consent of the Minister, from any source.

**Issue of shares, etc.**

**28A.** As a consequence of the vesting of any property, rights or liabilities of the Government in the Corporation under this Act, or of any capital injection or other investment by the Government in the Corporation in accordance with any written law, the Corporation shall issue such shares or other securities to the Minister for Finance as that Minister may from time to time direct.

*[5/2002 wef 15/07/2002]*

**Power of investment**

**29.** The Corporation may invest its moneys in accordance with the standard investment power of statutory bodies as defined in section 33A of the Interpretation Act (Cap. 1).

*[45/2004 wef 15/12/2004]*

**30. to 34.** *[Repealed by Act 5 of 2018 wef 01/04/2018]*

**PART VII****MISCELLANEOUS****Common seal**

**35.—(1)** The Corporation shall have a common seal and the seal may, from time to time, be broken, changed, altered and made anew as the Corporation thinks fit.

(2) All deeds, documents and other instruments requiring the seal of the Corporation shall be sealed with the common seal of the



Corporation and every instrument to which the common seal is affixed shall be signed by a member and shall be countersigned by the chief executive officer or by some other person duly authorised by the Corporation for the purpose, and such signing shall be sufficient evidence that the seal was duly and properly affixed and that the seal is the lawful seal of the Corporation.

(3) The Corporation may by resolution or otherwise appoint an officer of the Corporation or any other agent, either generally or in a particular case, to execute or sign on behalf of the Corporation any agreement or other instrument not under seal in relation to any matter coming within the powers of the Corporation.

(4) Section 12 of the Registration of Deeds Act [Cap. 269] shall not apply to any instrument purporting to have been executed under subsection (2).

### **Regulations**

**36.**—(1) The Corporation may, with the approval of the Minister, make such regulations as are necessary for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Corporation may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act regarding the appointment, promotion, dismissal, disciplinary control and terms and conditions of service of all employees of the Corporation.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY  
SINGAPORE CORPORATION OF REHABILITATIVE  
ENTERPRISES ACT  
(CHAPTER 298)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises Act. It is not part of the Act.

**1. Act 35 of 1975 — Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises Act 1975**

Date of First Reading	:	29 July 1975 (Bill No. 38/1975 published on 5 August 1975)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	19 August 1975
Date of commencement	:	7 November 1975 (Except Part III) 1 April 1976 (Part III)

**2. 1985 Revised Edition — Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises Act**

Date of operation	:	30 March 1987
-------------------	---	---------------

**3. Act 23 of 1987 — Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (Amendment) Act 1987**

Date of First Reading	:	28 July 1987 (Bill No. 16/1987 published on 30 July 1987)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	31 August 1987
Date of commencement	:	1 November 1987

**4. Act 5 of 2002 — Statutory Corporations (Capital Contribution) Act 2002**  
(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

Date of First Reading	:	3 May 2002 (Bill No. 7/2002 published on 4 May 2002)
Date of Second and Third Readings	:	24 May 2002
Dates of commencement	:	15 July 2002

**5. Act 45 of 2004 — Trustees (Amendment) Act 2004**

(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

- Date of First Reading : 21 September 2004  
(Bill No. 43/2004 published on  
22 September 2004)
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 19 October 2004
- Date of commencement : 15 December 2004

**6. Act 25 of 2009 — Quorums of Statutory Boards (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2009**

- Date of First Reading : 14 September 2009  
(Bill No. 19/2009 published on  
14 September 2009)
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 19 October 2009
- Date of commencement : 15 January 2010

**7. Act 1 of 2014 — Prisons (Amendment) Act 2014**

(Consequential amendments made to Act by)

- Date of First Reading : 11 November 2013 (Bill No.  
22/2013 published on  
11 November 2013)
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 21 January 2014
- Date of commencement : 1 July 2014

**8. Act 5 of 2018 — Public Sector (Governance) Act 2018**

- Date of First Reading : 6 November 2017 (Bill No.  
45/2017 published on  
6 November 2017)
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 8 January 2018
- Date of commencement : 1 April 2018

**9. Act 2 of 2020 — Statutes (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2020**

- Date of First Reading : 4 November 2019 (Bill No.  
36/2019 published on  
4 November 2019)
- Date of Second and Third Readings : 6 January 2020
- Date of commencement : 10 February 2020