Legal Research Process

1. Identify the scope of the legal question e.g. jurisdiction, applicable time period, legal issue
2. Consult a secondary source to identify any relevant legislation and cases
3. Use databases and digests to find more cases
4. Confirm the authority is still good law
5. Expand your search to fill any gaps
6. Keep a record of your research trail

(Modified from https://ox.libguides.com/c.php?g=423012&p=2888691)
What will be covered

• Introduction to Singapore legislation
• Reading legislation
• Legislative process
• Finding Singapore legislation
• Singapore legislation through the years
• Legislation - features
• Is it in force?
• Legislation judicially considered
• Tools to understand legislation
Singapore legislation

• Statutes/Acts
• Subsidiary legislation
• Bills
• Acts supplement
• Bills supplement
• Parliamentary reports
• Select Committee Reports
9A. —(1) In the interpretation of a provision of a written law, an interpretation that would promote the purpose or object underlying the written law (whether that purpose or object is expressly stated in the written law or not) shall be preferred to an interpretation that would not promote that purpose or object.
Reading legislation

(2) ...in the interpretation of a provision of a written law, if any material not forming part of the written law is capable of assisting in the ascertainment of the meaning of the provision, consideration may be given to that material —

(a) to confirm that the meaning of the provision is the ordinary meaning conveyed by the text of the provision taking into account its context in the written law and the purpose or object underlying the written law; or

(b) to ascertain the meaning of the provision when —

(i) the provision is ambiguous or obscure; or

(ii) the ordinary meaning conveyed by the text of the provision taking into account its context in the written law and the purpose or object underlying the written law leads to a result that is manifestly absurd or unreasonable.
(3) ...material that may be considered ... in the interpretation of a provision of a written law shall include —

(a) all matters not forming part of the written law that are set out in the document containing the text of the written law as printed by the Government Printer;

(b) any explanatory statement relating to the Bill containing the provision;

(c) the speech made in Parliament by a Minister on the occasion of the moving by that Minister of a motion that the Bill containing the provision be read a second time in Parliament;

(d) any relevant material in any official record of debates in Parliament;

...

(f) any document that is declared by the written law to be a relevant document for the purposes of this section.
The Bill is introduced to Parliament for consideration → First Reading → Bill

There will be a speech outlining the amendments and the objectives. → Second Reading

A Select Committee may be appointed to study the Bill and make recommendations → Third Reading

The Bill is put to a vote → Act of Parliament

President Council for Minority Rights and assented by the President

Gazette

Comes into operation on date published in the government gazette
Where to find SG legislation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation type</th>
<th>Sources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statutes</td>
<td>LawNet, Singapore Statutes Online, Lexis Advance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidiary legislation</td>
<td>LawNet, Singapore Statutes Online, Lexis Advance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills</td>
<td>LawNet, Singapore Statutes Online, Parliament of Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliamentary Debates</td>
<td>LawNet, Parliament of Singapore, Uppercase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select Committee Reports</td>
<td>LawNet, Parliament of Singapore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Singapore legislation through the years

http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/SGlawhistory/statutes
Demonstration

Locate the following documents:

1. The Central Provident Fund Act (Cap.36) ("CPF Act")
2. The relevant subsidiary legislation for the CPF Act
3. The Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill (Bill 21 of 2012)
Click here to view the relevant subsidiary legislation for this act.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short Title</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved Tertiary Institution</td>
<td>S 266/2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provident Fund (Approved HDB-HUDC Housing Scheme) Regulations</td>
<td>Cap. 36, RG 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provident Fund (Approved Housing Schemes) Regulations</td>
<td>Cap. 36, RG 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provident Fund (Approved Middle-Income Housing Scheme) Regulations</td>
<td>Cap. 36, RG 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provident Fund (Approved Mortgagees) Notification</td>
<td>Cap. 36, N 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provident Fund (Composition of Offences) Rules</td>
<td>Cap. 36, R 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provident Fund (Contributions to Community Fund [CDAC]) Rules</td>
<td>Cap. 36, R 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Provident Fund (Contributions to Community Fund [Eurasian Association]) Rules</td>
<td>Cap. 36, R 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To find bills, select “Bills Supplement”.
Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill

Bill No. 21/2012

Read the first time on 13th August 2012.

An Act to amend the Central Provident Fund Act (Chapter 36 of the 2001 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Act 2012 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the Gazette, appoint.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2 of the Central Provident Fund Act (referred to in this Act as the principal Act) is amended —
Exercise

Locate the following documents:

1. Mental Capacity Act
2. Land Surveyors (Exemption) Order
3. Criminal Law Reform Bill
Welcome to Singapore Statutes Online

This Singapore Government website provides free online access to Singapore’s legislation. This website is a PLUS initiative. We welcome your feedback.

Search

mental capacity

Mental Capacity Act

Mental Capacity Regulations 2010
Mental Capacity (Public Guardian Fees) Regulations 2010
Central Provident Fund (Mental Capacity) Regulations 2010
Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2016 (Commencement) Notification 2015

MENTAL CAPACITY ACT

(CHAPTER 177A)

(Original Enactment: Act 22 of 2008)

REVISED EDITION 2010

(31st March 2010)

An Act to make new provision relating to persons who lack capacity and to provide for matters connected therewith.

[1st March 2010]

PART I

PRELIMINARY
Welcome to Singapore Statutes Online

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Search

- Land Surveyors (Exemption) Order
- Current Acts and Subsidiary Legislation

LAND SURVEYORS ACT
(CHAPTER 156, SECTION 41(1))

LAND SURVEYORS (EXEMPTION) ORDER


REVISED EDITION 2002:
(31st January 2002)

[1st March 2000]

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as the Land Surveyors (Exemption) Order.

Exemption
Welcome to Singapore Statutes Online

This Singapore Government website provides free online access to Singapore’s legislation. This website is a PLUS initiative. We welcome your feedback.

Search

criminal law reform bill

Criminal Law Reform Bill

Bills Supplement

Browse

Current Acts

Criminal Law Reform Bill

Status: Published in Bills Supplement on 11 Feb 2019

Bill No. 6/2019
Read the first time: 11 February 2019

Criminal Law Reform Bill

Bill No. 6/2019
Read the first time on 11 February 2019.

An Act to amend the Penal Code (Chapter 224 of the 2008 Revised Edition) and certain other Acts, to update the criminal offences, keep up with technological changes and emerging crime trends, enhance protection for minors and vulnerable victims, harmonise the criminal laws and update the sentencing framework.

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act is the Criminal Law Reform Act 2019 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the Gazette.
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT
(CHAPTER 185)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Misuse of Drugs Act. It is not part of the Act.

   Date of First Reading
   : 22 November 1972
   (Bill No. 46/72 published on 25 November 1972)
   Date of Second and Third Readings
   : 16 February 1973
   Date of commencement
   : 7 July 1973

   Date of commencement
   : 15 February 1974

   Date of commencement
   : 27 March 1975

   Date of First Reading
   : 11 November 1975
   (Bill No. 55/75 published on 11 November 1975)
Changes to the Principal Act are made by the Amendment Acts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date of First Reading</th>
<th>Date of Second and Third Readings</th>
<th>Date of commencement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Bill No. 27/2012 published 2012)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Acts can also make changes to the act.
Is it in force?

An Act takes effect on the day it is **published** in the *Government Gazette Acts Supplement* or on “such date as the Minister may by **notification** in the Gazette appoint.”

→ Ensure that the legislation you’re looking at is in force or effective.
Exercise

Is the Mental Capacity Act still in force?

What is the date of the most recent amendment?
You can check if the act is still in force by checking its status in the top left-hand corner.
Demonstration

1. Explanatory statement for the Central Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill (Bill 21 of 2012)
2. Any parliamentary debates on the CPF Act
3. Select Committee Reports on the CPF Act (if any)
Explanatory statements can be located within the specific bill.
(m) by deleting paragraph (r).

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to amend the Central Provident Fund Act (Cap. 36) for the following main purposes:

(a) to provide for how the age of a member of the Central Provident Fund (the Fund) is to be reckoned, for the purposes of determining the rates of contributions applicable to the member, where the date, month or year of birth of the member cannot be ascertained;

(b) to empower the Central Provident Fund Board (the Board) to recompute the amount of contributions payable by a member or his employer in certain circumstances, and to provide for the member or his employer to pay the recomputed amount, if higher than the amount computed originally;

(c) to empower the Board to acquire and dispose of property, to perform all acts that bodies corporate may by law perform, and, with the approval of the Minister, to form or participate in the formation of any company or to enter into any joint venture or partnership for certain purposes;

(d) to provide for a reversal of a transfer of money standing to the credit of a member in the Fund, or a reversal of a credit or payment of money to or into a member’s account in the Fund, in certain circumstances, and for the treatment of interest paid or payable by the Board upon such a reversal;

(e) to empower the Board to retain excess voluntary contributions made by or on behalf of a person, and set off the retained excess voluntary contributions against any contribution or interest that is or may become due to the Board from that person, in certain circumstances;

(f) to make certain refinements to the law relating to —

(i) the setting aside or topping-up of certain amounts (including the minimum sum) in a member’s retirement account and medisave account, when the member becomes entitled to withdraw the sum standing to his
Parliamentary debates can be found on the parliament website, under “Parliamentary Business”.
OFFICIAL REPORTS - PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

To browse Official Reports - Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), please click here.
You can select “Search within titles only” to refine your search.
RESULTS

Showing results 1 to 20 of 196

1. CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL
   Sitting Date: 6-11-2017, Vol:94

2. CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL
   Sitting Date: 2-10-2017, Vol:94

3. CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (AMENDMENT NO 2) BILL
   Sitting Date: 10-10-2016, Vol:94

4. CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (AMENDMENT NO.2) BILL
   Sitting Date: 13-9-2016, Vol:94

5. CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL
   Sitting Date: 29-2-2016, Vol:94

6. CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL
   Sitting Date: 26-1-2016, Vol:94
Order for Second Reading read.

1.20 pm

The Second Minister for Manpower (Mrs Josephine Teo): Mr Speaker, I beg to move, “That the Bill be now read a Second time.”

This Bill will amend the CPF Act in three areas. First, it will allow more CPF members to make CPF transfers to their parents and grandparents. Second, it
Select committee reports can also be found on the parliament website, under “Parliamentary Business”.
SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

To browse Select Committee Reports, please click here.
## RESULTS

Note: Should you wish to view/download files larger than 5MB, it may take more than 3 minutes, depending on network traffic and your data plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL [BILL No. 3/81]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report Presentation Date: 13-07-1981 Fifth Parliament, Session 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[File Size: 317 KB] View / Download</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CENTRAL PROVIDENT FUND (AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL [BILL NO. 18/76]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report Presentation Date: 25-09-1976 Fourth Parliament, Session 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[File Size: 552 KB] View / Download</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise

Locate the following documents:

1. Explanatory notes on the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill
2. Parliamentary debates on the online falsehoods
3. Select Committee Report on online falsehood laws
To find the explanatory notes, you first need to locate the relevant bill.
This Bill seeks to —

(a) prevent the electronic communication of false statements of fact in Singapore in certain circumstances;

(b) enable measures to be taken to counteract the effects of such communication;

(c) enable measures to be taken to suppress the financing, promotion and other support of online locations that repeatedly communicate false statements of fact in Singapore;

(d) enable measures to be taken to detect, control and safeguard against coordinated inauthentic behaviour and other misuses of online accounts and bots; and

(e) enable measures to be taken to enhance transparency for paid content directed towards a political end.

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Part 1 (comprising clauses 1 to 6) introduces the fundamental concepts used in the Bill.

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 defines terms and expressions used in the Bill. In particular —

(a) the clause defines a statement as any word, number, image (moving or otherwise), sound, symbol or other representation, or a combination of any of these;

(b) the clause defines a statement of fact as one that a reasonable person perceiving it would consider to be a representation
SEARCH REPORTS

By Keyword

- online falsehoods

- Search within titles only (eg: title of question or title of bill)

By Date Range

- All (1955 to Current)

Search Options

- with all the words

By Parliament

- Legislative Assembly (1955 To 1965)
- 1st (08-12-1965 To 08-02-1968)
- 2nd (08-05-1968 To 16-08-1972)
- 3rd (12-10-1972 To 06-12-1976)
- 4th (07-02-1977 To 04-12-1980)
- 5th (03-02-1981 To 03-12-1984)
- 6th (25-02-1985 To 16-08-1988)
- 7th (09-01-1989 To 13-08-1991)
- 8th (06-01-1992 To 15-12-1996)
- 9th (26-05-1997 To 17-10-2001)
- 10th (25-03-2002 To 20-04-2006)
- 11th (08-10-2006 To 10-04-2014)

[Reset] [Search]
RESULTS

Showing results 1 to 8 of 8

1. EFFORTS TO EDUCATE AND RAISE AWARENESS FOR PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION ACT
   
   Sitting Date: 8-7-2019, Vol:94

2. PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION BILL
   
   Sitting Date: 8-5-2019, Vol:94

3. PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION BILL
   
   Sitting Date: 8-5-2019, Vol:94

4. PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION BILL
   
   Sitting Date: 7-5-2019, Vol:94

5. PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION BILL
   
   Sitting Date: 7-5-2019, Vol:94

6. PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION BILL
   
   Sitting Date: 1-4-2019, Vol:94
Please click the links on the right to access the various Parliamentary Business items.
SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEARCH REPORTS

By Report Title
online falsehood

By Committee Type
All Committees

By Parliament
Legislative Assembly (1955 To 1965)
1st (08-12-1965 To 08-02-1968)
2nd (06-05-1968 To 16-08-1972)
3rd (12-10-1972 To 05-12-1975)
4th (07-02-1977 To 04-12-1980)
5th (03-02-1981 To 03-12-1984)

By Report Presentation Dates
From
1
1
1955

To
9
9
2019

Search
Reset
Note: Should you wish to view/download files larger than 5MB, it may take more than 3 minutes, depending on network traffic and your data plan.

1. Report of the Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehood

- Part B Vol 1 - Written Representations  [File Size: 78.8 MB]  View / Download
- Part B Vol 2 - Written Representations  [File Size: 164.6 MB]  View / Download
- Part B Vol 3 - Written Representations  [File Size: 43.8 MB]  View / Download
- Part C Vol 1 - Minutes of Evidence  [File Size: 2.4 MB]  View / Download
- Part C Vol 2 - Minutes of Evidence and Addendum  [File Size: 1.8 MB]  View / Download

Report Presentation Date: 20-09-2018 Thirteenth Parliament, Session 2
Legislation judicially considered

• How do you locate legislation cited in a case?
  1. LawNet
  2. Mallal’s legislation citator
  3. Singapore Law Reports (Print), ‘Table of Legislation Referred To’
Secondary Sources

• Halsbury’s Laws
• Treatises eg. textbooks
• Journal articles
Q&A