

National Symbols Bill

Bill No. 21/2022.

Read the first time on 2 August 2022.

NATIONAL SYMBOLS ACT 2022

(No. of 2022)

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 - First Schedule — National symbols of Singapore
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-

A BILL

intituled

An Act to set out and declare the national symbols and presidential symbols of Singapore and to regulate their use, to repeal the Singapore Arms and Flag and National Anthem Act 1959, and to make related amendments to certain other Acts.

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

PART 1
PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

5 1. This Act is the National Symbols Act 2022 and comes into operation on a date that the Minister appoints by notification in the *Gazette*.

Interpretation

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

10 “canton”, in relation to a flag, means the top left quarter of the obverse of the flag;

“national symbol” means a national symbol of Singapore declared by Part 2;

“presidential symbol” means a presidential symbol of Singapore declared by Part 3.

15

PART 2

NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF SINGAPORE

National Flag

3.—(1) The design and description of the National Flag of Singapore are set out in Part 1 of the First Schedule.

20 (2) The National Flag of Singapore is declared to be a national symbol of Singapore.

National Anthem

4.—(1) The lyrics and music of the National Anthem of Singapore are set out in Part 2 of the First Schedule.

25 (2) The National Anthem of Singapore is declared to be a national symbol of Singapore.

National Pledge

5.—(1) The words of the National Pledge of Singapore are set out, in each of the 4 official languages, in Part 3 of the First Schedule.

(2) The National Pledge of Singapore is declared to be a national symbol of Singapore. 5

National Coat of Arms

6.—(1) The design and description of the National Coat of Arms of Singapore are set out in Part 4 of the First Schedule.

(2) The National Coat of Arms of Singapore is declared to be a national symbol of Singapore. 10

(3) The National Coat of Arms of Singapore may also be called the State Crest of Singapore.

Public seal

7.—(1) The design and description of the public seal of Singapore are set out in Part 5 of the First Schedule. 15

(2) The public seal of Singapore is declared to be a national symbol of Singapore.

(3) The public seal of Singapore is to be kept by the President.

Lion Head symbol

8. The Lion Head symbol, as depicted in Part 6 of the First Schedule, is declared to be a national symbol of Singapore. 20

National flower

9.—(1) The national flower of Singapore is specified in Part 7 of the First Schedule.

(2) The national flower of Singapore is declared to be a national symbol of Singapore. 25

PART 3

PRESIDENTIAL SYMBOLS OF SINGAPORE

Presidential Standard

5 **10.**—(1) The design and description of the Presidential Standard are set out in Part 1 of the Second Schedule.

(2) The Presidential Standard is declared to be a presidential symbol of Singapore.

Presidential Coat of Arms

10 **11.**—(1) The design and description of the Presidential Coat of Arms are set out in Part 2 of the Second Schedule.

(2) The Presidential Coat of Arms is declared to be a presidential symbol of Singapore.

(3) The Presidential Coat of Arms may also be called the Presidential Crest.

15 **Seal of President**

12.—(1) The design and description of the seal of the President are set out in Part 3 of the Second Schedule.

(2) The seal of the President is declared to be a presidential symbol of Singapore.

20 (3) The seal of the President is to be kept by the President.

PART 4

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Amendment of Schedules

25 **13.** The President may, by Proclamation in the *Gazette*, amend any of the Schedules in relation to any aspect or description of a national symbol or presidential symbol.

Regulations

14.—(1) The President may make regulations for the purposes of this Act.

- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the regulations may —
- (a) regulate the circumstances and manner in which a national symbol or presidential symbol may be used; 5
 - (b) enable a prescribed person to permit or prohibit the use of a national symbol or presidential symbol, and provide for appeals against the prescribed person’s decisions;
 - (c) provide that the contravention of a regulation is an offence; 10
and
 - (d) prescribe the penalty for an offence under the regulations, which penalty must not exceed a fine of \$30,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or both.

Consent of Public Prosecutor 15

15. A prosecution under this Act may only be instituted by or with the consent of the Public Prosecutor.

PART 5

REPEAL AND RELATED AMENDMENTS

Repeal of Singapore Arms and Flag and National Anthem Act 1959 20

16. The Singapore Arms and Flag and National Anthem Act 1959 is repealed.

Related amendment to Evidence Act 1893

17. Section 59(1) of the Evidence Act 1893 is amended by deleting paragraph (f) and substituting the following paragraph:

5 “(f) the public seal, the seal of the President, the seals of
all the courts in Singapore, the seals of notaries
public, all seals that any person is authorised to use by
any law in force for the time being in Singapore, and
all seals of which English courts take judicial notice;”.

Related amendment to Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act 2021

18. Section 117(1) of the Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act 2021 is amended by deleting the words “National Emblems” in paragraph (b)(iv) and substituting the words “Foreign National Emblems”.

Related amendments to National Emblems (Control of Display) Act 1949

19. The National Emblems (Control of Display) Act 1949 is amended —

20 (a) by deleting the words “national emblems” in the following provisions and substituting in each case the words “foreign national emblems”:

Long title

Section 3 (section heading);

25 (b) by deleting the words “National Emblems” in section 1 and substituting the words “Foreign National Emblems”;

- (c) by deleting the definition of “national emblem” in section 2 and substituting the following definition:

““foreign national emblem” means any flag, banner or other emblem being or purporting to be the flag, banner or other emblem of any state, or the flag, banner or other emblem of any political organisation claiming to be a national movement in any state or any likeness or resemblance however reproduced of any national leader or former national leader of any state or the leader or former leader of any such political organisation;”; and

- (d) by deleting the words “national emblem” in the following provisions and substituting in each case the words “foreign national emblem”:

Section 3(1)

Section 4(a) and (b)

Section 5

Section 7

Section 8(1)(a) and (b).

FIRST SCHEDULE

Sections 3(1), 4(1), 5(1), 6(1), 7(1), 8
and 9(1)

NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF SINGAPORE

PART 1

NATIONAL FLAG



1. The National Flag of Singapore consists of 2 equal horizontal sections, red above white. In the canton is a white crescent moon beside 5 white stars arranged in a circle. The ratio of the width to the length is 2:3.

2. Red symbolises universal fellowship and equality. White signifies pervading and everlasting purity and virtue. The crescent moon represents a young nation on the ascendant, and the 5 stars stand for the nation's ideals of democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality.

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 2

NATIONAL ANTHEM

MAJULAH SINGAPURA

Lyrics and music by Zubir Said

$\text{♩} = 116$

Ma-ri ki - ta rak - yat Si-nga-pu -

ra Sa - ma sa-ma me - nu - ju ba-ha-gi a. Ci-ta ci -

ta ki - ta yang mu-li-a Ber - ja-ya Si-nga-pu -

ra! Ma-ri - lah ki - ta ber - sa - tu, Denganse -

ma - ngat yang ba - ru. Se-mu - a ki - ta ber-se -

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

ru Ma - ju-lah Si-nga-pu - ra,

Ma - ju-lah Si-nga-pu - ra! Ma-ri - ra!

MAJULAH SINGAPURA

Mari kita rakyat Singapura
 Sama-sama menuju bahagia
 Cita-cita kita yang mulia
 Berjaya Singapura
 Marilah kita bersatu
 Dengan semangat yang baru
 Semua kita berseru
 Majulah Singapura
 Majulah Singapura

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 3

NATIONAL PLEDGE

We, the citizens of Singapore,
pledge ourselves as one united people,
regardless of race, language or religion,
to build a democratic society based on justice and equality
so as to achieve happiness, prosperity and progress for our nation.

Kami, warganegara Singapura,
sebagai rakyat yang bersatu padu,
tidak kira apa bangsa, bahasa, atau ugama,
berikrar untuk membina suatu masyarakat yang demokratik,
berdasarkan kepada keadilan dan persamaan untuk mencapai kebahagiaan,
kemakmuran dan kemajuan bagi negara Kami.

我们是新加坡公民，
誓愿不分种族、言语、宗教，
团结一致，建设公正平等的民主社会，
并为实现国家之幸福、繁荣与进步，共同努力。

சிங்கப்பூர்க் குடிமக்களாகிய நாம் இனம், மொழி, மதம்
ஆகிய வேற்றுமைகளை மறந்து ஒன்றுபட்டு நம் நாடு
மகிழ்ச்சி, வளம், முன்னேற்றம் ஆகியவற்றை அடையும் வண்ணம்
சமத்துவத்தையும் நீதியையும் அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்ட
ஜனநாயக சமுதாயத்தை உருவாக்குவதற்கு
உறுதி மேற்கொள்வோமாக.

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 4

NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS



1. The National Coat of Arms of Singapore consists of a shield emblazoned with a white crescent moon and 5 white stars against a red background. The shield is supported by a lion on the left and a tiger on the right. Below the shield is a banner with the words “Majulah Singapura”.

2. The colours and elements of the shield are based on the National Flag of Singapore. The lion represents Singapore, the Lion City; the tiger represents Singapore’s historical links with Malaysia. “Majulah Singapura” is the motto of Singapore.

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 5

PUBLIC SEAL



The public seal of Singapore consists of the National Coat of Arms of Singapore encircled by the words “Republic of Singapore”.

FIRST SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 6

LION HEAD SYMBOL



PART 7

NATIONAL FLOWER

The Vanda Miss Joaquim (*Papilionanthe* Miss Joaquim) is the national flower of Singapore.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Sections 10(1), 11(1) and 12(1)

PRESIDENTIAL SYMBOLS OF SINGAPORE

PART 1

PRESIDENTIAL STANDARD



1. The Presidential Standard is based on the canton of the National Flag of Singapore. The ratio of the width to the length is 2:3.
2. The Presidential Standard represents the President, the Head of State of Singapore.

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 2

PRESIDENTIAL COAT OF ARMS



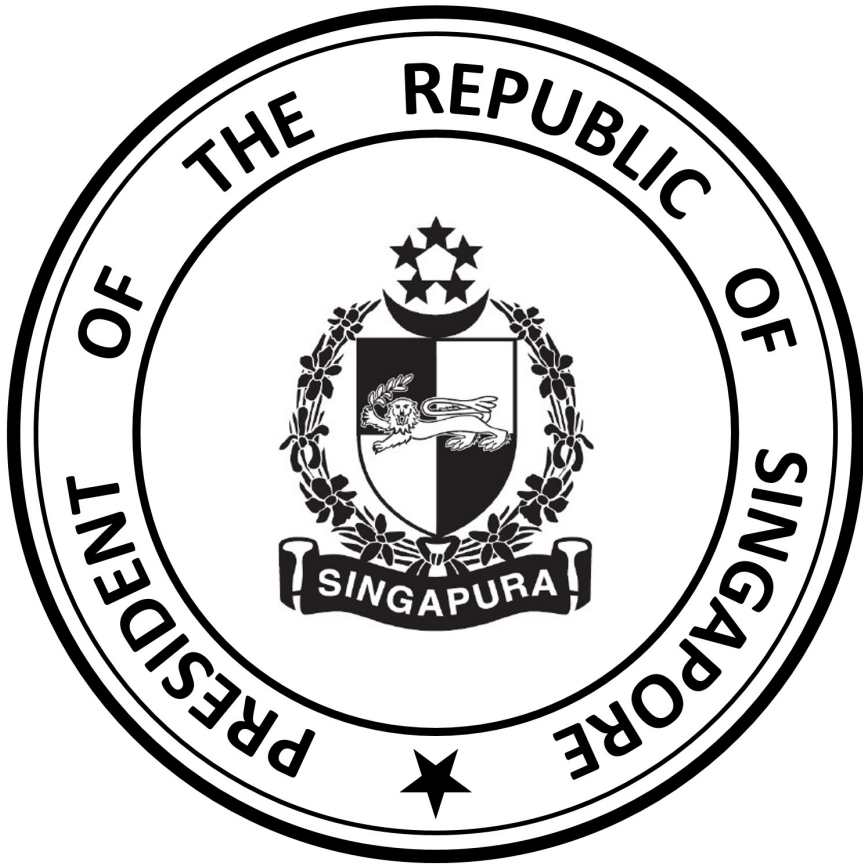
1. The Presidential Coat of Arms consists of a shield emblazoned with a lion carrying a stalk of laurel against a red and white background. The shield is crowned by a crescent moon and 5 stars, and encircled by an orchid wreath. Below the wreath is a red banner with the word “Singapura”.

2. The red and white colours, and the crescent moon and 5 stars, are based on the National Flag of Singapore. The lion carrying a stalk of laurel symbolises victory and glory to Singapore, the Lion City. The shield symbolises the oath of the Head of State to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore.

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 3

SEAL OF PRESIDENT



The seal of the President consists of the Presidential Coat of Arms encircled by the words "President of the Republic of Singapore".

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This Bill seeks to —

- (a) set out and declare the national symbols and presidential symbols of Singapore and regulate their use;
- (b) repeal the Singapore Arms and Flag and National Anthem Act 1959; and
- (c) make related amendments to certain other Acts.

Part 1 (clauses 1 and 2) contains preliminary provisions.

Clause 1 relates to the short title and commencement.

Clause 2 relates to interpretation.

Part 2 (clauses 3 to 9) and the First Schedule set out and declare 7 national symbols: the National Flag, the National Anthem, the National Pledge, the National Coat of Arms, the public seal, the Lion Head symbol and the national flower (the Vanda Miss Joaquim). The description of the symbolism of the National Flag is updated so as to be gender neutral.

Part 3 (clauses 10, 11 and 12) and the Second Schedule set out and declare 3 presidential symbols: the Presidential Standard, the Presidential Coat of Arms and the seal of the President.

Part 4 (clauses 13, 14 and 15) contains general provisions.

Clause 13 enables the President to amend any of the Schedules in relation to any aspect or description of a national symbol or a presidential symbol.

Clause 14 enables the President to make regulations for the purposes of the Bill.

Clause 15 requires prosecutions under the Bill to be instituted by or with the consent of the Public Prosecutor.

Part 5 (clauses 16 to 19) repeals and amends other legislation.

Clause 16 repeals the Singapore Arms and Flag and National Anthem Act 1959.

Clause 17 replaces section 59(1)(f) of the Evidence Act 1893 to require the courts to notice the public seal and the seal of the President.

Clause 18 amends a reference to the National Emblems (Control of Display) Act 1949 in section 117(1)(b)(iv) of the Foreign Interference (Countermeasures) Act 2021, in consequence of the renaming of the former Act by clause 19.

Clause 19 renames and amends the National Emblems (Control of Display) Act 1949 so that that Act refers to “foreign national emblems” instead of “national emblems”. This will more accurately reflect the scope of that Act, and will also avoid confusion with the Bill.

EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY

This Bill will not involve the Government in any extra financial expenditure.
