

Queensland



ANNO TRICESIMO SEPTIMO

ELIZABETHAE SECUNDAE REGINAE



**No. 60 of 1988**

**An Act to provide with respect to entitlements to  
superannuation or retirement benefits funded to any  
extent from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of persons  
convicted of certain offences and for related purposes**

[ASSENTED TO 8TH SEPTEMBER, 1988]

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BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1. Short Title.** This Act may be cited as the *Public Officers' Superannuation Benefits Recovery Act 1988*.

**2. Commencement.** (1) Section 1 and this section shall commence on the day this Act is assented to for and on behalf of Her Majesty.

(2) Except as provided by subsection (1) the provisions of this Act shall commence on a day to be appointed by Proclamation.

The day so appointed is in this Act referred to as the commencement of this Act.

**3. Arrangement.** This Act is arranged in Parts as follows:—

PART I—PRELIMINARY (ss. 1-5);

PART II—COURT ORDERS ON CONVICTED PERSONS (ss. 6-11);

PART III—RESTRAINING ORDERS (ss. 12-20);

PART IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (ss. 21-30);

PART V—DEFERRED RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS (ss. 31-38).

**4. Interpretation.** (1) In this Act, except where a contrary intention appears—

“convicted person” means a publicly funded superannuant who is convicted of an offence that is a prescribed offence committed by him while he held public office, thereby incurring a liability to the Crown as prescribed by section 6 (1);

“employment” includes—

- (a) holding office as a member of the Legislative Assembly;
- (b) holding a judicial office;
- (c) holding any office of a public nature;

“Crown” means the Crown in right of Queensland;

“interest” means interest at the rate for the time being prescribed pursuant to section 73 of the *Common Law Practice Act 1867-1981* calculated at that rate compound;

“office” includes any position held by a person at any material time in his employment;

“Minister” means the Minister for Finance and Minister Assisting the Premier and Treasurer or other Minister of the Crown for the time being charged with the administration of this Act;

“prescribed offence” means an indictable offence consisting wholly or partly in conduct whereby the offender—

- (a) has been corrupt in discharging any of the duties of a public office held by him;
- (b) has corruptly neglected to discharge any of the duties of a public office held by him;
- (c) has corruptly used a public office held by him;
- (d) has corruptly asked for, received or agreed to receive or corruptly attempted to obtain any property, benefit, service, or advantage for himself or another in circumstances that include, as a relevant circumstance, the offender’s holding a public office.

“property” means any land, tenement, article or thing, corporeal or incorporeal, (including a debt or thing in action) in which a person is capable in law of holding or having an estate, right or interest;

“public office” means an office such that upon the holder thereof retiring therefrom or ceasing to hold the office he would become a publicly funded superannuant;

“Public Trustee” means The Public Trustee of Queensland constituted as a corporation sole by the Public Trustee Act 1978;

“publicly funded superannuant” means a person whose superannuation or retirement benefits are funded to any extent from the Consolidated Revenue Fund;

“superannuation or retirement benefits” includes—

- (a) benefits payable under a superannuation scheme to or in respect of a person who has resigned from employment upon or after attaining an age at which he may retire and receive such benefits;
- (b) benefits payable under a superannuation scheme to or in respect of a person whose employment has terminated, irrespective of age, and who is entitled to such benefits;
- (c) benefits preserved in or paid to a superannuation scheme on account of a person who has resigned from employment otherwise than in circumstances referred to in paragraph (a);
- (d) benefits payable under a superannuation scheme to or in respect of a person who has retired from employment by reason of incapacity and is entitled to such benefits,  
and
- (e) any benefit payable to a person employed under a contract of employment upon termination or non-renewal of the contract, being a benefit in the nature of a superannuation payment and not in the nature of a severance payment;

“superannuation scheme” means a scheme, whether established under an Act or otherwise, for the payment of superannuation

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or retirement benefits that are funded wholly or partly from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

(2) In this Act, the expression “bona fide purchaser for value” means a purchaser who has acquired the property in question in good faith for a consideration that reflects the value of the property at the time of its acquisition by the purchaser, having regard solely to commercial considerations.

(3) Where a person has been convicted of any prescribed offence or prescribed offences to which this Act applies, committed within a specified period, but—

(a) on a date or dates unknown;

or

(b) on a date or dates unknown as to one or more of the offences and on a specified date or specified dates as to another or other of the offences,

then for the purpose of applying any provision of section 8 in respect of that person it shall be deemed that he first committed such a prescribed offence—

(c) in the case referred to in paragraph (a), on the date on which the specified period terminated;

or

(d) in the case referred to in paragraph (b), on the earliest known date on which he committed such a prescribed offence.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of *The Criminal Code* or any other Act, for the purposes of this Act—

(a) a person's summary conviction of an indictable offence does not affect the nature of his offence as indictable or otherwise prevent his offence being a prescribed offence as defined by this Act;

(b) a person shall be taken to have been convicted of an offence if he has pleaded or been found guilty of the offence and a conviction has been recorded by the court, regardless of the nature of any order made in relation to the person in respect of the offence.

(5) Where for the purposes of this Act the superannuation or retirement benefits of any person are to be assessed as a commutation value, that value shall be taken to be the value of those benefits expressed as a lump sum and shall include—

(a) in a case where on his retirement the person has received payment of an additional amount (because of the commutation to a lump sum of the whole of his benefits under the relevant superannuation scheme) or was entitled to receive payment of an additional amount (if he had elected for such a commutation) in respect of a benefit that would accrue under the scheme to any spouse or dependant

- of the person on cessation of a pension benefit under the scheme, the amount of that payment;
- (b) in a case of a superannuation scheme that provides for a benefit to any spouse or dependant of the person on cessation of a pension benefit under the scheme and to which paragraph (a) does not apply, the commutation value (expressed in accordance with actuarial principles) of the benefit to the spouse or dependant as at the date of retirement of the person;
  - and
  - (c) the commutation value of any benefits preserved in or paid to a superannuation scheme on account of the person.
- (6) For the purposes of this Act, a period of employment of a person shall be deemed to have continued uninterrupted notwithstanding that—
- (a) being a member of the Legislative Assembly, the person has, in addition to being a member, held an office in the Assembly or an office under the Crown or, at any time or from time to time within that period, the person has not served as a member;
  - (b) being the holder of judicial office, the person has been appointed to any other judicial office or to an additional public office;
  - (c) being an officer of the public service holding an office in a department of government of the State, the person has been appointed or assigned to any other office in that department or to an office in another department;
  - (d) being a member of the police force of the State of a particular rank and serving in a particular capacity, the person has acquired another rank or has been assigned to serve in another capacity;
  - (e) being an employee in any position in a department of government of the State, the person has been appointed or assigned to any other position in that department or to a position in another department;
  - (f) being the holder of a public office other than one hereinbefore referred to, the person has been appointed to an additional public office or any other public office, in either case other than one hereinbefore referred to.

**5. Application of Act.** For the purposes of the application of this Act it is immaterial whether the prescribed offence in question was committed after the commencement of this Act or at any time before the commencement of this Act.

## PART II—COURT ORDERS ON CONVICTED PERSONS

**6. Pecuniary liability upon conviction.** (1) A publicly funded superannuant who is convicted after the commencement of this Act of

an offence that is a prescribed offence committed by him while he held a public office thereby incurs a liability to pay to the Crown a sum assessed in accordance with section 8.

(2) A liability incurred under subsection (1) no longer exists if, upon appeal, the conviction constituted or deemed to be constituted by the plea or finding of guilty of the offence is quashed but shall revive if the conviction is reinstated upon further appeal.

**7. Assessment of liability.** (1) Application may be made by the Minister to a judge of the Supreme Court to assess the quantum of liability incurred by a person under section 6 (1).

(2) If the judge hearing the application is satisfied that—

- (a) the person convicted of the offence or offences to which the application relates is a publicly funded superannuant;
- (b) the application relates to one or more prescribed offences; and
- (c) the liability incurred under section 6 (1) by the person upon his conviction of that prescribed offence or those prescribed offences subsists,

the judge shall order the person to pay to the Treasurer on behalf of the Crown a sum, considered by the judge to be just and equitable, assessed by him in accordance with section 8.

**8. Factors relevant to assessment of liability.** (1) In assessing the quantum of liability incurred by a convicted person under section 6 (1)—

- (a) the quantum of liability shall not exceed the difference between—

the commutation value of the whole of the convicted person's superannuation or retirement benefits at the time of his retirement (assessed in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the relevant superannuation scheme or, if the relevant superannuation scheme does not include such appropriate provisions, in accordance with actuarial principles), being the benefits that have accrued in respect of the period of the convicted person's employment in which he was engaged when he committed the prescribed offence or offences of which he has been convicted, together with interest thereon for the prescribed period;

and

the amount of contributions paid by the convicted person to the relevant superannuation scheme constituted as required by subsection (2), being the contributions that have been paid in respect of the period of the convicted person's employment in which he was engaged when he

- committed the prescribed offence or offences of which he has been convicted;
- (b) without limiting the matters that a judge may consider relevant to such assessment of liability, a judge may have regard to the following matters and to such evidence as is before him concerning those matters:—
- (i) the proportion borne by the length of the convicted person's service in public office before he first committed an offence by reference to which he has incurred the liability to the length of his total service in public office;
  - (ii) the nature of the offence or offences upon conviction of which the convicted person has incurred the liability and the degree of corruption evidenced by that offence or those offences;
  - (iii) the value of the gain to any person from the offence or offences upon conviction of which the convicted person has incurred the liability;
  - (iv) the degree of hardship likely to be occasioned by the convicted person's complying with an order made under section 7 (2) to the convicted person's spouse or dependant (if any) who satisfies the judge that she or he was not aware of the conduct that has resulted in the convicted person's incurring the liability.
- (2) The amount of contributions referred to in paragraph (a) of subsection (1) shall include—
- (a) where the superannuation scheme to which the contributions have been paid provides, in the event of a refund of contributions, for payment of interest thereon at a specified rate, interest accumulated on his contributions at that rate to the time of retirement of the convicted person;
  - (b) where the superannuation scheme to which the contributions have been paid provides, in the event of a person ceasing to be a contributor (other than by reason of death) and not being entitled to a pension or other superannuation benefit under the scheme, for payment of a sum in excess of the amount of the contributions, the amount of that excess;
  - (c) interest on the amount of contributions (including the interest or excess referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), whichever is appropriate) for the prescribed period.
- (3) In this section—
- (a) the expression "prescribed period" means the period commencing on the date of retirement of the convicted person and terminating on the day of making the order under section 7 (2);
  - (b) the expression "contributions" includes deductions made from salary in respect of the convicted person for the purposes of a superannuation scheme;
  - (c) the expression "hardship" includes—
    - (i) hardship to the spouse or dependant of a convicted person during the convicted person's lifetime;

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and

- (ii) hardship to the spouse or dependant of a convicted person consisting in the loss of entitlement to superannuation or retirement benefits that would have accrued to the spouse or dependant in the event of the convicted person's death had he not been convicted of a prescribed offence or prescribed offences.

**9. Liability is a judgment debt.** (1) The quantum of liability assessed by an order made under section 7 (2), or as finally determined upon any appeal against that order, and outstanding for the time being shall accumulate and include interest thereon for the period commencing on the day of making the order and terminating on the date of payment of the liability.

(2) The liability consisting in the quantum thereof referred to in subsection (1), or any part of that quantum, together with interest accrued on that quantum or part as prescribed by that subsection constitutes a judgment debt due to the Crown by the convicted person in respect of whom the quantum of liability is assessed.

(3) The order made under section 7 (2) that creates the judgment debt may be enforced as if it were an order made in civil proceedings in an action for debt instituted by the Crown against the person to whom the order relates.

(4) The provisions of sections 72 and 73 of the *Common Law Practice Act 1867-1981* do not apply in respect of proceedings instituted for the purposes of section 7.

**10. Notification of application; appearance on application.** (1) If a convicted person in respect of whom an application is made under section 7 (1) is known by the applicant to have a spouse or dependant, notification of the making of the application and of the day on which it is to be heard shall be given by the applicant to the spouse or dependant, as the case may require, of whom the applicant has knowledge.

(2) All persons who, in the opinion of the judge hearing an application under section 7 (1), have a legitimate interest in the outcome of the application may appear and be heard and adduce evidence upon the application.

**11. Compulsory commutation of pension benefits.** (1) Where an order under section 7 (2) has been made against a person who is receiving superannuation or retirement benefits as pension, being the benefits that have accrued in respect of the period of the person's employment in which he was engaged when he committed the prescribed offence or offences of which he has been convicted, the entitlement of that person to future payments of such pension shall cease and his entitlement to such superannuation or retirement benefits shall be as if, upon his retirement, he had duly elected (and for the purposes of this section every such person shall be deemed to have been entitled to so elect notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act) to take the



whole of such benefits as a lump sum (being the commutation value of those benefits), together with interest on that sum for the prescribed period, less—

- (a) the amount that has been paid on his account as or in connexion with such pension together with interest on each payment of such pension for the prescribed period;
  - (b) the amount that has been paid on his account as or in connexion with a lump sum (if any) assessed by reference to such benefits together with interest thereon for the prescribed period;
- and
- (c) the quantum of his liability assessed by the order made under section 7 (2), or as finally determined upon any appeal against that order, together with interest thereon for the prescribed period.

(2) In subsection (1) the expression “prescribed period” means—

- (a) in relation to interest on the lump sum first-mentioned in that subsection, the period commencing on the date of retirement of the convicted person and terminating on the date of payment of the quantum of his liability referred to in paragraph (c) of that subsection from the funds of the superannuation scheme in which that person has his entitlement;
- (b) in relation to interest on an amount referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) thereof, the period commencing on the date of payment of the pension payment or, as the case may be, the lump sum and terminating on the date of payment of the quantum of liability referred to in paragraph (c) thereof from the funds of the superannuation scheme in which the convicted person has his entitlement;
- (c) in relation to interest on a quantum of liability referred to in paragraph (c) thereof, or any part of that quantum, the period commencing on the day of making the order under section 7 (2) and terminating on the date of payment of that quantum or, as the case may be, that part from the funds of the superannuation scheme in which the convicted person has his entitlement.

(3) Where the entitlement of any person to pension benefits is altered under subsection (1) any benefit that, but for this provision, would have accrued to any spouse or dependant of the person upon his death under the relevant superannuation scheme (had those benefits continued as pension) shall not accrue.

(4) Where the entitlement of any person is altered under subsection (1) the quantum of liability of that person pursuant to an order made under section 7 (2) together with interest thereon constitutes a charge on the amount of his entitlement in the hands of the trustees or authority having control of the funds of the superannuation scheme in which that

person has his entitlement and the trustees or authority shall pay the quantum of liability and interest thereon to discharge the person's liability under the order so far as the person's entitlement in those funds extends.

(5) Section 9 (1) shall be disregarded in construing the provisions of this section but that section shall apply in respect of the quantum of liability of a convicted person so far as that quantum exceeds the value of the convicted person's entitlement in the relevant superannuation scheme.

### PART III—RESTRAINING ORDERS

**12. Application for order.** (1) At any time after the Minister has determined to make an application under section 7 (1) or where an application has been made under that section or a judgment debt has been created pursuant to such an application in respect of a convicted person, application may be made by the Minister to a judge of the Supreme Court for a restraining order against—

- (a) specified property of the convicted person;
  - (b) all the property of the convicted person including property acquired by him after the making of the order;
  - (c) all the property of the convicted person, including property acquired by him after the making of the order, other than specified property;
- or
- (d) specified property of a person other than the convicted person.

(2) An application may be made under subsection (1) for a restraining order against property in which the convicted person and another or others have any estate, right or interest, jointly or in undivided shares.

- (3) Notification of the making of an application under subsection (1) and of the day on which the application is to be heard shall be given to each person having an estate or interest in property that would be affected by the restraining order and each such person may appear and be heard and adduce evidence upon the application.

**13. Making of restraining order.** (1) Upon application under section 12 (1) for a restraining order against property, the judge may by order—

- (a) direct that the property, or such part of the property as is specified in the order, is not to be disposed of, or otherwise dealt with, by any person, except in such manner and in such circumstances (if any) as specified in the order;
- or
- (b) if the judge is satisfied that the case requires it—direct the Public Trustee to take custody and control of the property, or of such part of the property as is specified in the order.

(2) A restraining order against a person's property may be made subject to such conditions as the judge thinks fit and may make provision for meeting out of the property or a specified part thereof all or any of the following:—

- (a) the person's reasonable living expenses (including the reasonable living expenses of the person's dependants, if any) and reasonable business expenses;
- (b) a specified debt incurred in good faith by the person, being a debt to which paragraph (a) does not apply.

A restraining order shall not make provision of a kind referred to in this subsection unless the judge is satisfied that the person in respect of whose property the order is sought cannot meet the expense or debt concerned out of property that is not subject to a restraining order.

(3) An order may be made under subsection (1) in relation to property in which a convicted person and another or others have any estate, right or interest, jointly or in undivided shares.

**14. Restriction on making restraining order against property other than that of convicted person.** (1) A restraining order shall not be made against property of a person other than the convicted person, in connexion with whose conviction an application under section 7 (1) will be or is made or a judgment debt is created pursuant to such an application, unless the judge is of the opinion that—

- (a) the property is in the effective control of the convicted person whether or not he has—
  - (i) any legal or equitable estate or interest in the property;
    - or
  - (ii) any right, power or privilege enforceable by law in connexion with the property;
    - or
- (b) where the property once belonged to the convicted person, his disposal of it was not to a bona fide purchaser for value or, in the case of money, was by way of gift or otherwise than for full and valuable consideration and the property has not since been disposed of to a bona fide purchaser for value or in the case of money, for full and valuable consideration;
  - or
- (c) where the property did not once belong to the convicted person—
  - (i) its acquisition was facilitated or assisted by the proceeds of the convicted person's superannuation or retirement benefits and the property has not since been disposed of to a bona fide purchaser for value;
    - or
  - (ii) it is the proceeds of the disposal of property, the acquisition of which was facilitated or assisted by those benefits.

(2) Without limiting the matters that a judge may consider relevant to an assessment of effective control, in assessing whether property is in the effective control of a convicted person, the judge may have regard to—

- (a) shareholdings in, debentures over or directorships of any company that has an interest (direct or indirect) in the property;
- (b) any trust that has a relationship to the property;
- (c) family, domestic and business relationships, arrangements or understandings (formal or informal) between persons having an interest in the property, or in companies of the kind referred to in paragraph (a) or in trusts of the kind referred to in paragraph (b) and any other persons;  
and
- (d) the extent to which persons are sheltering or are seeking to shelter behind the corporate veil.

(3) In considering whether acquisition of property has been facilitated or assisted by the proceeds of superannuation or retirement benefits, a judge may have regard to whether, but for those proceeds, the acquisition may not or would not have occurred, and to such other matters as he thinks relevant to the issue.

**15. Protection of innocent persons.** If it appears to a judge who is about to make a restraining order against any property that a person, other than the relevant convicted person, has genuinely contributed money or moneys-worth to the acquisition of the property, without intent to obstruct the effective operation of this Act or of any restraining order that may be made under this Act, the judge may—

- (a) restrict the restraining order to a part of the property;  
or
- (b) make provision from the property by such means as he thinks appropriate, including by ordering a sale of the property and apportionment of the proceeds,

to enable that person to retain property (be it money or moneys-worth) to the extent of his genuine contribution.

**16. Imposing or varying conditions on restraining order.** Where a restraining order has been made against any property, upon application made to a judge of the Supreme Court by—

- (a) the Minister;
- (b) a person having an estate or interest in the property;  
or
- (c) a person aggrieved by any existing conditions to which the order is subject,

the judge may, by his order, impose conditions or further conditions on the order or vary or revoke all or any of the conditions to which the order is subject.

**17. Discharge of restraining order.** Where the conviction consequent upon which a restraining order has been made is quashed a judge of the Supreme Court, on application by the Minister or by the owner of the property against which the order was made, may order that the restraining order be discharged whereupon the restraining order shall no longer have any effect.

**18. Effect of restraining order.** (1) While a restraining order is effective against property of a description specified in paragraph (d) of section 12 (1) that property may be taken and sold in execution of an order under section 7 (2) as if that property were the property of the convicted person in connexion with whose conviction the order under section 7 (2) and the restraining order were made.

(2) Upon the making of a restraining order against any property there is created, by force of this subsection, a charge on the property to secure payment to the Crown of the judgment debt due by the convicted person in respect of whom the judgment debt was created.

(3) A charge created by subsection (2) on property of a person ceases to have effect on the property—

- (a) upon the discharge of the restraining order;
- (b) upon the discharge of the judgment debt in relation to which the restraining order was made;
- (c) upon the person becoming a bankrupt;
- (d) upon the sale or other disposition of the property—
  - (i) by the owner of the property in accordance with the restraining order or with the consent of a judge of the Supreme Court;
  - or
  - (ii) where the restraining order directs the Public Trustee to take custody and control of the property—by the Public Trustee;
- (e) upon the sale of the property to a bona fide purchaser for value who, at the time of purchase, has no notice of the charge,

whichever first occurs.

(4) A charge created on property by subsection (2)—

- (a) is subject to every encumbrance on the property that came into existence for full and valuable consideration before the charge and that would, apart from this subsection, have priority over the charge;
- (b) has priority over all encumbrances other than one referred to in paragraph (a);
- and
- (c) subject to subsection (3), is not affected by a change in ownership of the property.

In this subsection the term "encumbrance" includes a mortgage in fee or for a less estate or interest, a trust for securing money, a lien and a charge of a portion, annuity or other capital or annual sum.

(5) A charge created by subsection (2) upon the making of a restraining order against property to which paragraph (c) of section 14 (1) applies is effective to secure payment of the judgment debt in relation to which the restraining order was made only to the extent that proceeds of superannuation or retirement benefits of the convicted person in respect of whom the judgment debt was created facilitated or assisted the acquisition of the property.

(6) Upon application under section 12 (1) for a restraining order against property to which paragraph (c) of section 14 (1) applies or, where a charge has been created by subsection (2) on property to which that paragraph applies, upon application made to a judge of the Supreme Court by—

- (a) the Minister;
- (b) a person having an estate or interest in the property;
- or
- (c) a person aggrieved by the charge,

a judge of the Supreme Court may assess the quantum of the extent to which the charge will be or, as the case may be, is effective pursuant to subsection (5) and until it is revoked or varied upon further application made under this subsection the assessment made therein shall be conclusive evidence of the amount secured by the charge on that property.

**19. Contravention of restraining order.** (1) A person who knowingly contravenes a restraining order by disposing of or otherwise dealing with property subject to the order commits an offence against this Act.

Penalty:

- (a) where the offender is a natural person, 170 penalty units or imprisonment for five years or both;
- (b) where the offender is a body corporate, 850 penalty units.

(2) Where—

- (a) property is disposed of or dealt with in contravention of a restraining order made against the property;
- and
- (b) the disposition or dealing was not for adequate consideration, having regard to the value of the property, or was in favour of a person who was not acting therein in good faith,

a judge of the Supreme Court, on application made by the Minister, may order that the disposition or dealing be set aside.

(3) An order made under subsection (2)—

- (a) may set aside the disposition or dealing as from the day on which the disposition or dealing occurred and, where

necessary, may require the parties to the disposition or dealing to taking all steps necessary to restore them to the positions had by them immediately before the disposition or dealing occurred;

- (b) may set aside the disposition or dealing as from the day on which the order is made, may declare the rights of persons who have acquired interests in the property on or after the day on which the disposition or dealing occurred and before the day on which the order is made and may require all persons affected by the order to take all steps necessary to give effect to the order.

**20. Registration of orders and charges.** (1) Where a restraining order is made against or a charge is created on property of such a kind that title to, or charges or other particulars affecting that property are recorded in a register, the person having charge of the register relating to that property—

- (a) on receipt of an appropriate request made by the Minister, and sufficient relevant evidence, shall record in the register relating to that property the existence of the restraining order or, as the case may be, the charge;  
and
- (b) on receipt of an appropriate request made by the Minister or the owner of that property, and sufficient relevant evidence, may record in the register relating to that property the discharge of the restraining order or, as the case may be, the cessation of effect of the charge.

(2) A recording in a register shall be made under subsection (1) notwithstanding that the current grant or certificate or other instrument of title is not delivered up to the person having charge of the register.

(3) Where a restraining order has been made against land under the *Real Property Act 1861-1986*, the Minister and the Public Trustee (where it has taken custody and control of the land) is each entitled, by caveat, to forbid the registration of any instrument affecting the land subject to and in accordance with that Act and, for this purpose, the Minister and the Public Trustee shall each be deemed to have an interest in the land sufficient to support the caveat.

(4) A caveat lodged pursuant to the entitlement conferred by subsection (3) shall not be deemed to have lapsed as provided by the *Real Property Act 1877-1988* but shall continue in force until it is duly removed or cancelled as provided by the *Real Property Act 1861-1988*.

#### PART IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

**21. Further powers of Supreme Court.** (1) Where the Public Trustee has taken custody and control of property pursuant to a restraining order the Public Trustee may make application to a judge of the Supreme Court for orders or directions in relation to the use and management of the property.

(2) Upon application under subsection (1) a judge of the Supreme Court may make such orders and give such directions as he considers to be necessary or desirable for the prudent use and management of the relevant property in the custody and control of the Public Trustee.

**22. Ancillary powers upon applications.** A judge of the Supreme Court who hears an application under any provision of this Act may—

- (a) where he makes the order sought by the application, make such further orders as he considers appropriate to secure compliance with that order;  
and
- (b) make such order as to costs therein as he considers just.

**23. Procedure and evidence upon applications.** (1) The power to make rules of practice of the Supreme Court includes power to make such rules with respect to the making and disposal of applications provided for by this Act.

(2) Rules of practice of the Supreme Court apply in relation to an application made to a judge of the court under this Act subject to this Act and to any directions given by a judge of the court in relation to the application.

(3) Proceedings in respect of an application by the Minister under this Act may be instituted and maintained in the official title of the Minister and shall not be prejudiced by any change in the identity of the Minister.

(4) Where, upon an application made under this Act, it is relevant to prove a commutation value, an amount of contributions, the value of superannuation or retirement benefits paid or payable in respect of any person, or any other amount of whatever nature, a certificate purporting to be that of the person holding the appointment, Under Treasurer, Treasury Department, certifying the value or amount shall be accepted in the proceedings relating to the application as evidence, and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, conclusive evidence, of the matters contained therein.

**24. Use of evidence before court of trial.** Where an application under section 7 (1) is or will be made the Minister and the convicted person in respect of whom the application is or will be made is each entitled to be furnished with one or more copies of a transcript of evidence or statements of fact adduced or made to the court before which the convicted person was convicted, upon payment to the person having custody of the record of such evidence or statements of any fee that is for the time being payable for such a transcript.

(2) Where an application under section 7 (1) is made in respect of a convicted person, the registrar of the court before which the convicted person was convicted shall cause to be made and furnished to the registrar of the Supreme Court, for use by the judge hearing the application, a transcript of the shorthand notes or record of evidence



or statements of fact adduced or made to the court before which the convicted person was convicted.

(3) A document purporting to be the transcript referred to in subsection (2) shall be, in the proceedings upon the application under section 7 (1), evidence and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, conclusive evidence of all matters contained therein.

**25. Authority of Public Trustee.** (1) Where a restraining order directs the Public Trustee to take custody and control of property—

(a) the order is lawful authority for the Public Trustee, by its agents and servants—

(i) to enter upon and take possession of the property and of all books of account and records relating to the property; and

(ii) subject to subsection (2), to do all acts and things necessary or desirable for the prudent use and management of the property, for the benefit of the owner thereof (including the selling, charging or disposing thereof) as fully and effectually as if it were the duly appointed attorney of the owner empowered to do all such acts and things;

and

(b) the Public Trustee is authorized and empowered to do all acts and things necessary or desirable to comply with or give effect to orders and directions of a judge of the Supreme Court made or given in relation to the property upon application under section 21.

(2) Authority conferred on the Public Trustee by a restraining order does not extend to selling or disposing of property that is not trading stock in a business without—

(a) the consent of the owner of the property;

or

(b) an order of a judge of the Supreme Court.

(3) The power to make regulations under the *Public Trustee Act 1978-1985* includes power to make regulations providing for and fixing fees for services rendered by the Public Trustee and charges in connexion with the custody and control of property pursuant to a restraining order.

(4) A certificate purporting to be under the hand of a person holding or acting in an appointment as Public Trustee, Senior Deputy Public Trustee or Deputy Public Trustee and to be under the seal of office of the Public Trustee—

(a) certifying that a restraining order is in force against the property (generally or as specified therein) of a person specified therein;

(b) stating that the Public Trustee has taken custody and control of property specified therein pursuant to a restraining order;

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or

(c) stating any particulars of a restraining order,

is for all purposes evidence and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, conclusive evidence of the matters contained therein.

**26. Liability for Public Trustee's fees.** (1) The owner of property in the custody and control of the Public Trustee pursuant to a restraining order is liable to the Public Trustee for all fees and charges that the Public Trustee is authorized to charge and does charge for collecting and managing the property and for all expenses reasonably incurred by the Public Trustee in collecting and managing the property, and, if there be more owners than one, they are so liable jointly and severally.

(2) Where an owner who has paid an amount of fees or charges pursuant to subsection (3) is not the convicted person in relation to whom the relevant property is in the custody and control of the Public Trustee pursuant to a restraining order, that owner may recover the amount as a debt due and owing to him by the convicted person by action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

**27. Exclusion of liability generally.** (1) No liability shall be incurred by the Crown, the Minister, the Public Trustee or any other person on account of loss suffered by any person because of the existence or consequences of a restraining order against any property.

(2) The Public Trustee shall not be taken to be subject to the duty of care of a trustee in relation to its custody and control of property pursuant to a restraining order.

(3) The Public Trustee and its agents and servants shall not incur liability on account of loss suffered by any person because of anything done or omitted, bona fide and without negligence, in complying with an order or direction of a judge of the Supreme Court or otherwise in connexion with the use and management of property taken into the custody and control of the Public Trustee pursuant to a restraining order.

**28. Minister or delegate may require information.** (1) The Minister or his delegate duly authorized by him in writing may require any person—

(a) to furnish to a person nominated in the requisition (in this section called "the nominated person") within a time specified in the requisition such information of a kind specified by the person making the requisition as, in the nominated person's opinion, is relevant to—

(i) establishing dealings with or tracing the dispositions of moneys being part of superannuation or retirement benefits

- of a publicly funded superannuant who is a convicted person;
- (ii) establishing what relationships, arrangements, or understandings (formal or informal) exist between a convicted person and any other person or any trust;
  - (iii) establishing the degree of control had by a convicted person in respect of any property;
- or
- (iv) identifying property as having been acquired, to any extent, with assistance from the proceeds of superannuation or retirement benefits of a publicly funded superannuant who is a convicted person;
- (b) to produce or exhibit to the nominated person such books of account and records as, in the nominated person's opinion, might be relevant to a purpose referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) A requisition under subsection (1) may require information sought to be given orally or in writing and on oath or by statutory declaration and for that purpose the person making the requisition or the nominated person or a justice may administer an oath or take a declaration.

(3) A nominated person is authorized to enter any premises or place for the purpose of taking possession of or examining information books of account or records sought by requisition under subsection (1), to make copies of or extracts from such information, books of account or records and to remain on the premises or in the place for as long as is necessary for the purpose.

**29. Offences arising from s. 28.** (1) A person who—

- (a) fails to comply with a requisition directed to him under section 28 (1);
- or
- (b) obstructs or attempts to obstruct an exercise of authority conferred by section 28 (3),

commits an offence against this Act.

**Penalty:**

- (a) where the offender is a natural person, 10 penalty units or imprisonment for three months or both;
- (b) where the offender is a body corporate, 50 penalty units.

(2) An offence consisting in failure to comply with a requisition shall be deemed to continue for as long as the requisition is not complied with, notwithstanding that the time within which it was to be complied with has elapsed, and—

- (a) the offender may be prosecuted and penalised from time to time in respect of the failure until the requisition is complied

with but shall not be so prosecuted more than once in respect of the same period;

- (b) the court by which the offender is convicted of the offence may, in addition to any penalty imposed under subsection (1), order the offender to pay a penalty not exceeding one penalty unit for each day on which the offence is deemed to have continued to the date of conviction.

(3) The court that convicts a person of an offence consisting in failure to comply with a requisition may, in addition to any penalty imposed pursuant to subsection (1) or (2) and notwithstanding that the time within which the requisition was to be complied with has elapsed, order the offender to comply with the requisition and may therein specify a time within which the order is to be complied with.

(4) A person who fails to comply with an order made pursuant to subsection (3) commits an offence against this Act.

Penalty:

- (a) where the offender is a natural person, 35 penalty units or imprisonment for six months or both;
- (b) where the offender is a body corporate, 170 penalty units.

**30. Prosecution of offenders.** (1) A person who commits an offence against this Act may be prosecuted therefor in a summary manner under the *Justices Act 1886-1987* on the complaint of a person authorized by the Minister in that behalf.

(2) In any prosecution proceedings a statement in the complaint that the complainant is duly authorized by the Minister to lay the complaint shall be sufficient evidence thereof in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

## PART V—DEFERRED RETIREMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

**31. Repeal of Act No. 33 of 1988.** *The Public Officers' Retirements Act 1988* is repealed.

**32. Interpretation.** In this Part—

“officer on suspension” means a person who is suspended from duty as the holder of a public office—

- (a) on the ground of his conduct that constitutes a prescribed offence;
- or
- (b) on a ground that has a connexion with conduct that constitutes a prescribed offence, whether or not that conduct can be attributed to a specific person.

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**33. Officer on suspension cannot retire or resign.** It is not competent to an officer on suspension to retire or resign from public office unless—

- (a) the retirement or resignation is approved by the Governor in Council;
- and
- (b) the retirement or resignation is effected in accordance with the conditions (if any) to which the approval of the Governor in Council is subject.

**34. Approval of Governor in Council.** (1) If the Governor in Council approves of the retirement or resignation of an officer on suspension the approval may be made subject to such conditions in relation to the manner in which the officer shall elect to take or deal with his entitlements to superannuation or retirement benefits as the Governor in Council thinks fit.

(2) Where an officer on suspension has given directions that accord with the conditions of an approval by the Governor in Council of his retirement or resignation any further directions that purport to countermand or vary those directions shall be of no force or effect to the extent that the further directions are not in accord with such conditions.

**35. Effect of certain dismissals on superannuation or retirement benefits.** (1) If the employment of a holder of a public office is to be terminated by his dismissal from office in circumstances such that he would, but for this provision, be entitled to be paid the whole of the superannuation or retirement benefits provided under the relevant superannuation scheme for a contributor upon his retirement, the Governor in Council may, by Order in Council, declare that the whole or part of the benefits shall not be paid to or on account of the dismissed person but shall be held in escrow by a person nominated in the order upon the conditions of escrow declared by the order.

(2) Where the Governor in Council has declared as prescribed by subsection (1) the dismissed person's entitlement to have the superannuation or retirement benefits paid to him or on his account shall be subject to and dependent upon such declaration and the fulfilment of the conditions of escrow so declared, notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act or any agreement.

**36. Effective date of certain retirements.** Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act, a notice of retirement from public office furnished by a person who is an officer on suspension at any time before he became an officer on suspension has never taken effect of its own force as a retirement and shall not take effect as a retirement unless the retirement thereby notified is approved by the Governor in Council.

**37. Requirement for compulsory retirement suspended.** While, pursuant to this Part—

- (a) it is not competent to an officer on suspension to retire or resign from public office;

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or

(b) a notice of retirement is ineffective,  
a provision of any Act or law that requires the holder of an office to retire upon attaining a particular age or to resign for any reason does not apply to that officer on suspension.

**38. Retirement deemed effective in particular case.** If the death of an officer on suspension occurs while, pursuant to this Part, his notice of retirement is not effective, it shall be deemed for the purpose of establishing his entitlement to superannuation or retirement benefits that his retirement became effective immediately before his death.