

**Translation: Only the Danish document has legal validity**

*Act no. 253 of 25 April 1990 issued by the Danish Maritime Authority*

**Act on the Danish Government Seamen's Service  
(the Welfare Act)<sup>1</sup>**

We Margrethe the second, by the grace of God, Queen of Denmark hereby witness:  
Folketinget (the Danish Parliament) has adopted and We with Our consent  
hereby enact the following Act:

**Section 1.** A private independent institution shall be established, the Danish Government Seamen's Service.

*Subsection 2.* The tasks of the Danish Government Seamen's Service are as follows:

- 1) to carry out and further activities related to seafarers' welfare at sea and during stays in ports both in Denmark and abroad; and
- 2) to administer the arrangement on TV services for seafarers.

*Subsection 3.* In addition, the Danish Government Seamen's Service may carry out other activities that are compatible with the tasks mentioned in subsection 2.

**Section 2.** The Danish Government Seamen's Service shall be managed by a council and a management. The seafarers' and shipowners' organisations shall be represented on the council. The Minister of Industry shall appoint the members of the council for a three-year period on the recommendation of the organisations. The council shall elect the chairman, also for a three-year period.

**Section 3.** More detailed regulations on the Danish Government Seamen's Service and its activities shall be laid down by the council in by-laws to be approved by the Minister of Industry.

**Section 4.** The council shall employ the management and shall be responsible that the activities of the Service are carried out in an appropriate manner in accordance with the act and the by-laws.

*Subsection 2.* The management shall carry out the daily management in accordance with the directions of the council.

*Subsection 3.* When performing the tasks, cf. section 1(2), the Danish Government Seamen's Service shall dispose independently of the means provided pursuant to section 5. This is also the case in connection with other means allocated to the Service.

*Subsection 4.* The management of the Danish Government Seamen's Service shall, upon request, be obliged to provide the Minister of Industry with any information concerning the conditions of the Danish Government Seamen's Service.

*Subsection 5.* The annual accounts and budget of the Danish Government Seamen's Service shall be approved by the Minister of Industry.

**Section 5.** The means for the welfare work shall be brought about through a fee of 100 ører a day for each seafarer engaged on a Danish merchant ship, including masters, who are insured against the consequences of accidents pursuant to the act on industrial injury insurance (*lov om*

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<sup>1</sup> This act was put into force on 1 January 1991 by order no. 761 of 15 November 1990.

*arbejdsskadeforsikring*). The fee rests with the seafarer and the shipowner, who shall each pay one half.

*Subsection 2.* The Minister of Industry shall grant a subsidy that can, as a maximum, correspond to the fee that is imposed on the shipowners and the seafarers in total. In addition, the Minister of Industry shall pay the expenses for the TV service of seafarers.

*Subsection 3.* The council shall determine the payment for special services.

**Section 6.** The Minister of Industry may lay down more detailed regulations on the collection of the fee and may, in this connection, order the shipowner to retain the amount resting with the seafarer from the wages or from other similar payments. There shall be a right to levy distraint on amounts resting with the shipowner and the seafarer.

**Section 7.** The Minister of Industry may, following negotiations with the organisations concerned for the owners of fishing vessels and for fishermen, and after having obtained a statement from the Danish Government Seamen's Service, determine to what extent seafarers on fishing vessels shall be covered by this act.

**Section 8.** If the Minister of Industry transfers his or her powers under the act to the Danish Maritime Authority, the Minister may lay down regulations on the access to file complaints, including that complaints cannot be brought before a higher administrative authority.

**Section 9.** The date of the entry into force of the act shall be determined by the Minister of Industry.

*Subsection 2.* At the same time, the act on welfare activities for seafarers (*lov om velfærdsforanstaltninger for søfarende*), cf. consolidated act no. 576 of 29 September 1988, shall be repealed.

**Section 10.** The act shall not apply to the Faroe Islands and to Greenland, but may be put into force for Greenland by royal decree with the deviations deriving from the special Greenland conditions.

*Christiansborg Castle, 25 April 1990*

Margrethe R. / Anne Birgitte Lundholt