

**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**INNKEEPERS ACT  
(CHAPTER 139)**

**1970 Ed. Cap. 36  
Ordinances  
36 of 1921  
28 of 1951**

**REVISED EDITION 1985**

## CHAPTER 139

# Innkeepers Act

### ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title.

#### PART I

##### LIMITATION OF INNKEEPERS' LIABILITY

2. Interpretation.
3. Limitation of innkeepers' liability.
4. Refusal to accept property for safe custody.
5. Copy of section 3 to be exhibited.

#### PART II

##### INNKEEPERS' RIGHT TO SELL GOODS

6. Interpretation.
7. Power of sale of goods deposited with innkeeper.

---

An Act to limit the liability of innkeepers and to provide for their further relief.

[6th January 1922]

1. This Act may be cited as the Innkeepers Act.

Short title.

#### PART I

##### LIMITATION OF INNKEEPERS' LIABILITY

2. In this Part —

Interpre-  
tation.

“inn” means any hotel, tavern, public house, restaurant or other place of refreshment, the keeper of which is now by law responsible for the goods and property of his guests;

“innkeeper” means the keeper of any such place, and includes a company or corporation;

“manager” means the agent or servant of the innkeeper for the time being in charge of the inn or any

person duly appointed by the innkeeper to receive the goods of his guests for safe custody.

Limitation of innkeepers' liability.

3.—(1) No innkeeper shall be liable to make good to his guest any loss of or injury to goods or property brought to his inn, not being a horse or other live animal, or any gear appertaining thereto or any car or carriage, to a greater amount than the sum of \$500, except —

- (a) where the goods or property have been stolen, lost or injured through the wilful act, default or neglect of the innkeeper or any servant in his employ; or
- (b) where the goods or property have been deposited expressly for safe custody with the innkeeper or his manager.

(2) In the case of any such deposit it shall be lawful for the innkeeper or his manager, if he thinks fit, to require, as a condition of his liability —

- (a) that the guest shall at the time of such deposit declare the value of the goods or property; and
- (b) that the goods or property shall be deposited in a box or other receptacle, fastened and sealed by the person depositing the same.

(3) An innkeeper or his manager may refuse to receive for safe custody under this section goods or property of any one guest the declared value of which exceeds \$5,000, and shall in no case be liable for loss of or injury to goods or property so deposited by a guest to an amount exceeding the declared value thereof.

Refusal to accept property for safe custody.

4. If any innkeeper or his manager refuses to receive for safe custody, as before mentioned, any goods or property of his guest the declared value of which does not exceed \$5,000, or if any such guest is unable, through any default of the innkeeper or manager, to deposit the goods or property as aforesaid, the innkeeper shall not be entitled to the benefit of this Part in respect of the goods or property.

Copy of section 3 to be exhibited.

5. Every innkeeper shall cause at least one copy of section 3 printed in plain type in English to be exhibited in a conspicuous part of the hall or entrance to his inn, and he shall be entitled to the benefit of this Part in respect of the goods or property only as are brought to his inn while such copy is so exhibited.

## PART II

## INNKEEPERS' RIGHT TO SELL GOODS

## 6. In this Part —

“inn” means any hotel, tavern or public house;

“innkeeper” means the keeper of any such place, and includes a company or corporation;

“goods” includes any vehicle.

Interpretation.

7. An innkeeper shall, in addition to his ordinary lien, have the right absolutely to sell by public auction any goods which may have been deposited with him or left in the inn he keeps or in any garage, car park or other premises appurtenant thereto where the person depositing or leaving the goods is or becomes indebted to the innkeeper for any board or lodging:

Power of sale of goods deposited with innkeeper.

Provided that —

- (a) no sale shall be made until after the goods have been for the space of 6 weeks in his charge or custody or in or upon those premises without the debt having been paid or satisfied;
- (b) the innkeeper, after having out of the proceeds of that sale paid himself the amount of any such debt, together with the costs and expenses of the sale, shall on demand pay to the person depositing or leaving the goods the surplus (if any) remaining after the sale;
- (c) the debt for the payment of which a sale is made shall not be any other or greater debt than the debt for which the goods could have been retained by the innkeeper under his lien;
- (d) at least one month before any such sale the innkeeper shall cause to be inserted in a newspaper circulating in Singapore an advertisement containing notice of the intended sale, and giving shortly a description of the goods intended to be sold, together with the name of the owner or person who deposited or left them, where known.