

**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**HOTELS ACT  
(CHAPTER 127)**

**1970 Ed. Cap. 248  
Ordinance  
24 of 1954**

Amended by  
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45 of 1959  
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72 of 1959

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# Hotels Act

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An Act for the licensing and control of hotels and lodging-houses.

[10th August 1956]

1. This Act may be cited as the Hotels Act. Short title.
2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires — Inter-pretation.

“hotel” includes a boarding-house, lodging-house, guest-house and any building or premises not being a public institution and containing not less than 4 rooms or cubicles in which persons are harboured or lodged for hire or reward of any kind whatsoever and where any domestic service whatsoever is provided by the owner, lessee, tenant, occupier or manager for the person so harboured or lodged;

“hotel-keeper” means any person to whom a licence to keep or manage a hotel has been granted under section 7.

Hotels  
Licensing  
Board.

3.—(1) There shall be established a Hotels Licensing Board (referred to in this Act as the Board) consisting of a chairman and 4 other members, to be appointed by the Minister.

(2) The chairman and every member of the Board shall hold office for a period of 3 years from the date of appointment:

Provided that the Minister may at any time revoke any such appointment.

(3) If any vacancy occurs by death, resignation or otherwise a new chairman or member, as the case may be, shall be appointed by the Minister in accordance with subsection (1), and any person appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall hold office so long only as the person in whose place he is appointed would have held office.

(4) The powers of the Board may be exercised notwithstanding any vacancy in their number.

(5) The quorum of the Board shall be 3.

(6) The Board may appoint any member of the Board to be the vice-chairman of the Board and in the absence of the chairman the vice-chairman shall preside at meetings of the Board.

Secretary and  
other  
officers.

4. The Minister may appoint a secretary and such other officers as he may consider necessary.

Registration  
of premises.

5.—(1) No premises shall be used as a hotel unless they are registered under this section.

(2) Every application for registration shall be made to the Board in the prescribed form.

(3) In every case where an application is duly made under subsection (2) for the registration of premises as a hotel, the Board may after such inquiry as it considers necessary and on payment of the prescribed fee issue a certificate of registration in the prescribed form.

(4) The Board may in its discretion refuse to register any premises without assigning any reason therefor.

6. No certificate of registration shall be granted unless the Board is satisfied —

Conditions under which a certificate can be granted.

- (a) that the premises will not be conducted as a disorderly house;
- (b) that the premises to be registered are structurally adapted for use as a hotel;
- (c) that proper provision has been made in all respects for the sanitation of the premises;
- (d) that the situation of the premises is suitable for the purpose; and
- (e) that the standard of accommodation provided is adequate for the class within which the applicant desires the premises to be registered.

7.—(1) No person shall keep or manage any premises for the purposes of a hotel unless he is the holder of a valid licence granted in respect of the premises in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Licensing of managers.

(2) Such licences may be granted by the Board on payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

(3) Licences shall be subject to such conditions as may be prescribed and to such further conditions, if any, as may in each several case be imposed by the Board; such last-mentioned conditions shall be set out in the licence.

(4) Every licence shall be in the form prescribed and shall be issued on or after 1st January in every year and shall expire on 31st December next following the date of issue.

(5) No licence shall be granted by the Board unless the person applying satisfies the Board that the premises in respect of which the application is made will not be conducted as a disorderly house and that he is of good character and a fit and proper person to keep and manage a hotel.

(6) The Board may in its discretion refuse to grant or renew a licence without assigning any reason therefor.

8.—(1) When it is made to appear to the Board that a hotel is being conducted in an improper or unsatisfactory manner, the Board may cancel the certificate of registration of the hotel or the licence granted to the hotel-keeper in respect of the hotel or both the certificate and licence.

Suspension and cancellation of licence and certificate of registration.

(2) When it is made to appear to the Board that a hotel is being kept in an unclean or insanitary condition, the Board may require the hotel-keeper by notice in writing to remedy the defect within such period not being less than one month as may be specified in the notice and if the hotel-keeper fails to remedy the defect to the satisfaction of the Board within the period so specified the Board may suspend for such period as it thinks fit or cancel the certificate of registration of the hotel and may cancel the licence granted to the hotel-keeper in respect of the hotel.

(3) No suspension or cancellation under subsections (1) and (2) shall take effect until the expiration of 10 days from the date of the suspension or cancellation.

(4) Where an appeal has been made against any such suspension or cancellation within the period of 10 days prescribed by section 11, the suspension or cancellation shall not take effect until the appeal has been determined and the Minister confirms the suspension or cancellation.

Cancellation  
on conviction.  
Cap. 353.

**9.** Where any hotel-keeper is convicted of an offence under Part X of the Women's Charter, the Board shall cancel any licence granted to that hotel-keeper under section 7 and the certificate of registration of any hotel in respect of which the offence was committed.

Re-classification  
of hotels.

**10.** Where it is made to appear to the Board that a hotel is not being kept or managed in a manner conformable to the standard of a hotel of the class in which the hotel is registered, the Board may, upon giving notice thereof to the hotel-keeper, remove the name of the hotel from that class and place it in a lower class.

Appeal to  
Minister.

**11.** Any person aggrieved by —

- (a) the refusal of the Board to register any premises as a hotel;
- (b) the refusal of the Board to grant or renew a licence;
- (c) the suspension or cancellation of a certificate of registration by the Board under section 8; or
- (d) the cancellation of a licence by the Board under section 8,

may, within 10 days from the date of the refusal, suspension or cancellation, appeal to the Minister whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

12. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to the following premises: Exemptions.

- (a) lodging-houses kept or managed for the sole use of pilgrims by pilgrim brokers licensed as such under the Merchant Shipping Act; Cap. 179.
- (b) premises required to be licensed as seamen's lodging-houses under the National Maritime Board Act; and Cap. 198.
- (c) any premises or class of premises exempted by regulations made under this Act.

13.—(1) The Minister may make such regulations as he may consider expedient for the purposes of this Act. Regulations.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), regulations may be made for any of the purposes or with respect to any of the following matters:

- (a) the control and management of hotels;
- (b) the classification of hotels;
- (c) the standards of hygiene to be observed in hotels;
- (d) the powers of entry into and inspection of premises;
- (e) the regulation of the procedure and proceedings of the Board;
- (f) the forms of certificates of registration, applications, licences, notices and any other forms which require to be prescribed under the provisions of this Act;
- (g) the fees to be paid for certificates of registration and licences and any other fees which require to be prescribed under the provisions of this Act;
- (h) the conditions under which licences may be granted;
- (i) the exemption of premises or classes of premises from the provisions of this Act;
- (j) prescribing that any act or omission in contravention of the provisions of any regulations made under this Act shall be an offence, and imposing penalties for such offences which penalties may extend to the cancellation or suspension of any certificate of registration and to the cancellation of any licence granted under the provisions of this Act, but shall not exceed a fine of \$2,000.

Liability of  
managers for  
act of  
servant.

**14.—(1)** Whenever any person licensed under this Act would be liable under the provisions of this Act or of any regulations made thereunder to any pecuniary penalty or forfeiture for any act, omission, neglect or default, he shall be liable to the same pecuniary penalty or forfeiture for every similar act, omission, neglect or default of any agent or servant employed by him in the course of his business as such licensed person.

(2) Every person who appears to be employed in any hotel registered under this Act, shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be a servant of the person licensed in respect thereof.

(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as relieving any such agent or servant from any penalty or forfeiture to which he would otherwise be liable.

Presump-  
tions.

**15.** In any prosecution under this Act, it shall be presumed until the contrary is proved —

(a) that any premises in which rooms or parts of rooms are let or sub-let for hire for periods of less than one week constitute a hotel; and

(b) that any person who has or appears to have the care or management of such premises is the occupier of those premises.

Powers of  
entry and  
inspection.

**16.—(1)** The chairman or any member of the Board or any person duly authorised by the chairman in writing may, subject to such regulations as may be made by the Minister, at any time of the day or night without previous notice enter and inspect any hotel or any premises reasonably suspected of being used for the purposes of a hotel.

(2) Any person who refuses to allow the chairman, or any member of the Board or any such person to enter and inspect any hotel or any such premises or obstructs the entry or inspection in any way shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalties.

**17.—(1)** Any person who keeps or manages as a hotel any premises in respect of which no certificate of registration under this Act is in force shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who being the owner or occupier of any premises in respect of which no certificate of registration

under this Act is in force permits the premises to be used as a hotel shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person who keeps or manages any hotel in respect of which he holds no valid licence shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) Any person who being the owner or occupier of any premises permits any other person in respect of whom no licence granted under section 7 is in force to manage or keep the premises as a hotel shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) Any hotel-keeper who fails to comply with or contravenes any of the conditions set out in his licence shall be guilty of an offence.

(6) Any person who, for the purpose of obtaining whether for himself or for any other person the issue, grant or renewal of any certificate of registration or licence under the provisions of this Act, makes any declaration or statement which is false in any material particular or knowingly utters, produces, or makes use of, any such declaration or statement or any document containing the same shall be guilty of an offence.

(7) Any person guilty of an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$2,000 and in the case of a second or subsequent offence to such fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(8) In addition to any other penalty imposed, the court may cancel or suspend any certificate of registration and may cancel any licence granted under this Act.