

[Act No. 1780, October 12, 1907]

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE IMPORTATION, ACQUISITION, POSSESSION USE, AND TRANSFER OF FIREARMS, AND TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION OF SAME EXCEPT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Commission, that:

SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation, for purposes of sale, to import, buy, or otherwise acquire, dispose of, possess, or have the custody of any rifle, musket, carbine, shotgun, revolver, pistol, or air rifle, except air rifles of small caliber and limited range used as toys, or any other deadly weapon from which a bullet, ball, shot, shell, or other missile or missiles may be discharged by means of gunpowder or other explosive; and it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation, for purposes of sale, to import, buy, or otherwise acquire, dispose of, possess, or have the custody of any ammunition or detached parts for such weapons, unless and until such person, firm, or corporation shall secure a license, pay the license fee, and execute a bond and otherwise comply with the requirements of this Act and the rules and regulations issued in executive orders by the Governor-General pursuant to the provisions of this Act. The word "firearm" as used herein shall be interpreted to mean any and all of the weapons mentioned in this section, and the barrel of any one of same shall be considered a firearm.

SEC. 2. Any person, firm, or corporation desiring to deal in fire arms or ammunition shall make application to the Governor-General for a license therefor, stating therein for the information of the Governor-General the facts regarding the amount of business in the purchase and sale of firearms and ammunition intended to be transacted by such applicant, and the classes of arms and ammunition which the applicant intends to purchase and sell under the license applied for and such additional information as may be specially requested by the Governor-General before passing upon the application. The Governor-General may approve or disapprove such application and in the event of approval, shall state therein the amount of the bond to be executed by the applicant before the issuance of the license, and the time during which the license shall be effective, unless sooner revoked by his authority: *Provided, however,* That the Governor-General may authorize any person, firm, or corporation authorized to deal in firearms and ammunition or any other person possessing a proper license, to store such firearms and ammunition in the custody of the Director of Constabulary, who shall give a receipt by description for such firearms and ammunition, to be held subject to the call of the owner, from whom similar receipts shall be exacted upon the return of such firearms or ammunition: *And provided further,* That the Director of Constabulary is hereby authorized to impose and collect a reasonable charge, to be fixed by him subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce and Police, for storage and care of such firearms and ammunition.

SEC. 3. In consideration of the issuance of such license to deal in firearms and ammunition and to secure faithful compliance with the laws and regulations relating thereto, every dealer in firearms, upon receiving such a license, shall execute a bond in the amount fixed by the Governor-General, as provided in the next preceding section, and such bond shall be duly approved by the Director of

Constabulary before the issuance of the license.

SEC. 4. When an application for a license to deal in firearms or ammunition shall be approved by the Governor-General, such application and approval shall be transmitted to the Director of Constabulary with instructions that, upon approval by him of the bond prescribed by law in the amount fixed by the Governor-General, he

- issue the license in accordance with the terms of the approval of the Governor-General, and he shall forthwith file in his office the bond executed and approved as herein provided.

SEC. 5. The license herein provided to be issued may be revoked at any time by order of the Governor-General, in which case such proportion of the license fee paid shall be refunded to the licensee as the time expired under the license shall bear to the whole time for which the license was issued: *Provided, however,* That in case of a breach of the terms of the license or of the laws and regulations providing for the enjoyment thereof, no part of the license fee shall be returned : *And provided further,* That in case the license is revoked all arms in the possession of the licensee shall be turned into the Bureau of Constabulary for care and safe-keeping. Upon the expiration of the license, and after satisfactory evidence of faithful compliance with said laws and regulations, the Governor-General shall order that the bond be canceled and returned to the principal named therein.

SEC. 6. In case any person, firm, or corporation shall, for purposes of sale, desire to import, buy, or otherwise acquire, dispose of, possess, or have the custody of any firearms or ammunition in greater amount than is named or described in his license, he must apply for and secure a new license. The collector of customs shall not claim any shipment of firearms or ammunition until he shall have reported to the Director of Constabulary the amount and class of the shipment and secured through the Director of Constabulary the approval of the Governor-General for such clearance.

SEC. 7. It shall be unlawful for any dealer in firearms or ammunition to sell or deliver any firearms or ammunition or any part of a firearm to a purchaser or other person until such purchaser or other person shall have obtained the license therefor, as hereinafter provided. Any person violating the provisions of this section, upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand pesos, or by imprisonment not exceeding two years, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 8. Every dealer in firearms or ammunition shall keep complete and accurate records and accounts of importations and sales of firearms and ammunition, with the name, age, residence, occupation, and post-office address of each and every purchaser of any firearm or firearms and ammunition, and the number and date of the license of each purchaser for the possession of each firearm purchased by him and the number of the firearm purchased, together with the amount and character of the ammunition purchased for each firearm; and each dealer in firearms shall, when requested by the Director of Constabulary, permit the examination of such records and accounts of the purchases and sales of firearms and the counting and verification of all arms and ammunition remaining on hand; and any refusal upon the part of any such dealer to comply with the provisions of this section shall be a breach of the condition of the bond executed and delivered by such dealer.

SEC. 9. Any person desiring to possess one or more firearms for personal

protection, or for use in hunting or other lawful purposes only, and ammunition therefor, shall make application for a license to possess such firearm or firearms or ammunition as hereinafter provided: Upon making such application, and before receiving^the license, the applicant shall make a cash deposit in the postal savings bank in the sum of one hundred pesos for each firearm for which the license is to be issued, or in lieu thereof he may give a bond in such form as the Governor-General may proscribe, payable to the Government of the 'Philippine Islands, in the sum of two hundred pesos for each such firearm: *Provided, however,* That persons who are actually members of gun clubs, duly formed and organized at the time of the passage of this Act, who at such time have a license to possess firearms, shall not be required to make the deposit or give the bond prescribed by this section, and the bond duly executed by such persons in accordance with existing law shall continue to be security for the safe-keeping of such arms.

SEC. 10. In consideration of the issuance of a personal license to possess firearms or ammunition, and to assure faithful compliance with the laws and regulations relating thereto, every person receiving such a license and making a cash deposit in the postal savings bank, as provided in the next preceding section, shall indorse the certificate of deposit received by him so that same shall be payable to the order of the Insular Treasurer, and shall deliver the same to the officers issuing (the license, if a bond is given, the Director of Constabulary shall be the custodian of such bond.

SEC. 11. An application for a personal license to possess firearms and ammunition, as herein provided for, made by a resident of the city of Manila, shall be directed to the chief of police of said city, and it shall be the duty of the chief of police to forward the application to the Governor-General with his recommendation. Any such application made by a resident of a province shall be directed to the governor of the province, who shall make his recommendations thereon and forward the application to the senior inspector of Constabulary of the province, who in turn shall make his recommendations thereon and forward the application, through official channels, to the Governor-General. The Governor-General may approve or disapprove any such application, and, in the event of approval, the papers shall be transmitted to the Director of Constabulary with instructions to issue the license as hereinbefore provided. The Director of Constabulary, upon receiving and approving the bond or receiving the certificate of deposit duly indorsed to the order of the Insular Treasurer, shall issue the license for the time fixed for such license as hereinafter provided, and the Director of Constabulary shall transmit the license direct to the applicant, and shall notify the chief of police of the city of Manila if the applicant resides in Manila, otherwise the senior inspector of Constabulary of the province in which the applicant resides. The Director of Constabulary shall file the certificate of deposit in his office. It shall be the duty of all officers through whom applications for licenses to possess firearms are transmitted to expedite the same.

SEC. 12. In the event, of noncompliance by the licensee with any one or more of the laws and regulations relating to firearms and ammunition, or with the terms of his license, or in case of the loss of any licensed firearm, whether through accident or otherwise, when proof of such fact is produced to the satisfaction of the Governor-General, the certificate of deposit shall be forwarded to the Insular Treasurer by order of the Governor-General for collection, and, when collected, the amount thereof shall be deposited to the credit of general funds, except as otherwise provided in section twenty-eight hereof: *Provided, however,* That in the event of the