



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

HOTELS ACT 1954

2020 REVISED EDITION

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021.

Prepared and Published by

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT 1983

Hotels Act 1954

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Hotels Licensing Board
4. Secretary and other officers
5. Registration of premises as hotel
6. Conditions for grant of certificate of registration
7. Licensing of managers
8. Suspension and cancellation of licence and certificate of registration
9. Cancellation of licence and certificate of registration on conviction
10. Reclassification of hotels
11. Appeal to Minister
12. Exemption
13. Liability of managers for act of servant
14. Presumptions
15. Powers of entry and inspection
16. Penalties
17. Regulations

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

[10 August 1956]

Short title

1. This Act is the Hotels Act 1954.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
“Board” means the Hotels Licensing Board established under section 3(1);

“hotel” includes a boarding house, lodging house, guesthouse 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 and where any domestic service 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 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.

(3) The Minister may, at any time, revoke any such appointment.

(4) 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).

(5) Any person appointed to fill a casual vacancy under subsection (4) shall hold office so long only as the person in whose place he is appointed would have held office.

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

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

(8) 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 as hotel

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

(2) Every application for registration of any premises as a hotel shall be made to the Board in the prescribed form.

(3) 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, grant a certificate of registration in the prescribed form.

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

Conditions for grant of certificate of registration

6. No certificate of registration shall be granted under section 5(3) unless the Board is satisfied —

- (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 as a hotel.

Licensing of managers

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.

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