

**Hotels Act  
(CHAPTER 127)**

**Table of Contents**

**Long Title**

**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 Re-classification 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**

### **Legislative History**

### **Comparative Table**

## **HOTELS ACT**

### **(CHAPTER 127)**

**(Original Enactment: Ordinance 24 of 1954)**

**REVISED EDITION 1999**

(1st August 1999)

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

[10th August 1956]

### **Short title**

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

### **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, 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 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.

(3) Licences shall be subject to —

- (a) such conditions as may be prescribed; and
- (b) such further conditions, if any, as may in each case be imposed by the Board.

(4) Any condition imposed under subsection (3)(b) shall be set out in the licence.

(5) Every licence shall be —

- (a) in the form prescribed; and
- (b) granted on or after 1st January in every year and shall expire on 31st December next following the date of grant.

(6) No licence shall be granted by the Board unless the person applying satisfies the Board that —

- (a) the premises in respect of which the application is made will not be conducted as a disorderly house; and
- (b) he is of good character and a fit and proper person to keep and manage a hotel.

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

### **Suspension and cancellation of licence and certificate of registration**

**8.—**(1) Where it appears to the Board that a hotel is being conducted in an improper or unsatisfactory manner, the Board may —

- (a) cancel the certificate of registration of the hotel;
- (b) cancel the licence granted to the hotel-keeper in respect of the hotel; or
- (c) cancel both the certificate and licence.

(2) Where it appears to the Board that a hotel is being kept in an unclean or insanitary condition, the Board may, by notice in writing, require the hotel-keeper to remedy the defect within such period not being less than one month as may be specified in the notice.

(3) If the hotel-keeper fails to remedy the defect to the satisfaction of the Board within the period so specified, the Board may —

- (a) suspend the certificate of registration of the hotel for such period as it thinks fit or cancel the certificate of registration of the hotel; and
- (b) cancel the licence granted to the hotel-keeper in respect of the hotel.

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

(5) Where an appeal has been made against any 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 of licence and certificate of registration on conviction**

**9.** Where any hotel-keeper is convicted of an offence under Part XI of the Women's Charter (Cap. 353), the Board shall —

- (a) cancel any licence granted to that hotel-keeper under section 7; and
- (b) cancel the certificate of registration of any hotel in respect of which the offence was committed.

### **Re-classification of hotels**

**10.** Where it appears 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**