



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

HOUSE TO HOUSE AND STREET COLLECTIONS ACT 1947

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House to House and Street Collections Act 1947

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An Act to regulate house to house and street collections.

[9 May 1947]

Short title

1. This Act is the House to House and Street Collections Act 1947.

Interpretation

- 2.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“collection” means an appeal to the public or any class of the public, made by means of visits from house to house or of soliciting in streets or other public places, or by both such means, to give, whether for consideration or not, money or other property not being money or property due or about to fall due from the donors under or by virtue of any written law, contract or other legal obligation;

“collector”, in relation to a collection, means a person who makes such an appeal by either of those means;

“house” includes a place of business;

“licence” means a licence granted under section 4;

“proceeds”, in relation to a collection, means all money and all other property given, whether for consideration or not, in response to the appeal made;

“promoter”, in relation to a collection, means a person who causes others to act, whether for remuneration or otherwise, as collectors for the purposes of a collection; and “promote” and “promotion” have corresponding meanings.

(2) For the purposes of this Act, a collection shall be deemed to be made for a particular purpose where the appeal is made in association with a representation that the money or other property appealed for, or part thereof, will be applied for that purpose.

House to house and street collections to be licensed

3.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no collection shall be made unless the requirements of this Act as to a licence for the promotion of a collection are satisfied.

(2) If any person promotes a collection, and a collection is made in any locality pursuant to his promotion, then, unless there is in force, throughout the period during which the collection is made, a licence authorising him, or authorising another under whose authority he acts, to promote that collection, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both.

(3) If any person acts as a collector for the purposes of a collection, then, unless there is in force, at all times when he so acts, a licence authorising a promoter under whose authority he acts, or authorising the collector himself, to promote that collection, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Licences

4.—(1) Where any person who desires to promote a collection in Singapore makes to the Commissioner of Police an application in the prescribed manner specifying the purpose of the collection, and furnishes him with the prescribed information, the Commissioner of Police shall, subject to the following provisions of this section and to such conditions as he thinks fit to impose, grant to the person a licence authorising the person to promote a collection for that purpose.

(2) A licence granted under this section shall be for such period as the Commissioner of Police may in his discretion determine, and the period in respect of which the licence is granted shall be specified in the licence.

(3) Every application for a licence shall specify an address within Singapore for service on the applicant of any notice or other communication required to be served on him.

(4) The Commissioner of Police may, in his discretion, refuse to grant a licence or may at any time revoke a licence granted by him, if it appears to him —

- (a) that the total amount likely to be applied for the purpose of the collection from the proceeds of the collection (including any amount already so applied) is inadequate in proportion to the value of the proceeds likely to be received (including any proceeds already received);
- (b) that remuneration which is excessive in relation to the total amount referred to in paragraph (a) is likely to be, or has been, retained or received out of the proceeds of the collection by any person;
- (c) that the grant of a licence would be likely to facilitate the commission of an offence under any written law, or that any such offence has been committed in connection with the collection, and in particular, that any force, threat or compulsion is likely to be, or has been, used in order to obtain any contribution for the purpose of the collection;