

# **Common Gaming Houses Ordinance**

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**Bill No: 124/1961**

***Read the first time: 11th January 1961***

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### **Common Gaming Houses Ordinance**

## Bill No. 124/1961

*Read the first time on 11th January 1961.*

An Ordinance to consolidate the law relating to the suppression of common gaming houses, public gaming and public lotteries.

Be it enacted by the Yang di-Pertuan Negara with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Singapore, as follows: —

### Short title

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Common Gaming Houses Ordinance, 1961.

### Interpretation

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

“common gaming house” includes any place kept or used for gaming to which the public or any class of the public has or may have access, and any place kept for habitual gaming, whether the public or any class of the public has or may have access thereto or not, and any place kept or used for the purpose of a public lottery whether the public have access thereto or not;

“gaming”, with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions, means the playing of any game of chance or of mixed chance and skill for money or money’s worth;

“lottery” includes any game, method, device, scheme or competition whereby money or money’s worth is distributed or allotted in any manner depending upon or to be determined by chance or lot, whether the same is held, drawn, exercised or managed within or without the State;

“public lottery” means a lottery to which the public or any class of the public has or may have access, and every lottery shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be a public lottery;

“public place” means any place to which the public has or may have access and includes any estate, factory or place in which ten or more persons are employed;

“lottery ticket” includes any paper or figure or writing or symbol or other article whatsoever which either expressly or tacitly entitles or purports to entitle the holder or any other person to receive any money or money’s worth on the happening of any event or contingency connected with any public lottery;

“place” means any house, office, room or building and any place or spot, whether open or enclosed, and includes a ship, boat or other vessel, whether afloat or not, and any vehicle;

a place in which lottery tickets are offered for sale, sold or distributed shall be deemed to be “used for the purpose of a public lottery”;

a place shall be deemed to be “used” for a purpose if it is used for that purpose even on one occasion only;

every person who demises or lets for hire a place shall be deemed the “owner” thereof;

“instruments or appliances for gaming” includes all articles declared under subsection (3) of this section to be instruments or appliances for gaming and all articles which are used in or for the purpose of gaming or a lottery.

(2) The Minister may from time to time by notification in the *Gazette*—

- (a) declare any game, method, device, scheme or competition specified or described in such notification to be a lottery for the purposes of this Ordinance and thereupon it shall be an irrebuttable presumption of law that such game, method, device, scheme or competition is a lottery for the purposes of this Ordinance;
- (b) declare any game, method, device, scheme or competition specified or described in such notification to be a game of chance or a mixed game of chance and skill for the purposes of this Ordinance and thereupon it shall be an irrebuttable presumption of law that such game, method, device, scheme or competition is a game of chance or a mixed game of chance and skill, as the case may be, for the purposes of this Ordinance.

(3) The Minister may from time to time by notification in the *Gazette* declare articles specified or described in such notification to be instruments or appliances for gaming.

### **Gaming houses declared public nuisances**

3. Every common gaming house is hereby declared to be a common and public nuisance contrary to law.

### **Offences**

4.—(1) Any person who —

- (a) being the owner or occupier or having the use temporarily or otherwise thereof keeps or uses a place as a common gaming house; or
- (b) permits a place of which he is owner or occupier or of which he has the use temporarily or otherwise to be kept or used by another person as a common

gaming house; or

- (c) has the care or management of or in any manner assists in the management of a place kept or used as a common gaming house or assists in carrying on a public lottery; or
- (d) receives directly or indirectly any money or money's worth for or in respect of any chance in any event or contingency connected with a public lottery or sells or offers for sale or gives or delivers or collects any lottery ticket; or
- (e) draws, throws, declares or exhibits expressly or otherwise the winner or winning number, ticket, lot, figure, design, symbol or other result of any public lottery; or
- (f) writes, prints or publishes or causes to be written, printed or published any lottery ticket or list of prizes or any announcement of the result of a public lottery or any announcement or riddle relating to a public lottery; or
- (g) announces or publishes or causes to be announced or published, either orally or by means of any print, writing, design, sign or otherwise, that any place is opened, kept or used as a common gaming house, or in any other manner invites or solicits any person to commit a breach of section 6, 7 or 8 of this Ordinance; or
- (h) conducts in or through any newspaper or any other periodical publication, or in connection with any trade or business or the sale of any article to the public —
  - (i) any competition in which prizes are offered for forecasts of the results either of a future event or of a past event the result of which is not yet ascertained or not yet generally known; or
  - (ii) any other competition success in which does not depend to a substantial degree upon the exercise of skill,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding six thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(2) Any person who occupies or has the use temporarily of a place which is kept or used by another person as a common gaming house shall unless such person proves that he has no knowledge that the place is kept or used as a common gaming house be deemed to have permitted such place to be so kept or used.

### **Advancing or furnishing money for establishing or conducting**