

**House to House and Street Collections Act
(CHAPTER 128)**

Table of Contents

Long Title

1 Short title

2 Interpretation

3 House to house and street collections to be licensed

4 Licences

5 Regulations

6 Unauthorised use of badges, etc.

7 Collector to give name, etc., to police on demand

8 Penalties

9 Jurisdiction

10 Exemption

Legislative History

Comparative Table

HOUSE TO HOUSE AND STREET COLLECTIONS ACT

(CHAPTER 128)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 19 of 1947)

REVISED EDITION 2014

(30th April 2014)

An Act to regulate house to house and street collections.

[9th May 1947]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the House to House and Street Collections Act.

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;

- (d) that the applicant or the holder of the licence is not a fit and proper person to hold a licence by reason of the fact that he has been convicted, whether in Singapore or elsewhere, of any offence conviction for which necessarily involved or implied a finding that he had acted fraudulently or dishonestly, or of any offence of a kind the commission of which would be likely to be facilitated by the grant of a licence;
- (e) that the applicant or the holder of the licence, in promoting a collection in respect of which a licence has been granted to him, has failed to exercise due diligence to ensure that persons authorised by him to act as collectors for the purposes of the collection were fit and proper persons to secure compliance on the part of persons so authorised with the provisions of this Act or any of its regulations, or to prevent prescribed badges or prescribed certificates of authority being obtained by persons not so authorised;
- (f) that the collection is in aid of, or that the promoter or any of the collectors are members of, an unlawful society, or that the purpose of the collection is illegal, fictitious or objectionable on grounds of public policy, or that the refusal or revocation of a licence is otherwise desirable in the public interest; or
- (g) that the applicant or the holder of the licence has furnished false information to the Commissioner of Police or has refused or neglected to furnish to the Commissioner of Police such information as he may have reasonably required for the purpose of informing himself as to any of the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (f).

(5) Subject to subsection (6), when the Commissioner of Police refuses to grant a licence or revokes a licence which has been granted, the Commissioner of Police shall forthwith give written notice to the applicant or the holder of the licence stating upon which one or more of the grounds set out in subsection (4) the licence has been refused or revoked and informing him of the right of appeal given by this section, and the applicant or the holder of the licence may then appeal to the Minister against the refusal or revocation of the licence, as the case may be, and the decision of the Minister shall be final.

(6) In any case in which the refusal or revocation by the Commissioner of Police under subsection (5) was based on any ground mentioned in subsection (4)(f), the Commissioner of Police may decline to state his reasons for the refusal or revocation or to disclose the nature or source of the information on which he acted.