

**Public Entertainments and Meetings Act
(CHAPTER 257)**

Table of Contents

Long Title

1 Short title

2 Interpretation

3 Prohibition

4 Appointment of officers

5 Application for licence

6 Applicants may be joined

7 Additional information

8 Contents of licence

9 Licence not renewable as of right

10 Conditions

11 Security

12 Licence to be displayed

13 Refusal of licence

14 Suspension or cancellation of licence

15 Demerit points

16 Exemption

17 Powers of entry and inspection

18 Powers of arrest

19 Penalties

20 Service of documents, etc.

21 Composition of offences

22 Onus of proof

23 Rules

THE SCHEDULE Meaning of public entertainment

Legislative History

Comparative Table

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS AND MEETINGS ACT

(CHAPTER 257)

(Original Enactment: 34 of 1973)

REVISED EDITION 2001

(31st July 2001)

An Act to provide for the regulation of public entertainments and meetings.

[\[35/2000\]](#)

[15th January 1959]

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Entertainments and Meetings Act.

[35/2000]

Interpretation

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

“approved place” means —

- (a) in the case of any place required to be licensed under any regulations for the control and supervision of places that may be used for public entertainment made under the provisions of any written law, a place so licensed; and
- (b) in any other case, a building, tent, street or place whether open or enclosed that is approved for the purposes of this Act by the Licensing Officer;

“Licensing Officer” means the officer appointed by the Minister under section 4 and includes an Assistant Licensing Officer;

“public entertainment” has the same meaning as in the Schedule.

[9/79; 35/2000]

- (2) The Minister may at any time, by order published in the *Gazette*, amend, add to or vary the Schedule.

[35/2000]

- (3) Any order made under subsection (2) shall be presented to Parliament as soon as possible after publication in the *Gazette*.

[35/2000]

Prohibition

3. No public entertainment shall be provided except —

- (a) in an approved place; and
- (b) in accordance with a licence issued by the Licensing Officer.

Appointment of officers

4. The Minister may by notification in the *Gazette* appoint an officer to be the Licensing Officer for the purpose of this Act and may similarly appoint such number of Assistant Licensing Officers as may be necessary.

Application for licence

5. Every application for a licence shall be in the prescribed form.

Applicants may be joined

6. If the Licensing Officer is satisfied that the responsibility for the observance of the conditions of a licence is intended to be shared between 2 or more persons he may require the application to be made in the names of as many such persons jointly as he thinks fit.

Additional information

7. On receipt of an application for a licence the Licensing Officer may require the applicant to furnish him with such additional information or document as he may require.

[35/2000]

Contents of licence

8. Every licence shall be in the prescribed form and shall set out the conditions subject to which it is issued and the date on which it will expire.

[35/2000]

Licence not renewable as of right

9. A licence shall not be renewable as of right.

[35/2000]

Conditions

10.—(1) In issuing a licence the Licensing Officer may impose such conditions as he thinks fit.

[9/79]

(2) The Licensing Officer may at any time add to, vary or revoke any of the conditions of a licence imposed under subsection (1).

[35/2000]

(3) In deciding whether to add to, vary or revoke any condition of a licence under subsection (2), the Licensing Officer may take into consideration the total number of demerit points awarded against the licensee under section 15 in respect of the licence.

[35/2000]

(4) The Licensing Officer shall, before proceeding to add to, vary or revoke any condition of a licence under subsection (2), give the licensee —

(a) notice in writing of his intention to do so; and

(b) an opportunity to be heard, within such time as may be specified in the notice, as to why the condition should not be added to, varied or revoked.

[35/2000]

(5) Any person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Licensing Officer under this

section may, within 14 days of being notified of the decision of the Licensing Officer, appeal in writing to the Minister whose decision shall be final.

[35/2000]

Security

11.—(1) In respect of such classes of public entertainment as the Minister may from time to time prescribe by notification in the *Gazette* and subject to such limits as may be thereby prescribed, the Licensing Officer may, before issuing a licence, require —

- (a) the applicant; or
- (b) if there are 2 or more applicants, each applicant named by the Licensing Officer for the purpose,

to give security in such form as the Licensing Officer may determine that the provisions of this Act and the conditions of the licence issued will be duly observed.

[35/2000]

(2) Where a licensee has been awarded such number of demerit points as may be prescribed under section 15(1), the Licensing Officer may require a licensee to give security in such form as the Licensing Officer may determine that the provisions of this Act and the conditions of the licence issued will be duly observed.

[35/2000]

(3) Where any applicant is required under subsection (1), or any licensee is required under subsection (2), to enter into a bond, the Licensing Officer may require not more than 2 sureties to enter into the bond with the applicant or the licensee, as the case may be.

[35/2000]

(4) Any security given under subsection (1) or (2) shall be liable to forfeiture in whole or in part at the discretion of the Licensing Officer —

- (a) on the cancellation of the licence;
- (b) where the licensee has been awarded such number of demerit points as may be prescribed under section 15(1); or
- (c) where the Licensing Officer is satisfied that the public entertainment has been carried out in contravention of this Act.

[35/2000]

(5) The Licensing Officer shall, before proceeding under subsection (4), give the licensee —

- (a) notice in writing of his intention to do so; and
- (b) an opportunity to be heard, within such time as may be specified in the