

**Public Entertainments Act
(CHAPTER 257)**

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PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS ACT
(CHAPTER 257)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 40 of 1958)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Act to provide for the regulation of public entertainments.

[15th January 1959]

Short title

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

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“approved place” means, 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 in other cases a building, tent, street or place whether open or enclosed that is approved for the purposes of this Act by the Licensing Officer;

“film” includes any record, however made, of a sequence of visual images, which is a record capable of being used as a means of showing that sequence as a moving picture;

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

“pin-table” means any table, board or other appliance operated by hand or by coin, disc, electricity or any other means which is designed to enable the operator to play a game success in which is measured by the propulsion of one or more movable objects towards targets or goals or by the attainment of a number of points or by both and includes any table, board or other appliance which the Minister may from time to time by notification in the *Gazette* declare to be a pin-table;

“public entertainment” includes —

- (a) plays, operas, pantomimes, variety acts, performances of music, singing, dancing, gymnastics, acrobatics and legerdemain, tableaux, demonstrations, displays and parades;
- (b) displays of fireworks, set pieces, commemorative decorations and representations of real or mythical creatures;
- (c) circuses and exhibitions of animals or abnormal persons;
- (d) amusement parks and fun fairs;
- (e) exhibitions of models, reading matter, pictures, photographs or of statuary or other forms of representation of human or animal figures;
- (f) exhibitions of films, peep-shows and puppet-shows;
- (g) reproductions or transmissions otherwise than in association with a film, by any means other than telephony or radio telephony, of any music, song or speech;
- (h) machines and devices by the manipulation of which chances are given of obtaining prizes in money or kind;
- (i) pin-tables;
- (j) sporting contests of any kind between any number of persons or animals other than that organised by any registered society, trade union, company or association;
- (k) organised competitions at games of skill or chance;
- (l) play-readings, recitals, lectures, talks, addresses, debates and

discussions;

- (m) charitable distributions, auctions and sales of goods for philanthropic or charitable purposes, fêtes and garden parties;
- (n) trade fairs consisting in the exhibition, advertisement or sale of the products of industries or of materials; or
- (o) any combination of any of the above forms of public entertainment,

in any place to which the public or any class of the public has access whether gratuitously or otherwise, but does not include —

- (i) public entertainment at gatherings and celebrations officially arranged by the official representative in Singapore of any government;
- (ii) public entertainment provided by or under the auspices of the Government or any department of the Government or any authority constituted under any written law relating to local government;
- (iii) ceremonies, rites, services and celebrations lawfully conducted by priests or ministers of religion in premises consecrated generally or specially for the conduct thereof;
- (iv) addresses, debates and discussions at meetings of public companies, chambers of commerce, registered trade unions, registered political associations or exempted or registered societies from which persons who are not shareholders or members, as the case may be, are excluded.

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.