## THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1977

### New South Wales



ANNO VICESIMO SEXTO

# ELIZABETHÆ II REGINÆ

Act No. 42, 1977.

An Act to amend the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908. [Assented to, 15th April, 1977.]

**B**E it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

- 1. This Act may be cited as the "Theatres and Public Short Halls (Amendment) Act, 1977".
- 2. (1) This section, sections 1 and 3, Schedule 2 (5) Commence-(b), (5) (g), (7), (9), (12), (14), (15) (c), (16) and ment. (17), Schedule 3 (2) (a), (2) (c) and (4), Schedule 4 (2) and (5) and Schedule 6 shall commence on the date of assent to this Act.
- (2) Schedule 2 (1), (5) (e) and (5) (f) shall commence on the day that is 3 months after the date of assent to this Act.
- (3) Section 4 shall, in its application to a provision of Schedules 1–6, commence on the day on which that provision commences.
- (4) Except as provided in subsections (1), (2) and (3), this Act shall commence on such day as may be appointed by the Governor in respect thereof and as may be notified by proclamation published in the Gazette.
  - 3. This Act contains the following Schedules:— Schedules.
    - SCHEDULE 1.—Amendments to Part I of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908.
    - SCHEDULE 2.—Amendments to Part II of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908.

      SCHEDULE

- SCHEDULE 3.—Amendments to Part III of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908.
- SCHEDULE 4.—Amendments to Part IV of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908.
- SCHEDULE 5.—Repeal of Schedules I and II to the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908.
- SCHEDULE 6.—AMENDMENTS TO THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908, BY WAY OF STATUTE LAW REVISION.
- SCHEDULE 7.—Transitional and Savings Provisions.

Amendment of Act No. 13, 1908. The Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908, is amended in the manner set forth in Schedules 1-6.

Transitional and savings provisions.

5. Schedule 7 has effect.

Sec. 4.

#### SCHEDULE 1.

Amendments to Part I of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908.

(1) Section 2—

From the matter relating to Part III, omit "23", insert instead "22B".

#### SCHEDULE 1—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART I OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

(2) (a) Section 4 (1)—

Omit the subsection, insert instead:—

(1) In this Act, except in so far as the context or subject-matter otherwise indicates or requires—

"building" includes part of a building;

"licensed capacity", in relation to a theatre or public hall or any part thereof, means the maximum number of persons who may be accommodated on seats or otherwise in that theatre or public hall or in that part thereof, being the number stated in that behalf in the license in respect of that theatre or public hall under section 20 (1) (b) or (c);

"owner" includes trustee or committee of management;

"public entertainment" means entertainment to which admission may ordinarily be procured by members of the public—

- (a) upon payment of money or other consideration; or
- (b) by a ticket, programme or other device purchased for money or other consideration,

#### SCHEDULE 1-continued.

### AMENDMENTS TO PART I OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

#### notwithstanding-

- (c) that admission may also be procured thereto by any person without such payment, ticket, programme or device; or
- (d) that such payment, ticket, programme or device is demanded—
  - (i) as the charge for a meal or other refreshment or for any other service or thing before admission may be procured to the entertainment; or
  - (ii) as the charge for the entertainment after admission thereto;

"public meeting" means an assemblage of persons, for a public purpose of a political, religious, charitable, intellectual or any other nature, to which admission may ordinarily be procured by members of the public whether or not—

- (a) upon payment of money or other consideration; or
- (b) by a ticket, programme or other device purchased for money or other consideration,

but does not include an assemblage of persons for religious worship only;

#### SCHEDULE 1—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART I OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

"regulation" means a regulation made under this Act;

"theatre or public hall" means a building of a permanent character where public entertainments or public meetings are held, and includes any building or premises used in connection therewith.

(b) Section 4 (2)—

Omit the subsection.

(c) Section 4 (3)—

Omit "Public", insert instead "public".

(d) Section 4 (3)—

After "contest", insert ", but does not include entertainment provided for the purpose of complying with the provisions of section 57B (3) of the Liquor Act, 1912".

#### Sec. 4.

#### SCHEDULE 2.

AMENDMENTS TO PART II OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908.

#### (1) Section 5—

Omit the section and the short heading before the section, insert instead:—

Governor may exempt theatres or public halls.

- 5. The Governor may, by order published in the Gazette, exempt any particular theatre or public hall, or any class of theatre or public hall, named or described in the order from the operation of this Part.
- (2) Section 6—

Omit the section.

#### (3) (a) Section 7 (1)—

Omit "appropriate fee set out in Schedule II", insert instead "prescribed fee".

(b) Section 7 (2)—

Omit "appropriate fee set out in Schedule II", insert instead "prescribed fee".

(c) Section 7 (5)—

Omit the subsection, insert instead:—

(5) The prescribed fee payable under this section in respect of a theatre or public hall for any period of twelve months referred to in subsection (1) or (2) shall be determined at the commencement of that period and shall not be affected by anything occurring during that period which, but for this subsection, would have altered the prescribed fee payable in respect of that theatre or public hall.

#### SCHEDULE 2—continued.

### AMENDMENTS TO PART II OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

- (d) Section 7 (6)—
  Omit the subsection.
- (4) Section 8—
  Omit the section.
- (5) (a) Section 9 (1) (b) (i), (iii)—

Omit the subparagraphs, insert instead:—

- (i) such plans and specifications in connection with the application as are prescribed; and
- (ii) such fees for the examination of those plans and specifications as are prescribed.
- (b) Section 9 (1) (b), proviso— Omit the proviso.
- (c) Section 9 (1) (c)—
  After "Minister", insert "or a prescribed officer".
- (d) Section 9 (1) (d) (iii)—

  After "Minister", insert "or a prescribed officer".
- (e) Section 9 (1) (d) (iii)—
  After "out;", insert "and".
- (f) Section 9 (1) (d) (iv)—
  Omit the subparagraph.

#### SCHEDULE 2—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART II OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

- (g) Section 9 (2)—
  Omit the subsection.
- (6) Section 12A (1)—
  After "Minister", insert "or a prescribed officer".
- (7) (a) Section 12B (a)—
  After "destroyed;", insert "or".
  - (b) Section 12B (b)—
    Omit the paragraph.
- (8) Section 13—

Omit the section, insert instead:-

Transfer of license.

- 13. (1) A license may be transferred to the owner or lessee of the licensed building by endorsement in the prescribed form on the license.
- (2) An application to transfer a license under subsection (1) shall be made in the prescribed manner and be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Minister shall cause particulars of the transfer of any license under subsection (1) to be recorded in the register kept under section 28.
- (9) Sections 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D—Omit the sections.

#### SCHEDULE 2-continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART II OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

(10) (a) Section 14 (b)—

Omit "staircases, and landings,", insert instead "stairways and landings, the provision of emergency lighting".

- (b) Section 14 (c)—
  After "prevention", insert ", control".
- (c) Section 14 (c) (v)—Omit "in theatres".
- (d) Section 14 (c) (vii)—

After section 14 (c) (vi), insert:—

- (vii) provision for the escape of smoke in the event of fire.
- (e) Section 14 (f), (g)—

After section 14 (e), insert:—

- (f) The purposes for which any part of the building may be used.
- (g) Requiring the submission to the Minister of certificates of or reports by competent persons or bodies in respect of aspects of building design, or the use in or in connection with the building of particular materials or combination of materials or of particular equipment, or forms or methods of construction of the building.

#### SCHEDULE 2-continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART II OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

#### (f) Section 14 (2), (3)—

At the end of section 14, insert:—

- (2) A provision of a regulation made under subsection (1) for or with respect to the conditions subject to which a license issued for a building continues in force applies to a building notwithstanding that a license was issued for that building before the commencement of that provision.
- (3) Without limiting section 31 (3), the Minister may exempt from any specified provision of a regulation made under subsection (1) any building, or class of building, erected before the commencement of that provision.

#### (11) (a) Section 15—

After "Minister", insert "or a prescribed officer".

(b) Section 15 (2)—

At the end of section 15, insert:

- (2) An application for an approval under subsection (1) shall—
  - (a) be made by the holder of the license in the prescribed manner;
  - (b) be accompanied by such plans and specifications in connection with the additions or alterations as are prescribed; and

#### SCHEDULE 2-continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART II OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

(c) be accompanied by such fees for the examination of those plans and specifications as are prescribed.

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#### (12) Section 16 (1) (c)—

Omit the paragraph, insert instead:—

(c) that public safety, health or convenience is prejudiced;

#### (13) (a) Section 17 (e)—

Omit "Prescribing the keeping of a fire watch", insert instead "Requiring the attendance, and prescribing the duties, of a fire safety officer".

(b) Section 17 (j)—

Omit "not exceeding forty dollars", insert instead ", in the case of a corporation, not exceeding \$400, or, in any other case, not exceeding \$200,".

#### (14) (a) Section 18 (1), (2)—

Omit "theatre, public hall, or other" wherever occurring.

#### (b) Section 18 (1)—

Omit "liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars for every day during which such public entertainment or public meeting is so held.", insert instead:—

liable---

(a) in the case of a corporation—to a penalty not exceeding \$2,000;or

#### SCHEDULE 2—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART II OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

(b) in any other case—to a penalty not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or both.

#### (c) Section 18 (2)—

Omit "liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars.", insert instead:—

#### liable---

- (a) in the case of a corporation—to a penalty not exceeding \$2,000;
- (b) in any other case—to a penalty not exceeding \$1,000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or both.

#### (15) (a) Section 20 (1)—

Omit the subsection, insert instead:—

- (1) The license in respect of a theatre or public hall—
  - (a) shall state the maximum number of persons (if any) who may be accommodated otherwise than on seats in the theatre or public hall;
  - (b) shall state the maximum number of persons who may be accommodated on seats or otherwise in the theatre or public hall; and

#### SCHEDULE 2—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART II OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

(c) may state the maximum number of persons who may be accommodated on seats or otherwise in any specified part of the theatre or public hall,

as determined in accordance with the manner prescribed for the purposes of this subsection.

(b) Section 20 (2) (a), (b)—

Omit the paragraphs, insert instead:—

- (a) the number of persons admitted to the theatre or public hall and accommodated otherwise than on seats exceeds the number stated in that behalf in the license; or
- (b) the number of persons admitted to the theatre or public hall or any part thereof exceeds the licensed capacity of that theatre or public hall or that part thereof,
- (c) Section 20 (2)—

Omit "one hundred dollars", insert instead "\$200".

(d) Section 20 (3), (4)—

After section 20 (2), insert:

- (3) If the licensed capacity of a theatre or public hall is altered the holder of the license in respect of that theatre or public hall shall deliver up the license to the Minister.
- (4) The Minister shall cause a license delivered up under subsection (3) to be endorsed with the current licensed capacity of the theatre SCHEDULE

#### SCHEDULE 2—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART II OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

or public hall to which the license relates and cause particulars of the alteration in the licensed capacity of that theatre or public hall to be recorded in the register kept under section 28.

(16) Section 21—

Omit the section.

(17) Section 22—

Omit "twenty dollars", insert instead "\$50".

Sec. 4.

#### SCHEDULE 3.

Amendments to Part III of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908.

(1) Section 22B—

Before section 23, insert:—

Interpretation: Part III. 22B. In this Part-

"license" means a license under this Part;

"temporary structure" means a booth, tent or other temporary enclosure.

(2) (a) Section 23 (1)—

After "terms", insert "and conditions".

(b) Section 23 (2)—

Omit "any such", insert instead "a".

#### SCHEDULE 3—continued.

Amendments to Part III of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908—continued.

#### (c) Section 23 (3)—

Omit the subsection, insert instead:-

(3) The Minister may suspend or cancel a license if it appears to him that the provisions of the regulations or the terms or conditions of the license have not been complied with by the holder of the license.

#### (3) (a) Section 24 (1)—

Omit "Such", insert instead "A".

(b) Section 24 (2)—

Omit "Any such", insert instead "A".

#### (4) Section 25—

Omit the section and the short heading before the section, insert instead:—

- 25. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person who Penalty holds a public entertainment in a temporary and for holding unlicensed structure shall, unless he is the holder of a ment without license in that behalf then in force, be liable—
  - (a) in the case of a corporation—to a penalty not exceeding \$1,000; or
  - (b) in any other case—to a penalty not exceeding \$500 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 6 months, or both.

#### SCHEDULE 3—continued.

### AMENDMENTS TO PART III OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

(2) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette, exempt any class of entertainments, or may, by order under his hand, exempt any particular entertainment, from the operation of this section.

#### (5) Section 26—

Omit the section, insert instead:—

Regulations relating to temporary structures.

- 26. The Governor may, with respect to temporary structures used for public entertainments or public meetings, make regulations for or with respect to—
  - (a) the situation and construction in all respects of the temporary structures and any of their furnishings or fittings;
  - (b) the provision of sufficient means of exit from the temporary structures, the construction and size of passages, stairways and landings, the provision of emergency lighting and the construction and arrangement of seats to allow of speedy exit from the structures;
  - (c) prescribing and regulating the keeping of fire hydrants and appliances for extinguishing fires;
  - (d) sanitary arrangements;
  - (e) requiring the attendance, and prescribing the duties of, a fire safety officer during any public entertainment or public meeting;
  - (f) persons smoking;
  - (g) the possession or consumption of spirituous or other alcoholic liquors or beverages;

#### SCHEDULE 3—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART III OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

- (h) generally for preventing, controlling and extinguishing fires, and for public safety, health and convenience, whether in relation to persons resorting to or using the temporary structures or otherwise; and
- (i) imposing any penalty, in the case of a corporation, not exceeding \$400, or, in any other case, not exceeding \$200, for the breach of any such regulation.

#### SCHEDULE 4.

Sec. 4.

Amendments to Part IV of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908.

(1) Section 28—

Omit the section and the short heading before the section, insert instead:—

28. The Minister shall cause a register to be kept Register of the licenses in force under this Act containing such of licenses. particulars relating to those licenses as are prescribed.

#### SCHEDULE 4—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO PART IV OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

#### (2) Section 29—

Omit the section and the short heading before the section, insert instead:—

Inspection.

- 29. (1) A member of the police force who is of or above the rank of sergeant or who is in charge of a police station or a person appointed by the Minister for the purposes of this section may, at any reasonable time, enter and inspect any theatre or public hall or any place in which he has reason to suspect a public entertainment or public meeting is being held or is proposed to be held.
- (2) A member of the police force, or a person, conducting an inspection pursuant to subsection (1) may test or cause to be tested any equipment installed in the theatre or public hall or place being inspected.
- (3) A person who assaults, threatens, resists, delays, obstructs or uses abusive language to, or incites or encourages any person to assault, threaten, resist, delay, obstruct or use abusive language to, a member of the police force, or a person, acting in pursuance of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$200.

#### (3) Section 30 (b)—

Omit the paragraph, insert instead:—

(b) a certificate, signed or purporting to be signed by the Minister or a prescribed officer and specifying the particulars relating to an entry in the register kept under section 28, shall be evidence of those particulars; and

#### SCHEDULE 4—continued.

### AMENDMENTS TO PART IV OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

#### (4) (a) Section 31 (1) (d)—

Omit "not exceeding forty dollars", insert instead ", in the case of a corporation, not exceeding \$400, or, in any other case, not exceeding \$200,".

#### (b) Section 31 (4), (5)—

After section 31 (3), insert:—

- (4) Any such regulation may adopt wholly or partially or by reference any codes, rules, specifications or provisions which relate to any matter with which the regulation deals and which are—
  - (a) recommended or adopted by the Standards Association of Australia;
  - (b) recommended or adopted by any other standards organisation or body of any place outside Australia, being an organisation or body declared by the Minister by order published in the Gazette to be an approved standards organisation or body for the purposes of this subsection;
  - (c) included in any document issued by any Department of the Crown in right of this or any other State or the Commonwealth or issued by an instrumentality of this or any other State or the Commonwealth constituted by an Act of Parliament thereof; or
  - (d) approved by the Minister and published in the Gazette.

#### SCHEDULE 4—continued.

### AMENDMENTS TO PART IV OF THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908—continued.

(5) The fees prescribed for the purposes of section 7 (1), 7 (2), 9 (1) (b) (ii) or 15 (2) (c) may vary according to the class of building, the contract price, the cost of erecting or altering the building as estimated by the Minister or a prescribed officer, or otherwise.

#### (5) Section 33—

Omit the section and the short heading before the section, insert instead:—

Proceedings for offences against Act or regulations. 33. Proceedings for an offence against this Act or the regulations may be taken before a court of petty sessions constituted by a stipendiary magistrate sitting alone.

#### Sec. 4.

#### SCHEDULE 5.

Repeal of Schedules I and II to the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908.

Schedules I and II-

Omit the Schedules.

#### SCHEDULE 6.

Sec. 4.

AMENDMENTS TO THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908, BY WAY OF STATUTE LAW REVISION.

#### (1) Section 2—

Omit the matter relating to Part II, insert instead:—

PART II.—THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS
—ss. 4A-22.

Division 1.—Licensing of theatres or public halls—ss. 4A-14.

DIVISION 2.—Regulation of licensed buildings—ss. 15-17.

Division 3.—Penalties—ss. 18-22.

(2) Section 4A, short heading before the section—

Omit the short heading, insert instead :—

DIVISION 1.—Licensing of theatres or public halls.

#### (3) (a) Section 7 (3)—

Omit "paragraph (b) of subsection (1) or under subsection (2)", insert instead "subsection (1) (b) or (2)".

(b) Section 7 (4)—

Omit "paragraph (b) of subsection (1) or under subsection (2)", insert instead "subsection (1) (b) or (2)".

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#### SCHEDULE 6—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908, BY WAY OF STATUTE LAW REVISION—continued.

- (4) Section 9 (1) (d) (v)—
  Omit "subsection (1) of section (7)", insert instead "section 7 (1)".
- (5) Section 11—
  Omit "subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of section 9", insert instead "section 9 (1) (d) (iii)".
- (6) (a) Section 14 (d)—
  Omit "the" where firstly occurring, insert instead "The".
  - (b) Section 14 (d)—
    Omit "building;", insert instead "building.".
  - (c) Section 14 (e)—
    Omit "sanitary", insert instead "Sanitary".
- (7) Section 15, short heading before the section—
  Omit the short heading, insert instead:—
  DIVISION 2.—Regulation of licensed buildings.
- (8) Section 18, short heading before the section—
  Omit the short heading, insert instead:—
  DIVISION 3.—Penalties.

#### SCHEDULE 6—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908, BY WAY OF STATUTE LAW REVISION—continued.

- (9) Section 23, short heading before the section— Omit the short heading.
- (10) Section 26HA (1)—
  Omit "subsection (2) of section 26H", insert instead "section 26H (2)".
- (11) (a) Section 26κ (1)—
  Omit "subsection (1) of section 26н", insert instead "section 26н (1)".
  - (b) Section 26K (1)—
    Omit "subsection (2) of that section", insert instead "section 26H (2)".
- (12) Section 26w (1) (e)—
  Omit "subsection (2) of section 26H", insert instead "section 26H (2)".
- (13) (a) Section 27, short heading before the section—Omit the short heading.
  - (b) Section 27 (2)—
    Omit "as amended by subsequent Acts,".
  - (c) Section 27 (3)—
    Omit "as amended by subsequent Acts,".

#### SCHEDULE 6—continued.

AMENDMENTS TO THE THEATRES AND PUBLIC HALLS ACT, 1908, BY WAY OF STATUTE LAW REVISION—continued.

- (14) Section 30, short heading before the section— Omit the short heading.
- (15) Section 31, short heading before the section— Omit the short heading.
- (16) Section 32—

Omit the section, insert instead:—

Publication of regulations. 32. Section 41 of the Interpretation Act, 1897, applies in respect of a regulation as if this Act had been passed after the commencement of the Interpretation (Amendment) Act, 1969.

Sec. 5.

#### SCHEDULE 7.

#### TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

Licensed capacity.

1. The licensed capacity of a theatre or public hall licensed before the day appointed and notified under section 2 (4) shall, for the purposes of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908, as amended by this Act, and until altered under that Act as so amended, be deemed to be the number of persons stated in the license pursuant to section 20 (1) (c) of that Act, as in force immediately before that day.

#### SCHEDULE 7—continued.

Transitional and Savings Provisions—continued.

- 2. Schedule 2 (3) shall in its application to a theatre or Fees for public hall licensed before the day appointed and notified licenses. under section 2 (4) be deemed to commence from the commencement of the period of twelve months referred to in section 7 (1) or (2) of the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908, in respect of that theatre or public hall next following that day.
- 3. An application for a license or for the transfer of a Applications license under the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908, made made before appointed before the day appointed and notified under section 2 (4) day. shall, if not disposed of before that day, be deemed to have been duly made under that Act, as amended by this Act.
- 4. A reference in any Act or in any regulation, by-law or References other statutory instrument or in any other document, whether in other Acts, etc., of the same or of a different kind, to a theatre licensed under to licensed the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908, or a public hall theatres or public halls. licensed under the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908, shall be construed as a reference to a theatre or public hall licensed under the Theatres and Public Halls Act, 1908, as amended by this Act.