

1937

c 320 Hotel Fire Accidents Prevention Act

Ontario

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CHAPTER 320.

The Hotel Fire Accidents Prevention Act.

1. In this Act,—

Interpre-
tation.

- (a) "Hotel" shall mean a separate building or two or more connected buildings used mainly for the purpose of catering to the needs of the travelling public by the supply of food and also by the furnishing of sleeping accommodation of not less than six bedrooms as distinguished from any other building or connected buildings used mainly for the purpose of supplying food and lodging by the week or otherwise commonly known as "boarding houses" or of furnishing living quarters for families and having a dining-room or restaurant commonly known as "apartment houses" or "private hotels";
- (b) "Inspector" shall mean such person as may be authorized by law to inspect standard hotels. 1937, c. 31, s. 2.

"Hotel."

"Inspector."

2.—(1) Every hotel exceeding two storeys in height shall have permanent outside iron stairways or ladders and balconies, as defined in section 3, from each landing or floor above the first or ground floor, of such number, design, construction and location as shall be deemed necessary by the inspector in charge of the district in which such hotel is located, and at least one such stairway or ladder shall be required in every case.

Outside
stairway
or ladder.

(2) Every such stairway or ladder shall be securely attached to the building, shall have sufficient strength to sustain a weight of at least one thousand pounds per ten feet of vertical height of the stairway or ladder measured from its lowest point, and shall extend to at least within six feet of the ground.

Specifi-
cations.

(3) An enclosed fireproof and smokeproof stairway within the building, constructed to the satisfaction of the inspector in charge of the district in which the building is located, shall be deemed to be the equivalent of such a stairway or ladder. 1937, c. 31, s. 3.

Substitution
of fireproof
inside
stairway.

3.—(1) A balcony of iron construction shall be erected outside each door, window or other exit leading from each floor above the first or ground floor, to an outside stairway or

Balcony.

ladder, of such design, construction and location as shall be deemed necessary by the inspector in charge of the district in which such hotel is located.

Balcony floor.

(2) The floor of every such balcony shall be not more than three inches lower than the bottom of the door, window or other exit in cases where the door or window opening on to the balcony extends to or within one foot of the floor level but in other cases a balcony floor shall be not less than ten inches nor more than fifteen inches below the bottom of such door, window or other exit. 1937, c. 31, s. 4.

Access to stair or ladder.

4.—(1) Access to such stairway or ladder shall be unobstructed and shall not be through a room used as a bedroom or bathroom or for any other purpose that obstructs free passage, nor shall such access be veiled from open view by any ornamentation, curtain or other thing.

Doors and windows to open outwards.

(2) Every door and window opening on to any such balcony shall be hinged so as to open outward in such a manner that it will not interfere with the exit flow of traffic, and so that it will in its opened position leave the full width of the balcony free for use.

Exterior doors.

(3) Every exterior door other than a rotary or rotating door on the ground floor shall be hinged to open outwards. 1937, c. 31, s. 5.

Indication of exits.

5.—(1) Where electric light is available a red light shall be kept burning during the night at each immediate point of exit to any outside stairway or ladder or other emergency means of escape, and every exit shall be marked with the word "Exit" in letters not less than six inches high, and no other red light shall be used within the premises.

Placards to be displayed.

(2) Placards at least eight inches in height and printed in letters at least two inches high stating that the exits by stairway or outside fire escapes are at the red lights and indicating the direction shall be displayed in prominent locations, including the office where the register is kept, and at each landing of each stairway used by the public.

Notice to be posted in each sleeping apartment.

(3) A notice shall be posted up in the office and each sleeping apartment or bedroom calling attention to the fire escapes and containing full directions for the use of such fire escapes, as well as a statement explaining the situation of outside stairways or ladders and the means of access to them. 1937, c. 31, s. 6.

6. It shall be the duty of the owner of the hotel to erect and maintain such stairways or ladders as may be required under this Act and it shall be the duty of the keeper or proprietor of the hotel to keep the way or passage to the stairway or ladder at all times unobstructed and free of access. 1937, c. 31, s. 7. ^{Duty as to stairways.}

7.—(1) Every hotel shall provide in every sleeping apartment or bedroom above the first or ground floor a rope not less than three-quarters of an inch in thickness and of sufficient length to permit a person with the rope secured about his body to be lowered through the window to the ground, and such rope shall be firmly secured to a safe fastening at the side of the window at least two feet above the sill, and every bedroom window shall be so arranged that it may be opened with ease and conveniently secured in an open position. ^{Ropes.}

(2) Every such rope shall be kept coiled or looped in a convenient position so that it may be promptly extended to the ground without delay. ^{Position of ropes.}

(3) This section shall not apply to any hotel of two or more storeys in height constructed in the manner commonly known as fireproof construction unless in the opinion of the inspector in charge of the district in which the hotel is located, the arrangements of fire escapes, ladders, outside stairways and other precautions in case of fire are insufficient and written notice thereof is given to the owner, proprietor or person in charge of the hotel by such inspector or by the member of the Executive Council, commission, board or other body charged with the administration of this Act. 1937, c. 31, s. 8. ^{Exceptions.}

8. The keeper of every hotel containing fifty or more bedrooms furnished for use, shall employ a night watchman who shall be on duty from ten o'clock each night until six o'clock on the following morning. 1937, c. 31, s. 9. ^{Night watchman,—employment of.}

9.—(1) Every owner, lessee, keeper or proprietor of any hotel who neglects to observe any of the provisions of this Act shall incur a penalty for each offence of not less than \$20 and not exceeding \$200. ^{Penalty.}

(2) A conviction for any such offence shall not be a bar to prosecution for a continuance of such neglect subsequent to the conviction, but such continuance shall constitute a new and separate offence. ^{Conviction not bar to further charge.}

(3) The penalties imposed by this Act shall be recoverable under the provisions of *The Summary Convictions Act*. 1937, c. 31, s. 10. ^{Recovery of penalties. Rev. Stat. c. 136.}

Municipal
by-laws
not
affected.

10. Nothing in this Act shall affect any by-laws relating to the matters mentioned herein and lawfully passed by a municipal council, or the authority of a municipal council to pass any such by-laws so far as such by-laws impose additional or more stringent requirements than those imposed by this Act. 1937, c. 31, s. 11.
