

1914

c 236 Theatres and Cinematographs Act

Ontario

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CHAPTER 236.

An Act to regulate Halls, Theatres and Cinematographs.

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as *The Theatres and Cinematographs Act*. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 1.

Regulations by Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council as to theatres.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make Regulations similar or different in different localities, or with reference to different classes of buildings, or having application to different classes of performances or to different conditions governing the erection, operation and safety of theatres, including inspection and supervision, and shall have every power for such purpose which shall be necessary to carry into effect the terms of this section. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 2.

Licensing and regulating cinematographs, etc.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may impose a license fee upon and make Regulations for licensing, using and operating of cinematographs, moving picture machines or other similar apparatus, for prescribing the conditions under which such machines shall be operated, for licensing, operating and defining of film exchanges, for prohibiting or regulating films or slides to be exchanged or exhibited, for examining, regulating and licensing operators and for prescribing the terms and conditions under which such machines shall be operated or such films sold, leased or exchanged. 2 Geo. V. c. 54, s. 1.

Board of Censors.

4.—(1) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint a Board of Censors, to hold office during pleasure, composed of three persons who shall have power to permit the exhibition of or absolutely to prohibit or reject any film or slide which it is proposed to use in Ontario and to suspend for cause the license of any operator.

Appeal from Board.

(2) There shall be an appeal from the Board of Censors to the person, body or Court designated and subject to the conditions prescribed by regulation of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. 2 Geo. V. c. 54, s. 2.

Inspector.

(3) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint an Inspector to inspect theatres, cinematographs, moving picture machines or other similar apparatus and perform such

other duties as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may require. 3-4 Geo. V. c. 18, s. 40.

5. No cinematograph, moving picture machine or other similar apparatus shall exhibit any films which have not been stamped by the Board of Censors, and no such cinematograph, moving picture machine or other similar apparatus shall be kept or exhibited for entertainment until the owner, user or exhibitor of such apparatus has complied with the Regulations and obtained a license from the Treasurer of Ontario. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 5.

Films to be stamped by Board of Censors.

6. All films passed or permitted to be exhibited by the Board of Censors shall be stamped in such manner that the stamp will show upon the canvas, screen or any substitute therefor, unless otherwise authorized, such authorization to be submitted to the inspection of any person on demand, and no exhibition of such film shall be prohibited by any police officer or constable or other person on account of anything contained in such film. 2 Geo. V. c. 54, s. 3.

Stamps to show on canvas.

7.—(1) The user or exhibitor of every cinematograph, moving picture machine or other similar apparatus, the owner, lessee or manager of every film exchange and the person operating such cinematograph, moving picture machine or other similar apparatus shall each pay in advance to the Treasurer of Ontario an annual license fee.

License fee.

(2) The amount of the license fee may be different in the case of the user or exhibitor, in the case of the owner, lessee or manager and in the case of the person operating, and shall be fixed by the Regulations. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 7.

Amount.

8. Any person in charge of such cinematograph, moving picture machine or other similar apparatus, or the owner, proprietor, manager or person having control thereof who uses any such machine for public entertainment without having complied with, or in contravention of the Regulations, or without having a license therefor from the Treasurer of Ontario, or who exhibits films not authorized by the Board of Censors as required by this Act shall be guilty of an offence against this Act. 2 Geo. V. c. 54, s. 4.

Exhibiting in violation of regulations.

9. No municipal corporation shall issue a license for any cinematograph, moving picture machine or other similar apparatus to which this Act applies until the applicant produces a license from the Treasurer of Ontario authorizing the exhibition in the municipality, and any member or officer of a municipal corporation who is a party to the issue of any license in contravention of this Act shall incur a penalty of \$20. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 9.

Municipal licensees not to be issued, until provincial license granted.

10. A child under the age of fifteen years unaccompanied by an adult shall not be permitted to attend any exhibition by

Children under 15 years of age.

cinematograph, moving picture machine or other similar apparatus at which exhibition an admission fee is charged. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 10.

Penalty.

11. Any person contravening any of the provisions of this Act, save sections 9 and 12, or any Regulation shall incur a penalty of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200, and a further penalty of \$25 for every day after conviction upon which such offence continues. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 11.

Liability for bodily injury or loss of life.

12. If any breach of this Act or of any of the Regulations causes directly or indirectly bodily injury or loss of life the owner, lessee, manager, operator or other person through or by whom such breach occurred shall, in addition to any other penalty prescribed by law, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 12.

Inspection by Ontario Provincial Police.

13. For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Act and of the Regulations, the Ontario Provincial Police or a member of the Board of Censors or such other person appointed under this Act are hereby empowered and directed at any time to inspect any cinematograph, moving picture machine or other similar apparatus which is used or kept on premises licensed under this Act. 2 Geo. V. c. 54, s. 5.

Duty of Chief Constable.

14. In a city, town or village it shall also be the duty of the Chief Constable or Chief of Police to enforce the provisions of this Act and the Regulations. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 14.

Recovery of penalties. Rev. Stat. c. 90.

15.—(1) The penalties imposed by or under the authority of this Act shall be recoverable under *The Ontario Summary Convictions Act*.

Application of penalties.

(2) All penalties recovered under this Act shall be paid to the Treasurer of Ontario. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 15.

Regulations generally.

16. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall have power to make such regulations as may be deemed necessary, advisable or convenient for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act. 1 Geo. V. c. 73, s. 16.