1950

C 182 Innkeepers Act

Ontario
CHAPTER 182

The Innkeepers Act

1. In this Act, Interpretation.

(a) “inn” includes an hotel, inn, tavern, public house or other place of refreshment, the keeper of which is by law responsible for the goods and property of his guests;

(b) “innkeeper” means the keeper of any such place. R.S.O. 1937, c. 241, s. 1.

2.—(1) Every innkeeper, boarding-house keeper and lodging-house keeper shall have a lien on the baggage and property of his guest, boarder or lodger for the value or price of any food or accommodation furnished to him or on his account.

(2) In addition to all other remedies provided by law he shall have the right, in case the same remains unpaid for three months, to sell by public auction the baggage and property of the guest, boarder or lodger, on giving one week’s notice of the intended sale by advertisement in a newspaper published in the municipality in which the inn, boarding-house, or lodging-house is situate, or in case there is no newspaper published in the municipality, in a newspaper published nearest to the inn, boarding-house, or lodging-house.

(3) The advertisement shall state the name of the guest, the amount of his indebtedness, the time and place of sale, and the name of the auctioneer, and shall give a description of the baggage or other property to be sold.

(4) The innkeeper, boarding-house keeper, or lodging-house keeper may apply the proceeds of the sale in payment of the amount due to him, and the costs of the advertising and sale, and shall pay over the surplus, if any, to the person entitled thereto on application being made by him therefor.

(5) Every keeper of a livery stable or a boarding stable shall have a lien on every horse or other animal boarded at or carriage left in such livery stable or boarding stable for his reasonable charges for boarding and caring for the horse, animal or carriage,
(6) Where an innkeeper, boarding-house keeper, lodging-house keeper, livery stable keeper or boarding stable keeper has a lien upon a horse, other animal or carriage for the value or price of any food or accommodation supplied, or for care or labour bestowed thereon, he shall, in addition to all other remedies provided by law, have the right, in case the same remains unpaid for two weeks, to sell by public auction the horse, animal or carriage on giving two weeks notice of the intended sale by advertisement in a newspaper published in the municipality in which the inn, boarding-house, lodging-house, livery stable or boarding stable is situate, or, in case there is no newspaper published in the municipality, in a newspaper published nearest to the inn, boarding-house, lodging-house, livery stable or boarding stable.

(7) The advertisement shall state the name, if known, of the person or persons who brought the horse, animal or carriage to the inn, boarding-house, lodging-house, livery stable or boarding stable, the amount of the indebtedness, and the name of the auctioneer, and shall give a description of the horse, animal or carriage.

(8) The innkeeper, boarding-house keeper, lodging-house keeper, livery stable keeper or boarding stable keeper may apply the proceeds of the sale in payment of the amount due to him, and the costs of the advertisement and sale, and shall pay over the surplus, if any, to the person entitled thereto on application being made by him therefor. R.S.O. 1937, c. 241, s. 2.

3.—(1) No innkeeper shall be liable to make good to any guest of the innkeeper any loss of or injury to goods or property brought to his inn, not being a horse or other live animal, or any gear appertaining thereto, or any carriage, to a greater amount than the sum of $40 except,

(a) where the goods or property have been stolen, lost, or injured through the wilful act, default, or neglect of the innkeeper or any servant in his employ;

(b) where the goods or property have been deposited expressly for safe custody with the innkeeper.

(2) In case of such deposit it shall be lawful for the innkeeper, if he thinks fit, to require, as a condition of his liability, that the goods or property shall be deposited in a box or other receptacle, fastened and sealed by the person depositing the same. R.S.O. 1937, c. 241, s. 3,
4. If an innkeeper refuses to receive for safe custody, as mentioned in clause b of subsection 1 of section 3 any goods or property of his guest, or if the guest, through any default of the innkeeper, is unable to deposit such goods or property the innkeeper shall not be entitled to the benefit of this Act in respect thereof. R.S.O. 1937, c. 241, s. 4.

5. Every innkeeper shall cause to be kept conspicuously posted up in the office and public rooms and in every bedroom in his inn a copy of section 3 printed in plain type, and he shall be entitled to the benefit thereof in respect of such goods or property only as are brought to his inn while such copy is so posted up. R.S.O. 1937, c. 241, s. 5.

6.—(1) Subject to subsection 5 where the claim under the lien of any innkeeper, lodging-house keeper or boarding-house keeper upon the goods of his guest exceeds the amount due in respect of one week's board or lodging, the guest may on payment or tender of that amount, obtain possession of the goods at any time before sale thereof whatever may be the amount due by the guest, unless a magistrate upon application to him shall otherwise order.

(2) In case of any retention or seizure by any innkeeper, lodging-house keeper or boarding-house keeper, the guest or owner of the goods seized may apply to a magistrate who may in a summary manner make such order as to the custody of the goods as may seem fair to him under the circumstances of the case notwithstanding the lien created by this Act or otherwise.

(3) In case of a contravention of this section complaint may be laid before a magistrate who shall deal with the matter under The Summary Convictions Act and in case of disobedience to any order made, may punish the offending party by fine not exceeding $50 or by imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, or both.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in this Act a magistrate acting under subsections 1 to 3 shall exercise his absolute discretion as to the disposal of any matter coming before him under such subsections.

(5) Where possession of the goods of a guest is claimed by an innkeeper under his lien thereon, the guest or the owner of the goods shall only be entitled to obtain possession thereof under subsection 1 by an order of a magistrate upon application made by the guest or owner for such order and after notice of the application has been given in writing to the innkeeper in accordance with the directions of the magistrate. R.S.O. 1937, c. 241, s. 6.