

---

**CHAPTER 374**  
**MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCES**  
**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

SECTION

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Music and dancing licences.
4. Issue of licences and conditions thereof.
5. Transfer of licences.
6. Notice of application to be given.
7. Unlicensed house, etc., deemed of a disorderly character.
8. Description to be put up over premises.
9. Licensed premises not to be used except at times stated in the licence.
10. Affixing of inscription and observance of time to be condition of every licence.
11. Stipendiary and circuit magistrate may grant an occasional licence.
12. Report from Commissioner of Police as to proposed licensed premises, etc.
13. Opposition to grant.
14. Penalties.
15. Power of police to enter licensed premises.
16. Issue and registration of licences.
17. Production of licence.
18. Recovery of penalties.
19. Application of Act.



## CHAPTER 374

### MUSIC AND DANCING LICENCES

**An Act for the regulation of places ordinarily used for public dancing or music or other public entertainment of the like kind.** *12 of 1919  
11 of 1925  
23 of 1960  
5 of 1987*

*[Commencement 9th September, 1919]*

1. This Act may be cited as the Music and Dancing Licences Act. Short title.
2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires — Interpretation.

“intoxicating liquor,” “licensed premises,” “licensing authority,” “district” and “spirits” shall have respectively the same meanings as in the Liquor Licences Act. Ch. 372.
3. (1) A house, room, garden or other place, whether licensed or not for the sale of intoxicating liquor, shall not be kept or used for public dancing, singing, music or other public entertainment of the like kind without a licence for the purpose or purposes for which the same respectively is to be used, first obtained from the licensing authority, and for the registration thereof a fee of twenty dollars shall be paid by the person applying therefor. Music and dancing licences.  
  
5 of 1987, s. 2.

(2) Nothing in this section contained shall apply to any house, room, garden or other place owned or leased by a recognised religious body, or used in connection with any church, chapel or meeting house belonging to a recognised religious body.
4. (1) The licensing authority may at any sitting held by it under the provisions of the Liquor Licences Act, or at any adjournment thereof, or at any special sitting convened after such length of notice as the licensing authority may determine, grant licences to such persons as it thinks fit to keep or use houses, rooms, gardens or places for all or any of the purposes of this Act upon such terms and conditions, and subject to such restrictions, as the licensing authority by the respective licences determine, and every licence shall be in force for one year or for such Issue of licences and conditions thereof.  
Ch. 372.

shorter period as the licensing authority on the grant of the licence shall determine, unless the same shall have been previously revoked as hereinafter provided.

*23 of 1960, s. 2.*

(2) When the licensing authority has refused to grant an application for a licence in respect of certain premises or a transfer of a licence to new premises, an application in respect of the premises concerned shall not be made or if made shall not be considered by the licensing authority within six months of the refusal of the original application.

Transfer of licences.

5. The licensing authority may from time to time at any such sitting as aforesaid transfer any such licence to such person as it thinks fit.

Notice of application to be given.

6. Each person shall in each case give seven days' notice to the licensing authority and to the Commissioner of Police of his intention to apply for any such licence, or for the transfer of any such licence.

Unlicensed house, etc., deemed of a disorderly character.  
*5 of 1987, s. 2.*

7. Any house, room, garden or place kept or used for any of the purposes of this Act without such licence first obtained shall be deemed of a disorderly character, and the person occupying or in charge of the same shall be liable to a penalty of twenty dollars for every day on which the same is kept or used for any of the purposes of this Act.

Description to be put up over premises.

8. There shall be affixed and kept up in some conspicuous place or part, to be determined by the Commissioner of Police, of every house, room, garden or place so kept or used, and so licensed as aforesaid, an inscription in large capital letters in the words following — “Licensed in pursuance of the Music and Dancing Licences Act for ....” with the addition of words showing the purpose or purposes for which the same is licensed.

Licensed premises not to be used except at times stated in the licence.

9. Any house, room, garden or place so kept or used, although licensed under this Act, shall not be open for any of the purposes of this Act, except on the days and between the hours stated in the licence.

Affixing of inscription and observance of time to be a condition of every licence.

10. The affixing and keeping up of such inscription as aforesaid, and the observance of the days and hours of opening and closing, shall be inserted in and made a condition of every such licence.

**11.** A stipendiary and circuit magistrate may, if he thinks fit, grant to any person applying for the same an occasional licence to keep or use any house, room, garden or place for any of the purposes of this Act for any period not exceeding fourteen days, which he shall specify in such licence. Such licence may be granted without any notice being given under the provisions of section 6 of this Act, and for the registration of such licence a fee of fifty cents *per diem* shall be paid into the Treasury.

Stipendiary and circuit magistrate may grant an occasional licence.

*5 of 1987, Sch.*

**12.** Before granting any licence, the licensing authority shall obtain a report in writing from the Commissioner of Police as to the suitability, structure and other particulars of the house, room, garden or place for which the licence is applied for, and as to the advisability of granting a licence in respect of the same, and a notice shall be given in the *Gazette* for fourteen days by the licensing authority before the granting of the said licence. It shall not be obligatory on the stipendiary and circuit magistrate to obtain such a report before granting an occasional licence, but he may obtain such report if he deems it advisable.

Report from Commissioner of Police as to proposed licensed premises, etc.

**13.** (1) Any person shall be at liberty to oppose the grant of a licence or transfer of a licence:

Opposition to grant.

Provided that —

- (a) he has given written notice to the licensing authority and to the applicant of his intention to oppose the grant and has stated in such notice in general terms the grounds of opposition;
- (b) such notice has been given to the licensing authority and to the applicant not less than five days before the day fixed for the holding of the licensing session or before the day fixed for the hearing of the application.

(2) A licensing authority may, notwithstanding that no notice of opposition shall have been given, adjourn the hearing of the application to a future day, and require the attendance of the applicant, and any person concerned on such day, when the matter will be heard and the objection considered as if the notice hereinbefore prescribed had been given.

(3) Any applicant for, or any person objecting to, the granting of a licence or transfer of a licence, who shall be dissatisfied with the decision of the licensing authority in

---

New Providence, shall have a right of appeal to the Supreme Court, and in such event the provisions relating to appeals from magistrates contained in any Act shall apply to such appeal.

Penalties.  
*5 of 1987, s. 2.*

**14.** If any licensee acts in contravention or disregard of any of the terms or conditions on or subject to which his licence was granted, he shall be liable to a penalty of eighty dollars, or imprisonment for three months, and to a daily penalty of twenty dollars for each day after conviction, and his licence shall be liable to be revoked by the order of a court of summary jurisdiction.

Power of police  
to enter licensed  
premises.

**15.** It shall be lawful for the Commissioner of Police, or any peace officer authorised by him, to enter any premises licensed under this Act, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the terms and conditions of the licence are being complied with, and to see that order and decorum are being maintained, and generally for the purpose of preventing or detecting the violation of any of the provisions of this Act or of the Liquor Licences Act, and to remain on such premises for so long as is necessary for the carrying out of his duty.

Ch. 372.

Issue and  
registration of  
licences.  
*11 of 1925, s. 2.*

**16.** (1) When the licensing authority in New Providence has decided to grant any licence or the transfer of any licence under this Act, or a stipendiary and circuit magistrate has decided to grant an occasional licence, the licensing authority or the stipendiary and circuit magistrate, as the case may be, shall give to the applicant an order for the issue thereof, and the applicant shall without delay attend at the Treasury, present such order, and pay to the Treasurer the sum payable therefor under the provisions of this Act, and thereupon the Treasurer shall issue to the applicant the proper licence or transfer of licence.

(2) A register shall be kept by the licensing authority of every licence granted by it under this Act, in which shall be fully set forth all the terms and conditions of the said licence, and such register shall be open to the inspection of the Commissioner of Police or any peace officer authorised by him to inspect the same.

---

**17.** Every holder of a licence under this Act shall at all reasonable times produce for the inspection of the Commissioner of Police or any peace officer authorised by him any licence granted to him under this Act, and if he fails to produce such licence he shall be liable to a penalty of twenty dollars, or to imprisonment for one month and his licence shall be liable to be revoked by the order of a court of summary jurisdiction.

Production of  
licence.  
*23 of 1960, s. 3*

*5 of 1987, s. 2.*

**18.** All penalties imposed by this Act shall be recoverable in a summary manner before a magistrate in accordance with the law regulating procedure before magistrates, and all proceedings for offences under this Act may be prosecuted in the name of the Commissioner of Police or by a peace officer.

Recovery of  
penalties.

**19.** (1) This Act shall apply to New Providence.

Application of  
Act.

(2) The Governor-General may, from time to time, by Order, extend the provisions of this Act to any Out Island or Out Island district, and upon any such extension the commissioner of the district shall have and exercise the powers conferred by this Act on a stipendiary and circuit magistrate with regard to the issue of an occasional licence, and it shall not be obligatory on the commissioner as the licensing authority of the district to obtain any report from, or for an applicant to serve any notice on, the Commissioner of Police under the provisions of this Act<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Extended to all Out Islands by G.N. 188/1957.