
LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 1022 **Session of**
1919.

INTRODUCED BY MR. J. A. WALKER, MARCH 17, 1919.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
MARCH 19, 1919.

AN ACT

To provide for the licensing and regulation of public dance halls and ball rooms and for the regulation supervision of public dances and balls in cities of the first second and third classes

1 Section 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly*
3 *met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That*
4 *this act shall apply to all cities of the first second*
5 *and third classes within this Commonwealth*

6 Section 2 The term "public dance" or "public ball"
7 as used in this act shall be taken to include any
8 dance or ball conducted in connection with instruction in
9 dancing for hire and any dance or ball to which ad-
10 mission may be had by the payment of a fee or by
11 the purchase possession or presentation of a ticket or
12 token or in connection with which a charge is made
13 for caring for clothing or other property and any dance

1 or ball to which the public generally may gain admis-
2 sion with or without the payment of a fee

3 The term "dance hall" or "ball room" as used in
4 this act shall be taken to include any room place or
5 space in which a public dance or public ball as herein
6 defined shall be held and any room hall or academy in
7 which classes in dancing are held and instruction in danc-
8 ing is given for hire

9 Section 3 From and after the first day of June
10 one thousand nine hundred and nineteen no person per-
11 sons society club or corporation shall hold a public
12 dance or public ball within the limits of any city of
13 the first second or third class within this Commonwealth
14 without having first obtained a permit therefor from the
15 mayor thereof provided however such permit shall not be
16 required for dances held and conducted by regularly
17 established instructors in dancing in connection with such
18 instruction

19 The fee for such permit which shall be paid at the
20 time of the issuing thereof shall be one dollar for
21 each public dance or ball

22 Section 4 From and after the first day of June
23 one thousand nine hundred and nineteen it shall be un-
24 lawful to hold or conduct any public dance or public
25 ball or to hold or conduct classes in dancing or to
26 give instructions in dancing for hire in any hall ball
27 room or academy within the limits of any city of the
28 first second and third class within this Commonwealth un-

1 less the dance hall or ball room or academy in which
2 the same may be held shall have been duly licensed for
3 such purpose

4 Application for such license shall be made by the
5 proprietor of such dance hall or ball room or academy
6 to the mayor who is hereby authorized to issue the
7 same

8 The fee payable for each such license granted here-
9 under shall be as follows

10 In the case of dance halls maintained and conducted
11 in connection with regularly established instruction in danc-
12 ing and exclusively used in such connection the annual
13 license fee shall be ten dollars

14 In the case of all other dance halls and ball rooms
15 the annual license fee shall be fifteen dollars

16 Each license granted hereunder shall expire on the
17 first day of June of each year

18 The fee payable for each license granted hereunder
19 shall be for the whole or any portion of a calendar
20 year and all moneys received by way of license fees
21 hereunder shall be paid into the general fund of the
22 city

23 Every licensed public dance hall or ball room or
24 academy shall post its license in a conspicuous place
25 within the hall where the dance is held

26 Section 5 It shall be the duty of the mayor to
27 cause an investigation of all applications for public dance
28 hall or ball room licenses to determine whether or not
29 the dance hall ball room or academy sought to be

1 licensed complies with the rules regulations ordinances and
2 laws applicable thereto and in making such investigation
3 he shall when desired have the assistance of any de-
4 partment of the government of the city

5 Section 6 No license for a public dance hall or
6 ball room or academy shall be issued until it shall be
7 ascertained that the place for which it is issued com-
8 plies with and conforms to all laws ordinances health
9 and fire regulations applicable thereto and is a safe and
10 proper place for the purpose for which it shall be used
11 properly ventilated and supplied with sufficient toilet con-
12 veniences

13 Section 7 The license of any public dance hall or
14 ball room or academy may be forfeited or revoked by
15 the mayor for disorderly or immoral conduct on the
16 premises or upon proof that the dance hall ball room
17 or academy was frequented by disorderly or immoral per-
18 sons or for the violation of any of the rules regula-
19 tions ordinances and laws governing or applying to public
20 dance hall ball rooms or academies or public dances If
21 at any time the license of a public dance hall ball
22 room or academy shall be forfeited or revoked at least
23 three months shall elapse before another license or permit
24 shall be granted for dancing on the same premises

25 Section 8 All public dance hall or ball rooms or
26 academies shall be kept at all times in a clean health-
27 ful and sanitary condition and all stairways and other
28 passages and all rooms connected with public dance hall

1 ball room or academy shall be kept open and well
2 lighted

3 Section 9 All public dance halls ball rooms and
4 academies shall be subject to inspection by the police
5 department of the city at all reasonable times and when-
6 ever they are open for dancing instruction in dancing or
7 for any other purpose

8 Any police officer shall have the power to cause the
9 place hall or room where any public dance or ball is
10 given to be vacated whenever any provision of any law
11 or ordinance with regard to public dances and public
12 balls is being violated or whenever any indecent act shall
13 be committed or when any disorder of a gross violent
14 or vulgar character shall take place therein

15 Section 10 It shall be unlawful after nine o'clock
16 post meridian to permit any person to attend or take
17 part in any public dance who has not reached the age
18 of sixteen years

19 Section 11 All public dances shall be discontinued
20 and all public dance halls shall be closed on or before
21 the hour of one o'clock ante meridian provided however
22 that upon the application of a bona fide organization or
23 society and upon an investigation by the proper authority
24 the mayor may grant such organization or society a per-
25 mit to continue a dance until two o'clock ante meridian

26 Section 12 Any person persons society club or corporation
27 who shall violate the provisions of this act shall be subject to
28 a penalty of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars to be recovered with
29 costs as debts of like amount are now by law recoverable