

No. 330.

AN ACT

To amend section two of an act, approved the third day of May, one thousand nine hundred nine (Pamphlet Laws, four hundred and seventeen), entitled "An act for the safety of persons from fire or panic in certain buildings, not in cities of the first and second classes, by providing proper exits, fire-escapes, fire-extinguishers, and other preventives of fire; by vesting jurisdiction for the enforcement of this act in the Department of Factory Inspection; and by providing proper penalties for any violation of the same," as amended.

Protection from fire and panic in buildings not in cities of first and second classes.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That section two of an act, approved the third day of May, one thousand nine hundred nine (Pamphlet Laws, four hundred and seventeen), entitled "An act for the safety of persons from fire or panic in certain buildings, not in cities of the first and second classes, by providing proper exits, fire-escapes, fire-extinguishers, and other preventives of fire; by vesting jurisdiction for the enforcement of this act in the Department of Factory Inspection; and by providing proper penalties for any violation of the same," as amended by an act, approved the eleventh day of May, one thousand nine hundred twenty-one (Pamphlet Laws, five hundred and sixteen), entitled "An act to amend section two of an act, approved the third day of May, one thousand nine hundred nine (Pamphlet Laws, four hundred and seventeen), entitled 'An act for the safety of persons from fire or panic in certain buildings, not in cities of the first and second classes, by providing proper exits, fire-escapes, fire extinguishers, and other preventives of fire; by vesting jurisdiction for the enforcement of this act in the Department of Factory Inspection: and by providing proper penalties for any violation of the same' as amended," is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 2 May 3, 1909 (P. L. 417), as amended by act of May 11, 1921 (P. L. 516), further amended.

Construction of theatres, opera houses or other houses for holding entertainments.

Section 2. In every theatre, moving-picture theatre, opera house, or other building, where stage scenery, moving picture or other apparatus is used, or entertainments are given, there shall be provided one or more direct exterior doorways from the stage, and for dressing rooms direct exterior doorways shall be provided; all of the said doorways to be not less than five feet in width in the clear, and to be equipped with approved panic bolts. The passageways leading to such exits shall not be obstructed, and shall be properly lighted. At each exit there shall be a colored illuminated sign with the word "Exit" thereon, and in the said passageways there shall be signs indicating the direction of the said exits. Neither on or about the stage, auditorium, or galleries, nor in any

Doorways.

Exit signs.

Inflammable or explosive oil.

other part of the building in which the said theatre, moving-picture theatre, opera house, or public hall is located, shall any inflammable or explosive oil be used or stored. All lights on or about the stage and throughout the auditorium shall be properly guarded. All electrical wiring and appliances in such buildings shall be installed according to specifications set forth in the Pennsylvania Electrical Code of Rules adopted by the Industrial Board of the Department of Labor and Industry, and so maintained.

There shall be a proscenium curtain constructed of wire-woven asbestos of not less than two pounds per square yard, or of sheet metal, and all other drop-curtains and sky borders on the stage shall be of an approved non-combustible substance; and on each side of the stage there shall be standpipes of at least two inches in diameter, with hose and nozzle and rack for same; such hose and attachments to be not less than one and one-half inches in diameter, of sufficient quantity, and properly maintained. There shall also be provided, for each side of the stage, not less than two chemical fire-extinguishers of an approved type, and one cask of not less than forty-two gallons capacity which shall be kept full of water, and two buckets for each cask; the said buckets and casks to be painted red. The said fire-extinguishers and casks shall be kept free from any obstruction and in readiness for immediate use at all times.

In all auditoriums and galleries of the said buildings, as described in this section, there shall be at least one aisle, of a width of not less than four feet in the clear throughout its entire length, leading to the exits, and no person shall be permitted to stand in, nor any obstruction be permitted in, any aisle or in the line of passage between an aisle and an exit. There shall be not more than six seats between any one seat and an aisle, nor more than fourteen seats between any two aisles, and *except in school houses of fireproof or slow-burning construction in which the gymnasium is used as an auditorium or a place of public meeting*, all seats shall be securely fastened to the floor during all performances or entertainments. The word "Exit" in large, legible, illuminated letters, shall be posted and kept posted at each and every exit; and all exits shall be equipped with approved panic bolts, shall open outward, and shall be kept unobstructed and ready for instant use from the opening of the said buildings to the close of each and every performance or entertainment therein.

In all buildings, except schoolhouses, normal schools, academics, and colleges, hereafter erected or adapted for any of the purposes designated in this section, the auditorium shall not be located above or below the ground level. In schoolhouses, normal

Lights.

Electric wiring.

Proscenium curtain.

Other curtains.

Standpipes.

Hose.

Chemical extinguishers.

Cask.

Buckets.

Aisles.

Seats.

Exits.

Auditorium.

schools, academies, and colleges, the auditorium not be placed above the first floor level nor below the grade level in new buildings.

APPROVED—The 12th day of May, A. D. 1925.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.

No. 331.

AN ACT

Increasing the powers of certain stock health and accident insurance companies.

Insurance.

Powers of stock, health and accident companies increased.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That any insurance company incorporated on the stock principle under the provisions of the act, approved the twenty-eighth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and three (Pamphlet Laws, three hundred twenty-nine), entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of corporations for the purpose of making insurance upon the health of individuals, and against personal injury and disablement and death therein; limiting the amount for which such corporations may issue policies, and providing the manner in which certain existing corporations may become reincorporated under this act," may, notwithstanding the provisions of said act or any other act of Assembly or the provisions of its charter, issue policies agreeing to pay not more than twenty dollars per week in the event of sickness, accident, or disablement.

Section 2. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

APPROVED—The 12th day of May, A. D. 1925.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.