

## No. 202.

## AN ACT

To further amend sections one and two of an act, approved the third day of May, one thousand nine hundred and 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.

Department of  
Labor and In-  
dustry.

Public safety.

Protection against  
fire and panic in  
certain buildings.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the first section of an act, approved the third day of May, one thousand nine hundred and 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," which, as amended by an act, approved the eighteenth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen (Pamphlet Laws, one thousand and seventy-four), entitled "An act to amend an act, approved May third, one thousand nine hundred and nine, 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,'" reads as follows:—

Section 1, act of  
May 3, 1909 (P.  
L. 417), as  
amended by section  
1, act of July  
18, 1917 (P. L.  
1074), cited for  
amendment.

"Section 1. That every building in this Commonwealth, other than buildings situated in cities of the first and second classes, having more than two stories, and buildings having one or more galleries above the first or ground floor, now used or hereafter to be used, in whole or in part, as a public building, office building, public or private institution, sanatorium, surgical institute, asylum, hospital, schoolhouse, academy, dormitory, college, hotel, restaurant; and every building used or hereafter to be used, in whole or in part, as a theatre, moving-picture theatre, public hall, lodge hall, or place of public resort; and every building in which persons are employed above the second story, in a factory, workshop, or mercantile establishment; and every boarding-house or lodging-house, used exclusively for such purpose, in which persons

reside or lodge above the second story; and every tenement-house, apartment-house, or flat occupied by two or more families above the first story,—shall be provided with proper ways of egress, or means of escape from fire, sufficient for the use of all persons accommodated, assembled, employed, lodged, or residing therein; and such ways of egress and means of escape shall be kept free from obstruction, in good repair, properly lighted, and ready for use at all times; and all rooms above the second story in said buildings shall be provided with more than one way of egress or escape from fire, which shall be placed as near as practical at opposite ends or sides of the building, and leading to stairways on the inside, or, where not possible to provide such stairways, to stair-towers or fire-escapes on the outside of such buildings: Provided, That in all such buildings hereafter erected such ways of egress or means of escape from fire shall be located within the walls of the building, and at least one of such ways of egress or means of escape from fire shall be an enclosed stair-tower of fire-resistive construction. Except that properly constructed bridges between two separate buildings, or parts of buildings, separated by approved fire-walls, may be accepted in lieu of such inside stairway by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry: And provided further, That the Commissioner of Labor and Industry may order fire-walls to be built in buildings already erected, or which may hereafter be erected, where in his judgment the erection of such fire-walls is necessary to the reasonably safe protection of the inmates. Such ways of egress or means of escape from fire, or fire-walls, shall be in accordance with standards drawn up by the Industrial Board of the Department of Labor and Industry. Where any of said buildings is designated for the use or occupancy of fifty or more persons, the external doors of the same shall open outward, shall be kept unlocked and ready for instant use at all times, and be so constructed or arranged as to afford, when open, an unobstructed passageway of not less than five feet in the clear. Where such doors lead from stairways, there shall be landings inside the external doorways of dimensions not less than four feet between the external doors and the adjoining stairways; said landings to be of a width not less than the stairway approaches thereto," is hereby amended to read as follows:—

Section 1. That every building in this Commonwealth, other than buildings situated in cities of the first and second classes, having more than two stories, and buildings having one or more galleries above the first or ground floor, now used or hereafter to be used, in whole or in part, as a public building, office

Ways of egress.

building, public or private institution, sanatorium, surgical institute, asylum, hospital, schoolhouse, academy, dormitory, college, hotel, restaurant; and every building used or hereafter to be used, in whole or in part, as a theatre, moving-picture theatre, public hall, lodge hall, or place of public resort; and every building in which persons are employed above the second story in a factory, workshop, or mercantile establishment; and every boarding-house or lodging-house, used exclusively for such purpose, in which persons reside or lodge above the second story; and every tenement-house, apartment-house, or flat, occupied by two or more families above the first story, *shall be equipped either with an automatic sprinkler system or with an automatic fire-alarm system to be approved by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, and in all cases shall be provided with proper ways of egress or means of escape from fire, sufficient for the use of all persons accommodated, assembled, employed, lodged, or residing therein; and such ways of egress and means of escape shall be kept free from obstruction, in good repair, properly lighted, and ready for use, at all times; and all rooms above the second story in said buildings shall be provided with more than one way of egress or escape from fire, which shall be placed as near as practical at opposite ends or sides of the building, and leading to stairways on the inside, or, where not possible to provide such stairways, to stair-towers or fire-escapes on the outside of such buildings: Provided, That in all such buildings hereafter erected, such ways of egress or means of escape from fire shall be located within the walls of the building, and at least one of such ways of egress or means of escape from fire shall be an enclosed stair-tower of fire-resistive construction, except that properly constructed bridges between two separate buildings, or parts of buildings, separated by approved fire-walls, may be accepted in lieu of such inside stairway by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry: And provided further, That the Commissioner of Labor and Industry may order fire-walls to be built in buildings already erected or which may hereafter be erected, where in his judgment the erection of such fire-walls is necessary to the reasonable safe protection of the inmates. Such ways of egress or means of escape from fire, or fire-walls, shall be in accordance with standards drawn up by the Industrial Board of the Department of Labor and Industry. Where any of said buildings is designated for use or occupancy of fifty or more persons, the external doors of the same shall open outward, shall be kept unlocked and ready for instant use at all times, and be so constructed or arranged as to afford, when open, an unobstructed passageway of not less than five feet in the*

Automatic sprinkler system or automatic fire-alarm system.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Fire-walls.

Doors.

clear. Where such doors lead from stairways, there shall be landings inside the external doorways of dimensions not less than four feet between the external doors and the adjoining stairways; said landings to be of a width not less than the stairway approaches thereto.

Landings.

Section 2. That section two of said act, which reads as follows:—

“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 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.

Section 2, act of May 3, 1909 (P. L. 417), as amended by section 2, act of July 13, 1917 (P. L. 1074), cited for amendment.

“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 noncombustible 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 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 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. *And any such auditorium or place of assembly used for any of the purposes set forth in this section shall conform to this provision on or before June first, one thousand nine hundred and twenty,*" is hereby further amended to read as follows:—

Construction of theatres, opera houses, etc.

Doorways.

"Exit" signs.

Inflammable or explosive oil.

Lighting.

Electric wiring, etc.

Proscenium curtain.

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 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 noncombustible 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 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 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.

Curtains and borders.

Standpipes.

Hose.

Fire-extinguishers .

Cask.

Buckets.

Aisles.

Seats.

"Exit" signs.

Exits.

Location of auditorium.

APPROVED—The 7th day of June, A. D. 1919.

WM. C. SPROUL.