

No. 281

AN ACT

To amend sections one, two, four and fifteen of the act, approved the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven (Pamphlet Laws, four hundred sixty-five), entitled "An act to provide for the safety of persons employed, housed, or assembled in certain buildings and structures not in cities of the first class, second class, and second class A, by requiring certain construction and ways of egress, equipment, and maintenance, providing for the licensing of projectionists; requiring the submission of plans for examination and approval; providing for the promulgation of rules and regulations for the enforcement of this act; providing for the enforcement of this act by the Department of Labor and Industry and, in certain cases, by the chiefs of fire departments in cities of the third class; providing penalties for violations of the provisions of this act; and repealing certain acts," as amended, extending the provisions of said act to additional buildings; providing additional safety regulations; and for the closing of certain buildings.

Sections 1, 2, 4 and 15, act of April 27, 1927 (P. L. 465), as amended by the act of May 2, 1929 (P. L. 1523), further amended.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That sections one, two, four and fifteen of the act, approved the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven (Pamphlet Laws, four hundred sixty-five), entitled "An act to provide for the safety of persons employed, housed, or assembled in certain buildings and structures not in cities of the first class, second class, and second class A, by requiring certain construction and ways of egress, equipment, and maintenance, providing for the licensing of projectionists; requiring the submission of plans for examination and approval; providing for the promulgation of rules and regulations for the enforcement of this act; providing for the enforcement of this act by the Department of Labor and Industry and, in certain cases, by the chiefs of fire departments in cities of the third class; providing penalties for violations of the provisions of this act; and repealing certain acts," as amended by the act, approved the second day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine (Pamphlet Laws, one thousand five hundred twenty-three), are hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That,

General Requirement.—Every building enumerated in this act, erected or adapted for any of the purposes of the several classes of buildings covered by this act, shall be so constructed, equipped, operated, and maintained, with respect to [the] type of construction and materials used, *fireproofing*, [the strength of construction, the] number and type of ways of egress, aisles and passageways, stairs and fire escapes, wall openings, exits and exit signs, doors and doorways, shaftways and other vertical openings, emergency lighting, automatic *sprinkler systems*, [and] fire alarm systems, fire drills,

electrical [wiring and] equipment, inflammable and explosive materials, heating apparatus and fuel storage, number of occupants, [in buildings] ventilation, arrangement of seating and standing space, construction and equipment of stages, projection rooms, and dressing rooms, [the type and location of fire fighting apparatus] *and all other fire and panic protection* as to provide for the safety and health of all persons employed, accommodated, housed, or assembled therein. *Whenever any building designated in this act shall, in the opinion of the Department of Labor and Industry, become dangerous to further occupancy because of structural or other defects, it shall immediately be closed to further occupancy, and a sign posted thereon to that effect. Such building shall not again be occupied until all recommendations of the department to eliminate hazardous conditions are complied with.*

The Department of Labor and Industry shall have the power, and its duty shall be, to make, alter, amend, or repeal rules and regulations for carrying into effect all of the provisions of this act, applying such provisions to specific conditions, and prescribing means, methods and practices to make effective such provisions.

Section 2. Classes of Buildings.—The following are the classes of buildings and structures which it is intended that this act shall cover:

Class I Buildings.—Factories, [of more than one story] power plants, mercantile buildings, hotels, office buildings, hospitals, asylums, public and private institutions, schools, colleges, dormitories, warehouses, [and] garages, *and all other buildings specified by the department, not enumerated in Classes II, III, IV, and V, wherein persons are employed, housed or assembled.*

Class II Buildings.—Theatres and motion picture theatres.

Class III Buildings.—Public halls, dance halls, banquet halls, lodge halls, churches, skating rinks, armory halls, or any other auditorium in which the public assembles, not used for any of the other purposes mentioned in this act.

Class IV Buildings.—Tenement houses, apartment houses, apartment hotels, club houses, lodging houses, and rooming houses.

Class V Buildings.—Grandstands, stadiums and amphitheatres, *and* summer theatres. [observation towers, tanks, exhibition and fair buildings, amusement park equipment, roof gardens and roof structures.]

Section 4. Ways of Egress.—From every floor of buildings, enumerated in section two of this act, there shall be proper and sufficient ways of egress and means of escape from fire and panic: Provided, That in all buildings hereafter erected, or adapted for any of the

purposes enumerated in section two of this act, there shall be not less than two (2) ways of egress, as remote from each other as possible. [and at least one (1) of which shall be an enclosed stair tower of fire-resistive construction: And further provided, That such ways of egress shall, throughout their entire length, be located inside of the building.] *In buildings of more than one story, all means of egress shall be located inside the building, at least one of which shall be an enclosed stair tower of fire-resistive construction, except that the requirement for two means of egress shall not be applicable to buildings two stories or less in height with an occupancy of not more than three persons above the ground floor, when it is determined by the department that adequate means of egress are available to all occupants.* Where the department finds, after proper investigation, that, in buildings erected prior to the passage of this act, the internal ways of egress herein provided for cannot be installed, it may direct that such means of egress be provided as will, in its judgment, to better advantage carry out the intent and purpose of this section. The Department of Labor and Industry may order fire walls, or smoke barriers, or both, to be built in buildings already erected, or which may hereafter be erected, where in its judgment the erection of such fire walls or smoke barriers is necessary to the reasonable safe protection of the occupants. The ways of egress shall be free from obstruction, lighted, and ready for instant use at all times. Fire escapes, now in use or hereafter erected, shall be painted at least once a year, and be kept in safe condition, and up to such standard requirements as may be specified by the Department of Labor and Industry.

Section 15. Enforcement.—The provisions of this act shall apply to every building enumerated in this act, including buildings owned, in whole or in part, by the Commonwealth, or any political subdivision thereof, and shall be enforced by the Secretary of Labor and Industry, by and through his authorized representatives: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed as affecting buildings in cities of the first class, second class, and second class A, and that duly appointed chiefs of fire departments shall be equally responsible with the Secretary of Labor and Industry for the enforcement of the provisions of this act and the regulations of the Department of Labor and Industry pertaining to the removal of obstructions to and maintenance of exits, aisles, passageways, and stairways leading to or from exits in all buildings covered by this act, and the inspection and maintenance of emergency lighting systems, fire alarms and fire extinguishing apparatus.

For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this act, all the officers charged with its enforcement shall have the power to enter any of the buildings or structures enumerated in section two of this act, and no person shall hinder or delay, or interfere with, any of the said officers in the performance of his duty, nor refuse information necessary to determine whether the provisions of this act, and the rules and regulations herein provided for, are or will be complied with.

APPROVED—The 28th day of May, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE

No. 282

AN ACT

Relating to statutory laws; prescribing an enacting clause for statutes; fixing the effective date and time of statutes hereafter enacted; providing for notice of application for local and special legislation, for the correction of errors in statutes, and for the printing and publication of statutes; prescribing rules for the interpretation of statutes; defining certain words and phrases when used in statutes; and prescribing rules for the construction and operation of amendments, re-enactments and repeals of statutes.

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The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

ARTICLE I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short Title.—This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the “Statutory Construction Act.”

Section 2. Definitions.—The following words and phrases, when used in this act, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:

“Final enactment” or “enacted finally” means the time when the procedure required by the Constitution for the enactment of a bill into a law has been complied with.