The Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort Act, 1888

Act 2 of 1888

Keyword(s):
Building, Executive Authority, Places of Public Resort and Entertainment, Inspection and Licensing

Amendments appended: 20 of 1960, 54 of 1981
The 1[State Government] may, in like manner, from time to time, cancel or alter such rules.

2(TAMIL NADU) ACT No. II OF 1888.

(The 4(TAMIL NADU) PLACES OF PUBLIC RESORT ACT, 1888.)

(Received the assent of the Governor on the 12th April 1888, and of the Governor-General on the 31st May 1888.)

1 The words ‘“Provincial Government” were substituted for the words ‘“Governor in Council” by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word “State” was substituted for “Provincial” by the Adaptation Order of 1950.

2 These words were substituted for the word ‘“Madras” by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws Order, 1969, as amended by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws (Second Amendment) Order, 1969, which came into force on the 14th January 1969.

3 For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Fort St. George Gazette Supplement, dated the 8th November 1887, p. 19; for Report of the Select Committee, see ibid, dated the 31st January 1888, p. 1; for Proceedings in Council, see ibid, dated the 29th November 1887, p. 5; and ibid, dated the 27th March 1888, p.11.

This Act was extended to the merged State of Pudukkottai by section 3 of, and the First Schedule to, the Tamil Nadu Merged States (Laws) Act, 1949 (Tamil Nadu Act XXXV of 1949).

Under section 5-A, sub-section (1), of the Tamil Nadu Cinemas Regulation Act, 1955 (Tamil Nadu Act IX of 1955), the provisions of this Act shall not apply to any application made under the said sub-section by any person who intends to use any place for the exhibition of cinematograph films.


In its application to any village, town or part thereof to which this Act may be extended by the Government, certain modifications have been made by section 94 of the Tamil Nadu Village Panchayats Act, 1950 (Tamil Nadu Act X of 1950) and by section 114 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958 (Tamil Nadu Act XXXV of 1958).

4 These words were substituted by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws Order, 1969, as amended by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws (Second Amendment) Order, 1969 for the word “Madras”, which was inserted by section 3(1) of, and the Second Schedule to, the Tamil Nadu Repealing and Amending Act, 1951 (Tamil Nadu Act XIV of 1951).
An Act to provide for the Inspection and Licensing of Places of Public Resort and Entertainment.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the inspection of places of public resort and entertainment, and for the licensing of the same by competent authority; It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. (1) This Act may be called the Places of Public Resort Act, 1888.

(2) (a) It shall come into force at once in every municipality constituted or deemed to have been constituted under the District Municipalities Act, 1920.

(b) The State Government may, by notification, extend all or any of the provisions of this Act to any other local area in the State except the City of Madras from such date as may be specified in such notification and may cancel or modify any such notification.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

(a) ‘building’ includes any house, hut, shed or roofed enclosure;

(b) “executive authority” means the executive authority as defined in clause (8-C) of section 3 of the District Municipalities Act, 1920.]
3. In any area in which this Act is in force, no enclosed place or building, whether permanent or temporary, shall be used for public resort or entertainment in the following cases, unless a licence has been obtained in respect thereof under this Act:

(a) In every case where the area within the enclosed place or occupied by the building is five hundred square feet or more;

(b) In case the area aforesaid is less than five hundred square feet, if the place or building is situated within the jurisdiction of a municipal council or of a Panchayat classified as a Class I panchayat under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the (Tamil Nadu) Village Panchayats Act, 1950, or as a town panchayat under the (Tamil Nadu) Panchayats Act, 1958, and the public are allowed to take part in any game or competition therein.

4. When any person desires to obtain a licence to use any enclosed place or building for public resort or entertainment, or to construct any enclosure or building for such purpose, he shall send an application to the authority named in section 5, setting forth the name of the owner of the place or building, its

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1 This section was substituted for the original section 3 by section 2 of the Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1949 (Madras Act XXXVIII of 1949).

2 These words, figures, brackets and letter were substituted for the words "or of a panchayat classified by the State Government as a major panchayat" by section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1960 (Tamil Nadu Act 20 of 1960).

3 These words were substituted for the word "Madras" by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws Order, 1969, as amended by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws (Second Amendment) Order, 1969, which came into force on the 14th January 1969.
situation, size and description, the material of which the enclosure or building is made or proposed to be made, whether it is or is proposed to be permanent or temporary, and the purpose for which it is proposed to be used.

15. Such application shall be made to the executive authority, if the enclosed place or building is within a municipal town, and in every other case to any revenue officer not below the rank of Tahsildar having jurisdiction over the local area in which the place or building is situated.

6. Upon the receipt of any such application, the authority to whom application is made shall inspect the place or building in respect of which a licence is required, and may call on the applicant, by notice in writing, to make any alteration or addition in the material or arrangement of the enclosure or building, or in the precautions for the safety of the public to be assembled therein, and may refuse to grant a licence until the alteration or addition is made.

7. If the authority, after consulting such authority or officer as the State Government may time to time by rule direct, is satisfied—]

1 Please see in this connection section 198 of the Tamil Nadu District Boards Act, 1920 (Tamil Nadu Act XIV of 1920), according to which when the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort Act, 1888 (Tamil Nadu Act II of 1888), is extended to a non-panchayat area, the authority to whom application for a licence shall be made and who may grant or refuse the licence shall be the executive authority of the District Board. Similarly under section 94 of the Tamil Nadu Village Panchayats Act, 1950 (Tamil Nadu Act X of 1950), when the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort Act, 1888 (Tamil Nadu Act II of 1888) is extended to any village or part thereof, the said authority shall be the executive authority of the panchayat. Likewise under section 114 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1958 (XXXV of 1958), when Tamil Nadu Act II of 1888 is extended to any village, town or part thereof, the said authority shall be the executive officer in the case of panchayat towns and the commissioner in the case of panchayat villages.

2 These words were substituted for the words “to the Chairman of the Municipal Council” by section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1960 (Tamil Nadu Act 20 of 1960).

3 These words were substituted for the words “to any Magistrate” by section 4, ibid.

4 These words were substituted for the words “If the authority is satisfied” by section 2 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1965 (Tamil Nadu Act 3 of 1965).
(a) that the enclosed place or building may safely be used for the purpose of public resort or entertainment proposed;

(b) that no objection, arising from its situation, ownership, or the purpose proposed, exists, he shall give to the applicant a written licence, signed by him, specifying the enclosure or building and the purpose for which it is to be used. Such licence shall be in such form and subject to such fee and conditions as the 1[State Government] may from time to time by rule direct.

If the authority is not satisfied as aforesaid, he may refuse to grant a licence, recording his reasons for refusal in writing.

3. Every licence granted under this Act shall state the period for which it is to continue in force, and shall cease to be in force on the expiration of that period.

9. Any authority granting a licence under this Act may, for reasons recorded in writing, revoke or suspend the same when he has reason to believe—

(a) that the licence has been fraudulently obtained;

(b) that the enclosed place or building has been used for other purposes of public resort or entertainment than that for which the licence was granted;

(c) that the place or building can no longer be safely used for the purpose for which the licence was granted;

2[(d) that any condition of the licence has been contravened.]

1 The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1960.

2 This clause was added by section 5 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1960 (Tamil Nadu Act 20 of 1960).
10. (1) Any applicant for a licence under this Appeal Act may appeal from any order made under section 6, 7 or 9 unless such order has been made by the Collector of the district.

(2) The appeal shall be made within thirty days from the day on which the applicant received the order appealed against.

(3) In a municipal town the appeal shall lie to the Municipal Council, and in every other local area to the Revenue Divisional Officer, or if the original order was made by a Revenue Divisional Officer, to the Collector of the district.

(4) The appellate authority shall have the same power to inspect and to require alteration or addition in the enclosed place or building as the authority to whom application is made under section 5, and may either grant or withhold the licence or make such other order as it thinks fit.

11. It shall be lawful for any revenue officer not below the rank of Tahsildar or any officer of police in charge of a station or of higher rank than head constable to enter at any time any enclosure or building for which licence is required under this Act, to inspect the licence if any has been issued, and, if there is no licence or if the conditions of the licence are not observed and if he sees reason to apprehend imminent danger to the public, to prevent the further use of such enclosure or building as a place of public resort or entertainment.

1 These words were substituted for the words "Magistrate of the district" by section 6 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1960 (Tamil Nadu Act 20 of 1960.)

2 These words were substituted for the words 'Sub-divisional Magistrate, or if the original order was made by a Sub-divisional Magistrate, to the Magistrate of the district" by section 6, ibid.

3 These words were substituted for the words "any Magistrate or Officer of Police" by section 7, ibid.
12. The [Collector of the district] may call for and examine the record of any proceeding taken under this Act, may call for any report in connexion therewith, may make or cause to be made any further inquiry, and may pass any order which the authority holding the proceeding might have passed.

2[12-A. (1) If any entertainment (including a cinematograph exhibition, dance or drama) to which members of the public are admitted, whether on payment or not, is held in an enclosed place or building, then, no person shall, during the prohibited period as defined in sub-section (2), smoke either—

(a) on the stage except in so far as smoking may be part of the entertainment, or

(b) in the auditorium, that is to say, in that portion of the enclosed place or building in which accommodation is provided for members of the public:

Provided that the State Government may, by notification in the Fort St. George Gazette, exempt any class of entertainments from the provisions of this sub-section.

(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), 'prohibited period' means so much of the period commencing thirty minutes before the beginning of the entertainment and ending with the termination thereof, as may fall within the hours which the State Government may, by notification in the Fort St. George Gazette, specify in this behalf for entertainments generally or any class of entertainments.

(3) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this section shall be liable to be ejected summarily from the enclosed place or building by any Police-officer and shall also be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

1 These words were substituted for the words "District Magistrate" by section 8 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1960 (Tamil Nadu Act 20 of 1960.)

2 This section was inserted by section 3 of the Madras City Police and Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1951 (Madras Act XIII of 1951).
(4) A person ejected under sub-section (3) shall not be entitled to the refund of any payment made by him for admission to the entertainment or to any other compensation.]

13. Every person who, having the immediate Penalties, control of any enclosed place or building, permits it to be used for public resort or entertainment without having obtained a licence or, having obtained a licence under this Act, permits such use in contravention of any of the conditions of such licence, shall be liable on conviction before a Magistrate, to fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

13-A. The provisions of this Act shall apply to all areas situated within a distance of three miles from the limits of any municipality, as if such areas formed part of such municipality:

Provided that this section shall not apply to—

(i) areas for the time being included within the limits of some other municipality, or

(ii) areas to which this Act has been, or may be, extended by a notification under 2[section 1, sub-section (2) (b)], so long as such notification remains in force.

13-B. Where, by virtue of section 13-A, a municipal council derives any income under this Act from any area outside the municipal limits, such income shall be distributed between the municipal council and the local authority or authorities having jurisdiction over such area, in such manner as the (State) Government may specify in rules made under this Act.

1 Sections 13-A to 13-C were inserted by section 2 of the Madras Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1947 (Madras Act XXIII of 1947).

2 These words, figures, brackets and letter were substituted for the words, figures and brackets “section 1, sub-section (3)” by section 9 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1960 (Tamil Nadu Act 20 of 1960).

3 The word “State” was substituted for the word “Provincial” by the Adaptation Order of 1960.
13-C. Where, by virtue of any notification issued under \(^1\) [section 1, sub-section(2)(b)]. or otherwise, jurisdiction under this Act over any area stands transferred from one officer or authority to another officer or authority, all licences granted, all orders passed, and all proceedings commenced, in respect of places, buildings and enclosures in such area, by or before the officer or authority having jurisdiction prior to such transfer, shall be deemed to have been granted, passed, or commenced by or before the officer or authority having jurisdiction subsequent to such transfer.]

\(^2\) [13-D. Nothing in this Act shall apply to any church, temple, mosque or other place of public worship.]

14. \(^3\) [(1)] The \(^4\) [State Government] may, at any time after the passing of this Act, and from time to time, make rules consistent with this Act, for carrying out the purposes thereof, and may amend or cancel the same. All such rules shall be published in the \(^5\) [Official Gazette] and shall come into force on the day on which they are so published or on such later date as may be specified in the notification publishing them.

\(^1\) These words, figures, brackets and letter were substituted for the words, figures and brackets "section 1, sub-section (3)" by section 9 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1960 (Tamil Nadu Act 20 of 1960).

\(^2\) This section was inserted by section 10, \textit{ibid}.

\(^3\) The original section 14 was renumbered as sub-section (1) of that section by section 11, \textit{ibid}.

\(^4\) The words "Provincial Government" were substituted or the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation Order of 1937 and the word "State" was substituted for "Provincial" by the Adaptation Order of 1960.

\(^5\) These words were substituted for the words "Fort St. George Gazette" by the Adaptation Order of 1937.
[(2) All rules made under this Act shall, as soon as possible after they are made, be placed on the table of both Houses of the Legislature and shall be subject to such modifications by way of amendment or repeal as the Legislature may make either in the same session or in the next session.]

1 This sub-section was added by section 11 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1960 (Tamil Nadu Act 29 of 1960).


[Received the assent of the Governor on the 6th October 1960, first published in the Fort St. George Gazette on the 12th October 1960 (Asvina 20, 1882).]

An Act further to amend the [Tamil Nadu] Places of Public Resort Act, 1888.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the [Tamil Nadu] Places of Public Resort Act, 1888 ([Tamil Nadu] Act II of 1888), for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

Be it enacted in the Eleventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the [Tamil Nadu] Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1960.

2. (1) Any law corresponding to the principal Act, as amended by this Act in force in the transferred territory immediately before the date of the commencement of this Act including the Travancore-Cochin Places of Public Resort Act, 1951 (Travancore-Cochin Act VIII of 1951), hereinafter in this section referred to as the corresponding law, shall stand repealed on the date of such commencement.

1 These words were substituted for the word "Madras" by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws Order, 1969, as amended by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws (Second Amendment) Order, 1969.

2 For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary, dated the 28th April 1960, Part IV-A, page 189.
(2) The repeal by sub-section (1) of the corresponding law shall not affect—

(a) the previous operation of the corresponding law or anything done or duly suffered thereunder; or

(b) any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the corresponding law; or

(c) any penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred in respect of any offence committed against the corresponding law; or

(d) any investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect of any such right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid;

and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if this Act had not been passed.

(3) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), anything done or any action taken, including any appointment or delegation made, notification, order, instruction or direction issued, rule framed, or licence granted under the corresponding law shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act as amended by this Act and shall continue to have effect accordingly, unless and until superseded by anything done or any action taken under the principal Act as amended by this Act.

(4) Unless the context otherwise requires, the ['Tamil Nadu'] General Clauses Act, 1891 (['Tamil Nadu'] Act I of 1891), shall apply for the interpretation of the principal Act as amended by this Act and as in force in the transferred territory.

¹ These words were substituted for the word "Madras" by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws Order, 1969, as amended by the Tamil Nadu Adaptation of Laws (Second Amendment) Order, 1969.
(5) For the purpose of facilitating the application of the principal Act as amended by this Act in the transferred territory, any court or other authority may construe the principal Act as amended by this Act with such alterations not affecting the substance as may be necessary or proper to adapt it to the matter before the court or other authority.

(6) Any reference to the corresponding law in any law which continues to be in force in the transferred territory after the date of the commencement of this Act shall, in relation to that territory, be construed as a reference to the principal Act as amended by this Act.

(7) Any reference, by whatever form of words, in any law which continues to be in force in the transferred territory to any authority competent at the date of the commencement of this Act to exercise any powers or discharge any functions in the transferred territory shall, where a corresponding new authority has been constituted by or under the principal Act as amended by this Act, have effect as if it were a reference to that new authority.

(8) (a) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act or of the principal Act as amended by this Act, the State Government as occasion may require, may by order, do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

(b) All orders made under clause (a) shall, as soon as possible after they are made, be placed on the table of both Houses of the Legislature and shall be subject to such modifications by way of amendment or repeal as the Legislature may make either in the same session or in the next session.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section—

(i) the expression “date of the commencement of this Act” means—

(i) in relation to any municipality, the date on which this Act is published in the Fort St. George Gazette; and

* Now the Tamil Nadu Government Gazette.
(ii) in relation to any other local area, the date specified in the notification under section 1, sub-section (2) (b), of the principal Act as amended by this Act;

(2) the expression “transferred territory” means the Kanyakumari district and the Shencotta taluk of the Tirunelveli district.
TAMIL NADU ACT NO. 54 OF 1981.*

THE TAMIL NADU PLACES OF PUBLIC RESORT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1981.


An Act further to amend the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort Act, 1888.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Tamil Nadu in the Thirty-second Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort (Amendment) Act, 1981.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification, appoint.

2. After section 4 of the Tamil Nadu Places of Public Resort Act, 1888 (Tamil Nadu Act II of 1888) (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"4-A Conditions subject to which licence may be granted.—Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or in any other law for the time being in force, no application for licence under section 4 shall be entertained unless the following conditions are complied with by the applicant, namely:—

(a) the applicant shall give an undertaking in writing to the authority or officer referred to in section 5 that the enclosed place or building shall not be used for the purpose of displaying any indecent or obscene play or dance or other like performance or for the activities such as ring-throwing, arrow or pin-throwing or any other activity of a gambling nature as may be prescribed by the State Government in this behalf;"

*For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Tamil Nadu Government Gazette Extraordinary, dated the 12th May 1981, Part IV—Section 1, page 602.
(b) the applicant shall, in the undertaking referred to in clause (a), agree to abide with the provisions of the law relating to the maintenance of law and order and decency in public places;

(c) the applicant shall along with the undertaking referred to in clause (a) also furnish a security deposit for such sum as may be prescribed in the Schedule and in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government in this behalf, for the due observance of the terms and conditions laid down in the said undertaking or the licence to be granted and in the event of non-compliance with any of the terms and conditions of the said undertaking or licence, the sum so deposited as security deposit shall be forfeited to the State Government;

Provided that no such forfeiture of the security deposit shall be made unless the applicant had been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard:

Provided further that the forfeiture of the security deposit under this clause shall not be a bar for proceeding against the holder of the licence under the provisions of section 9.”.

3. In section 7 of the principal Act, after clause (b), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:

“(c) that the applicant has duly given the undertaking and furnished the security deposit referred to in section 4-A.”.

4. Section 9 of the principal Act shall be renumbered as sub-section (1) of that section, and—

(a) in sub-section (1) as so renumbered, in clause (d), for the expression “licence”, the expression “licence or the undertaking referred to in section 4-A” shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (1) as so renumbered, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:

“(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), in so far as it relates to suspension of any licence granted under this Act where a prima facie case has been made out, the authority may, at any time and for reasons to be recorded in writing, suspend any licence granted under this Act and in such a case, no show cause notice is necessary.”.
5. In section 13 of the principal Act, for the portion beginning with the expression "any of the conditions of such licence" and ending with the expression "five hundred rupees", the following shall be substituted, namely:

"any of the conditions of such licence or of the undertaking referred to in section 4-A shall be liable on conviction before a magistrate, to fine which may extend to five hundred rupees and in addition, in the case of a continuing contravention, with additional fine which may extend to fifty percentum of the fine first imposed for every day during which such contravention continues after conviction for the first such contravention."

6. After section 14 of the principal Act, the following Schedule shall be added, namely:

"THE SCHEDULE
[See clause (c) of section 4-A.]

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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Amount of Security Deposit.</th>
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<tr>
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<td>ii. Municipalities, Special Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>vii. Panchayat Towns and Panchayat Villages</td>
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