

2024 -- H 7065

=====
LC003755
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

—————
A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- HOTELS

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, DeSimone, Finkelman, McEntee, McNamara,
Fogarty, Serpa, Boylan, Cortvriend, and Edwards

Date Introduced: January 05, 2024

Referred To: House Small Business

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 5-14-4 and 5-14-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-14 entitled
2 "Hotels" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **5-14-4. Innkeeper's right to eject. [Effective July 1, 2024.]**

4 (a) An innkeeper may remove or cause to be removed from a hotel a guest or other person
5 who:

6 (1) Refuses or is unable to pay for accommodations or services;

7 (2) While on the premises of the hotel, acts in an obviously intoxicated manner, destroys
8 or threatens to destroy hotel property, [verbally or physically threatens employees or guests](#), or
9 causes or threatens to cause a public disturbance;

10 (3) The innkeeper has direct knowledge a person is using the premises for the unlawful
11 possession or use of controlled substances by the person in violation of chapter 28 of title 21, or
12 using the premises for the consumption of alcohol by a person under the age of twenty-one (21)
13 years of age in violation of chapter 8 of title 3;

14 (4) The innkeeper has direct knowledge a person has brought property into the hotel that
15 may be dangerous to other persons, such as firearms or explosives;

16 (5) A person violates any federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or rules relating to the
17 hotel; ~~or~~

18 (6) Violates a rule of the hotel that is clearly and conspicuously posted at or near the front
19 desk ~~and on the inside of the entrance door of every guest room~~ [and posted online where the guest](#)

1 can view it before making a reservation at the hotel; or
2 (7) Uses verbally abusive language towards the hotel's employees or guests. For the
3 purposes of this chapter, "verbally abusive language", means any language that would reasonably
4 be found to be offensive, threatening, or demeaning.

5 (b) If the guest has paid in advance, the innkeeper shall tender to the guest any unused
6 portion of the advance payment at the time of removal.

7 (c) Nothing in this section shall be used as a pretext to discriminate against a guest on the
8 basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, age,
9 or country of ancestral origin.

10 **5-14-5. Refusal of admission. [Effective July 1, 2024.]**

11 An innkeeper may refuse to admit or refuse service or accommodations to a person who:

12 (1) While on the premises of the hotel, acts in an obviously intoxicated manner, destroys
13 or threatens to destroy hotel property, or causes or threatens to cause a public disturbance.

14 (2) The innkeeper has direct knowledge a person is seeking accommodations for the
15 unlawful possession or use of controlled substances in violation of chapter 28 of title 21 or the use
16 of the premises for the consumption of intoxicating liquor by a person.

17 (3) A person under the age of eighteen (18) years ~~if they are not in proper condition or are~~
18 ~~unable to pay for their charges~~ who is not accompanied by an adult.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 2, 2024.

=====
LC003755
=====

EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- HOTELS

1 This act would make permanent certain changes regarding hotel rules and guests, which
2 changes were set to sunset on July 1, 2024. These include requiring online posting of hotel rules
3 and expand the authority of the innkeeper to eject a person for being verbally abusive or physically
4 threatening to an employee or hotel guest. It would also permit refusal of service to a person under
5 the age of eighteen (18) years unless accompanied by an adult.

6 This act would take effect on July 2, 2024.

=====
LC003755
=====