SUPPLIED FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE



CHAPTER 55.

An Act to limit the Hours of Labour of Children and Young Persons in Shops. [25th June 1886.]

A.D. 1886.

WHEREAS the health of many young persons employed in shops and warehouses is seriously injured by reason of the length of the period of employment:

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Shop Hours Regulation Act, 1886.

Commencement of Act.

2. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of November one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, and shall continue in force until the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, and the end of the then next session of Parliament, and no longer.

Hours of employment in shops.

3. (1.) A young person shall not be employed in or about a shop for a longer period than seventy-four hours, including meal times, in any one week:

(2.) A young person shall not to the knowledge of his employer be employed in a shop who has been previously on the same day employed in any factory or workshop, as defined by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, for the number of hours permitted by the said Act or for a longer period than will complete such number of hours.

41 & 42 Vict. c. 16.

Notice of hours to be given.

4. In every shop in which young persons are employed a notice shall be kept exhibited by the employer in a conspicuous place referring to the provisions of this Act and stating the number of hours in the week during which young persons may lawfully be employed therein.

A.D. 1886.

Fine for employing persons contrary to the Act.

5. Where any young person is employed in or about a shop contrary to the provisions of this Act, the employer shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one pound for each person so employed.

Power of occupier to exempt himself from fine on conviction of actual offender.

6. Where the employer of a young person, as defined in this Act, is charged with an offence against this Act, he shall be entitled upon information duly laid before him to have any other person whom he charges as the actual offender brought before the court at the time appointed for hearing the charge; and if, after the commission of the offence has been proved, the said employer proves to the satisfaction of the court that he has used due diligence to enforce the execution of the Act, and that the said other person has committed the offence in question without his knowledge, consent, or connivance, the said other person shall be summarily convicted of such offence, and the occupier shall be exempt from any fine.

Summary proceedings.

7. All offences under this Act shall be prosecuted, and all fines under this Act shall be recovered, in like manner as offences and fines are prosecuted and recovered under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, and sections eighty-eight, eighty-nine, ninety, and ninety-one of the said Act, and so much of section ninety-two thereof as relates to evidence respecting the age of any person, and the provisions relating to the application of the said Act to Scotland and Ireland, so far as those provisions are applicable, shall have effect as if re-enacted in this Act and in terms made applicable thereto.

Interpretation.

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

"Shop" means retail and wholesale shops, markets, stalls, and warehouses in which assistants are employed for hire, and includes licensed public-houses and refreshment houses of any kind.

"Young person" means a person under the age of eighteen years.

Other words and expressions have the same meanings respectively as in the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878.

41 & 42 Vict. c. 16.

Exemption of members of the same family.

9. Nothing in this Act shall apply to shops where the only persons employed are at home, that is to say, are members of the same family dwelling there, or to members of the employer's family dwelling in a house to which the shop is attached.

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