

Chapter 72.

Inns, Hotels and Restaurants.

Article 1.

Innkeepers.

§ 72-1. Must furnish accommodations; contracts for termination valid.

(a) Every innkeeper shall at all times provide suitable lodging accommodations for persons accepted as guests in an inn, hotel, motel, recreational vehicle park, campground, or other similar transient occupancy.

(b) A written statement setting forth the time period during which a guest may occupy an assigned room, signed or initialed by the guest, shall be deemed a valid contract, and at the expiration of such time period the lodger may be restrained from entering and any property of the guest may be removed by the innkeeper without liability, except for damages to or loss of such property attributable to its removal.

(c) For the purposes of this section, a "transient occupancy" is the rental of an accommodation by an inn, hotel, motel, recreational vehicle park, campground, or similar lodging to the same guest or occupant for fewer than 90 consecutive days. (1903, c. 563; Rev., s. 1909; C.S., s. 2249; 1979, c. 532; 2023-5, s. 2.)

§ 72-2. Liability for loss of baggage.

Innkeepers shall not be liable for loss, damage or destruction of the baggage or property of their guests except in case such loss, damage, or destruction results from the failure of the innkeeper to exercise ordinary, proper and reasonable care in the custody of such baggage and property; and in case of such loss, damage or destruction resulting from the negligence and want of care of the said innkeeper he shall be liable to the owner of the said baggage and property to an amount not exceeding one hundred dollars. Any guest may, however, at any time before a loss, damage or destruction of his property, notify the innkeeper in writing that his property exceeds in value the said sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), and shall upon demand of the innkeeper furnish him a list or schedule of the same, with the value thereof, in which case the innkeeper shall be liable for the loss, damage or destruction of said property because of any negligence on his part for the full value of the same. Proof of the loss of any such baggage, except in case of damage or destruction by fire, shall be prima facie evidence of the negligence of said hotel or innkeeper. (1903, c. 563, s. 2; Rev., s. 1910; C.S., s. 2250.)

§ 72-3. Safekeeping of valuables.

It is the duty of innkeepers, upon the request of any guest, to receive from said guest and safely keep money, jewelry and valuables to an amount not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00); and no innkeeper shall be required to receive and take care of any money, jewelry or other valuables to a greater amount than five hundred dollars (\$500.00): Provided, the receipt given by said innkeeper to said guest shall have plainly printed upon it a copy of this section. No innkeeper shall be liable for the loss, damage or destruction of any money or jewels not so deposited. (1903, c. 563, s. 3; Rev., s. 1911; C.S., s. 2251.)

§ 72-4. Loss by fire.

No innkeeper shall be liable for loss, damage or destruction of any baggage or property caused by fire not resulting from the negligence of the innkeeper or by any other force over which the

innkeeper had no control. Nothing herein contained shall enlarge the limit of the amount to which the innkeeper shall be liable as provided in preceding sections. (1903, c. 563, s. 4; Rev., s. 1912; C.S., s. 2252.)

§ 72-5. Negligence of guest.

Any innkeeper against whom claim is made for loss sustained by a guest may show that such loss resulted from the negligence of such guest or of his failure to comply with the reasonable and proper regulations of the inn. (1903, c. 563, s. 7; Rev., s. 1914; C.S., s. 2253.)

§ 72-6. Copies of this Article to be posted.

Every innkeeper shall keep posted in every room of his house occupied by guests, and in the office, a printed copy of this Article and of all regulations relating to the conduct of guests. This Chapter shall not apply to innkeepers, or their guests, where the innkeeper fails to keep such notices posted. (1903, c. 563, ss. 5, 6; Rev., s. 1913; C.S., s. 2254.)

§ 72-7: Repealed by Session Laws 1991, c. 663, s. 1.

§ 72-7.1. Admittance of pets to hotel rooms.

(a) Innkeepers may permit pets in rooms used for sleeping purposes and in adjoining rooms. Persons bringing pets into a room in which they are not permitted are in violation of this section and punishable according to subsection (d) of this section.

(b) Innkeepers allowing pets must post a sign measuring not less than five inches by seven inches at the place where guests register informing them pets are permitted in sleeping rooms and in adjoining rooms. If certain pets are permitted or prohibited, the sign must so state. If any pets are permitted, the innkeeper must maintain a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the sleeping rooms in the inn or hotel as rooms where pets are not permitted and the sign required by this subsection must also state that such rooms are available.

(c) All sleeping rooms in which the innkeeper permits pets must contain a sign measuring not less than five inches by seven inches, posted in a prominent place in the room, which shall be separate from the sign required by G.S. 72-6, stating that pets are permitted in the room, or whether certain pets are prohibited or permitted in the room, and stating that bringing pets into a room in which they are not permitted is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

(d) Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

(e) The provisions of this section are not applicable to assistance dogs admitted to sleeping rooms and adjoining rooms under the provisions of Chapter 168 of the General Statutes. (1991, c. 663, s. 2; 1993, c. 539, ss. 544, 545; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 14, ss. 41, 42; c. 24, s. 14(c).)

Article 2.

Sanitary Inspection and Conduct.

§§ 72-8 through 72-29: Repealed by Session Laws 1945, c. 829, s. 4.

Article 3.

Immoral Practices of Guests of Hotels and Lodging Houses.

§ 72-30. Registration to be in true name; addresses; peace officers.

No person shall write, or cause to be written, or if in charge of a register knowingly permit to be written, in any register in any lodging house or hotel any other or different name or designation than the true name or names in ordinary use of the person registering or causing himself to be registered therein. Any person occupying any room or rooms in any lodging house or hotel shall register or cause himself to be registered where registration is required by such lodging house or hotel. Any person registering or causing himself to be registered at any lodging house or hotel, shall write, or cause to be written, in the register of such lodging house or hotel the correct address of the person registering, or causing himself to be registered. Any person violating any provision of this section shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall only be punished by a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200.00). This section shall not apply to any peace officer of this State who shall privately give his true name to the clerk or proprietor of such hotel or lodging house. (1921, c. 111; C.S., s. 2283(v); 1993, c. 539, s. 546; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

Article 4.

Licensing and Regulation of Tourist Camps and Homes, Cabin Camps, Roadhouses and Public Dance Halls.

§§ 72-31 through 72-38: Repealed by Session Laws 2004-203, s. 38, effective August 17, 2004.

§ 72-39. Repealed by Session Laws 1975, c. 402.

§§ 72-40 through 72-45: Repealed by Session Laws 2004-203, s. 38, effective August 17, 2004.

Article 5.

Sanitation of Establishments Providing Food and Lodging.

§§ 72-46 through 72-49: Repealed by Session Laws 1983, c. 891, s. 7.

Article 6.

Advertisements by Motor Courts, Tourist Camps, etc.

§ 72-50. Rate advertisements to contain additional data.

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation, who owns, operates or who has control of the operation of any motor court, tourist court, tourist camp, or guest house to publish or cause to be displayed in writing, or by any other means, any advertisement which includes a statement relating to the rates or charges obtaining at such motor court, tourist court, tourist camp, or guest house, unless such advertisement shall, with equal prominence, contain additional data relating to such room rates, in the following particulars:

- (1) Whether the rate advertised is for a single or multiple occupancy of the room;
 - (2) The number of rooms or units in each price level where such advertisement indicates varying rates; and
 - (3) The dates or period of time during which such advertised rates are available.
- (1955, c. 1200, s. 1.)

§ 72-51. Violation a misdemeanor.

Any person, firm, or corporation, violating the provisions of this Article shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. (1955, c. 1200, s. 2; 1993, c. 539, s. 551; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

§ 72-52. Article declared supplemental.

This Article is declared to be supplemental in nature and shall not be construed to repeal any existing law relating to the operation of any motor court, tourist court, tourist camp, or guest house. (1955, c. 1200, s. 3.)