

South Australia

**TRAVEL AGENTS ACT 1986**

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An Act to provide for the licensing of travel agents; and for other purposes.

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*This Act is reprinted pursuant to the Acts Republication Act 1967 and incorporates all amendments in force as at **1 June 2000**.*

*It should be noted that the Act has not been revised (for obsolete references, etc.) by the Commissioner of Statute Revision since the reprint published on 1 July 1996.*

**TRAVEL AGENTS ACT 1986**

being

Travel Agents Act 1986 No. 15 of 1986  
[Assented to 20 March 1986]<sup>1</sup>

as amended by

Travel Agents Act Amendment Act 1986 No. 88 of 1986 [Assented to 4 December 1986]<sup>2</sup>  
Statutes Amendment (Fair Trading) Act 1987 No. 43 of 1987 [Assented to 30 April 1987]<sup>3</sup>  
Travel Agents Act Amendment Act 1988 No. 73 of 1988 [Assented to 24 November 1988]  
Statutes Amendment (Commercial Licences) Act 1992 No. 55 of 1992 [Assented to 29 October 1992]<sup>4</sup>  
Travel Agents (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 1996 No. 11 of 1996 [Assented to 11 April 1996]<sup>5</sup>  
Statutes Amendment and Repeal (Common Expiation Scheme) Act 1996 No. 34 of 1996 [Assented to 2 May 1996]<sup>6</sup> (as amended by Statutes Amendment (Attorney-General's Portfolio) Act 1997 No. 59 of 1997 [Assented to 31 July 1997]<sup>7</sup>)  
Statutes Amendment (Consumer Affairs) Act 1998 No. 21 of 1998 [Assented to 2 April 1998]<sup>8</sup> (as amended by Statutes Amendment (Consumer Affairs) Amendment Act 1998 No. 22 of 1998 [Assented to 2 April 1998])  
**District Court (Administrative and Disciplinary Division) Amendment Act 2000 No. 4 of 2000 [Assented to 20 April 2000]<sup>9</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Came into operation (except ss. 5, 7, 11, 21-24) 23 February 1987: *Gaz.* 12 February 1987, p. 294; ss. 7 and 11 came into operation 1 July 1987: *Gaz.* 7 May 1987, p. 1204; s. 21 was subsequently substituted and ss. 22-24 were repealed by Act No. 73 of 1988 before they were brought into operation; s. 5 had not been brought into operation at the date of this reprint.

<sup>2</sup> Came into operation 23 February 1987: *Gaz.* 12 February 1987, p. 295.

<sup>3</sup> Came into operation 26 October 1987: *Gaz.* 24 September 1987, p. 940.

<sup>4</sup> Came into operation 10 December 1992: *Gaz.* 10 December 1992, p. 1752.

<sup>5</sup> Came into operation 1 July 1996: *Gaz.* 27 June 1996, p. 3107.

<sup>6</sup> Clause 40 of Sched. came into operation 1 March 1998: *Gaz.* 5 February 1998, p. 862.

<sup>7</sup> Part 8 (s. 16) came into operation 14 September 1997: *Gaz.* 11 September 1997, p. 704.

<sup>8</sup> Part 13 (ss. 37 & 38) & Sched. came into operation 28 May 1998: *Gaz.* 28 May 1998, p. 2292.

<sup>9</sup> **Schedule 1 (cl. 46) came into operation 1 June 2000: *Gaz.* 18 May 2000, p. 2554.**

**NOTE:**

- Asterisks indicate repeal or deletion of text.
- Entries appearing in bold type indicate the amendments incorporated since the last reprint.
- For the legislative history of the Act see Appendix.

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**Travel Agents Act 1986**

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**The Parliament of South Australia enacts as follows:**

**PART 1  
PRELIMINARY**

**Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the *Travel Agents Act 1986*.

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**Interpretation**

3. In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears—

"**authorised name**" in respect of a licensed travel agent means—

- (a) the name of the travel agent as it appears in the licence; or
- (b) a business name registered by the travel agent under the *Business Names Act 1963* of which the Commissioner has been given prior notice in writing;

"**authorised officer**" means a person who is an authorised officer under the *Fair Trading Act 1987*;

"**the Commissioner**" means the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs;

"**the compensation fund**" means the compensation fund established under the trust deed;

"**corresponding law**" means a law of another State, or of a Territory of the Commonwealth declared by regulation to be a corresponding law for the purposes of this Act;

"**director**" of a body corporate includes—

- (a) a person occupying or acting in the position of director or member of the governing body of the body corporate, by whatever name called and whether or not validly appointed to occupy or duly authorised to act in the position; and
- (b) any person in accordance with whose directions or instructions the directors or members of the governing body of the body corporate are accustomed to act;

"**District Court**" means the Administrative and Disciplinary Division of the District Court;

"**licence**" means a licence under this Act; and "**licensee**", "**licensed**" and "**unlicensed**" have corresponding meanings;

"**the trust deed**" means the trust deed approved under section 19;

"**vehicle**" includes a boat, aircraft or other means of transport.

**Business of travel agent**

4. (1) Subject to this section, a person carries on business as a travel agent if the person in the course of a business—

- (a) sells or arranges to sell rights to travel; or
- (b) sells or arranges to sell rights to travel and accommodation; or
- (c) carries out an activity set out in the regulations.

(2) A person does not carry on business as a travel agent—

- (a) by reason of anything done by that person in the course of employment;
- (b) by reason of selling, or arranging for the sale of, rights to travel in a vehicle owned by that person;
- (c) by reason of selling, or arranging for the sale of, rights to accommodation at a place owned by that person;
- (d) by reason of carrying on an activity set out in the regulations.

(3) A person is the owner of a vehicle or place of accommodation for the purposes of this section if that person has lawful possession of the vehicle or place of accommodation.

(4) In this section—

"sale", in relation to rights, includes the conferral or assignment of the rights; and "to sell" has a corresponding meaning.

***Act to bind Crown***<sup>1</sup>

5. (1) *This Act binds the Crown not only in right of South Australia but also, so far as the legislative power of Parliament permits, the Crown in all its other capacities.*

(2) *Nothing in this Act renders the Crown in right of South Australia or in any other capacity liable to be prosecuted for an offence or obliges the Crown in right of South Australia to hold a licence.*

**Commissioner to be responsible for administration of Act**

6. The Commissioner is responsible, subject to the control and direction of the Minister, for the administration of this Act.

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<sup>1</sup> S. 5 had not been brought into operation at the date of this reprint.

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**PART 2  
LICENSING OF TRAVEL AGENTS**

**DIVISION 1—GRANT OF LICENCES**

**Travel agents to be licensed**

7. (1) A person must not—

- (a) carry on business as a travel agent except as authorised by a licence under this Act; or
- (b) advertise or otherwise hold himself or herself out as being entitled to carry on business as a travel agent unless authorised to carry on business as such an agent by a licence under this Act.

Maximum penalty: \$50 000.

(2) If a person is convicted of an offence against subsection (1), the court by which the conviction is recorded must order the person to pay to the Crown an amount estimated by the court to be the amount of the profit that has accrued to the convicted person or any other person with whom the convicted person has a business or personal association in consequence of the commission of the offence.

(3) An amount recovered by the Crown under an order must be paid into the compensation fund.

(4) A person required by this Act to be licensed as a travel agent is not entitled to any fee, other consideration or compensation under or in relation to a contract with another on whose behalf the person provided services as a travel agent unless—

- (a) the person was authorised to provide the services under a licence; or
- (b) a court hearing proceedings for recovery of the fee, other consideration or compensation is satisfied that the person's failure to be so authorised resulted from inadvertence only.

**Application for licence**

8. (1) An application for a licence must—

- (a) be made to the Commissioner in the manner and form approved by the Commissioner; and
- (b) be accompanied by the fee fixed by regulation.

(2) An applicant for a licence must provide the Commissioner with any information required by the Commissioner for the purposes of determining the application.

**Entitlement to be licensed**

9. (1) A natural person is entitled to be granted a licence if—

- (a) the person is of or above the age of 18 years; and
- (b) the person is not disqualified under this Act or a corresponding law from holding a licence under this Act or the corresponding law or being involved in the direction, management or conduct of the business of a travel agent; and

- (c) the person has made suitable arrangements to fulfil the obligations that may arise under this Act; and
  - (d) the trustees under the trust deed have certified that—
    - (i) the person is eligible for membership of the compensation scheme established by the trust deed; and
    - (ii) the person will be admitted as a member of the compensation scheme on being licensed; and
  - (e) he or she is a fit and proper person to be the holder of a licence.
- (2) A body corporate is entitled to be granted a licence if—
- (a) the body corporate is not disqualified under this Act or a corresponding law from holding a licence under this Act or the corresponding law or being involved in the direction, management or conduct of the business of a travel agent; and
  - (b) no director of the body corporate is disqualified under a corresponding law from holding a licence under the corresponding law or being involved in the direction, management or conduct of the business of a travel agent; and
  - (c) the body corporate has made suitable arrangements to fulfil the obligations that may arise under this Act; and
  - (d) the trustees under the trust deed have certified that—
    - (i) the body corporate is eligible for membership of the compensation scheme established by the trust deed; and
    - (ii) the body corporate will be admitted as a member of the compensation scheme on being licensed; and
  - (e) each director of the body corporate is a fit and proper person to be the director of a body corporate that is the holder of a licence.

### Conditions of licences

**10.** (1) A licence is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) a condition that each place at which the licensed travel agent carries on business as a travel agent must comply with the requirements of the regulations; and
- (b) conditions imposed by regulation; and
- (c) conditions imposed by the Commissioner on granting the licence.

(2) Conditions imposed by the Commissioner on the grant of the licence may be varied or revoked by the Commissioner at any time on application by the licensed travel agent.

### Appeals

**11.** (1) An applicant for a licence may appeal to the District Court against a decision of the Commissioner refusing the application.



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(2) Subject to subsection (4), an appeal must be instituted within one month of the making of the decision appealed against.

(3) The Commissioner must, if so required by the applicant, state in writing the reasons for the Commissioner's decision to refuse the application.

(4) If the reasons of the Commissioner are not given in writing at the time of making the decision and the applicant (within one month of the making of the decision) requires the Commissioner to state the reasons in writing, the time for instituting an appeal runs from the time at which the applicant receives the written statement of those reasons.

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**Duration of licence and annual fee and return**

**12.** (1) A licence remains in force (except for any period for which it is suspended) until—

- (a) the licence is surrendered or cancelled; or
- (b) the licensed travel agent dies or, in the case of a licensed body corporate, is dissolved.

(2) A licensed travel agent must, each year not later than the date fixed by regulation—

- (a) pay to the Commissioner the fee fixed by regulation; and
- (b) lodge with the Commissioner a return in the manner and form required by the Commissioner.

(3) If a licensed travel agent fails to pay the annual fee or lodge the annual return in accordance with subsection (2), the Commissioner may, by notice in writing, require the agent to make good the default and, in addition, to pay to the Commissioner the amount fixed by regulation as a penalty for default.

(4) If the travel agent fails to comply with the notice within 28 days after service of the notice, the agent's licence is cancelled.

(5) The Commissioner must notify the travel agent in writing of the cancellation of the agent's licence.

(6) A licensed travel agent may surrender the licence.

(7) In this section—

**"licensed travel agent"** includes a licensed travel agent whose licence has been suspended.

**Supervision of travel agent's business**

**13.** (1) The business conducted at a place from which a licensed travel agent carries on business must be managed and supervised by a person with qualifications approved by the Commissioner (whether or not that person is the licensed travel agent).

(2) A licensed travel agent who fails to ensure compliance with subsection (1) is guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty:       \$20 000.

**Business may be carried on by unlicensed person in certain circumstances**

**14.** If a person carrying on business as a travel agent authorised by a licence dies, the personal representative of the deceased, or some other person approved by the Commissioner—

- (a) will be taken to have been licensed (on the same conditions as were applicable to the former licence) as from the date of death of the agent until the expiration of six months from that date or until such later date as may be fixed by the Commissioner; and
- (b) will be taken to have been admitted to membership of the compensation scheme on the date of death of the agent.

**DIVISION 2—DISCIPLINE**

**Interpretation of Division**

**15.** In this Division—

"**director**" of a body corporate includes a former director of a body corporate;

"**travel agent**" means—

- (a) a person who is carrying on or formerly carried on business as a travel agent (whether or not currently or previously licensed); or
- (b) a licensed travel agent (whether or not carrying on business as a travel agent).

**Cause for disciplinary action**

**16.** (1) There is proper cause for disciplinary action against a travel agent if—

- (a) licensing of the agent was improperly obtained; or
- (b) the agent has acted contrary to an assurance accepted by the Commissioner under the *Fair Trading Act 1987*; or
- (c) the agent or another person has acted contrary to this Act or otherwise unlawfully, or improperly, negligently or unfairly, in the course of conducting, or being employed or otherwise engaged in, the business of the agent; or
- (d) the agent has insufficient financial resources properly to carry on business as a travel agent; or
- (e) the agent has not maintained satisfactory arrangements for the fulfilment of the agent's obligations under this Act; or
- (f) events have occurred such that the agent would not be entitled to be licensed as a travel agent if he or she were to apply for a licence.

(2) Disciplinary action may be taken against each director of a body corporate that is a travel agent if there is proper cause for disciplinary action against the body corporate.

(3) Disciplinary action may not be taken against a person in relation to the act or default of another if that person could not reasonably be expected to have prevented the act or default.

(4) This section applies in relation to conduct occurring before or after the commencement of this section.

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**Complaints**

**17.** The Commissioner or any other person may lodge with the District Court a complaint setting out matters that are alleged to constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this Division.

**Hearing by Court**

**18.** (1) On the lodging of a complaint, the District Court must conduct a hearing for the purpose of determining whether the matters alleged in the complaint constitute grounds for disciplinary action under this Division.

(2) Without limiting the usual powers of the District Court, the Court may during the hearing—

- (a) allow an adjournment to enable the Commissioner to investigate or further investigate matters to which the complaint relates; and
- (b) allow the modification of the complaint or additional allegations to be included in the complaint subject to any conditions as to adjournment and notice to parties and other conditions that the Court may think fit to impose.

**Participation of assessors in disciplinary proceedings**

**18A.** In any proceedings under this Division, the District Court will, if a Judge of the Court so determines, sit with assessors selected in accordance with the schedule.

**Disciplinary action**

**18B.** (1) On the hearing of a complaint, the District Court may, if it is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that there is proper cause for taking disciplinary action against the person to whom the complaint relates, by an order or orders do one or more of the following:

- (a) reprimand the person;
- (b) impose a fine not exceeding \$20 000 on the person;
- (c) in the case of a person who is licensed as a travel agent—
  - (i) suspend the licence for a specified period or until the fulfilment of stipulated conditions or until further order; or
  - (ii) cancel the licence; or
  - (iii) impose conditions as to the conduct of the person or the person's business as a travel agent;
- (d) disqualify the person from being licensed under this Act;
- (e) prohibit the person from being employed or otherwise engaged in the business of a travel agent;
- (f) prohibit the person from being a director or having an interest in a body corporate that is a travel agent.

(2) The District Court may—

(a) stipulate that a disqualification or prohibition is to apply—

(i) permanently; or

(ii) for a specified period; or

(iii) until the fulfilment of stipulated conditions; or

(iv) until further order;

(b) stipulate that an order relating to a person is to have effect at a specified future time and impose conditions as to the conduct of the person or the person's business until that time.

(3) If—

(a) a person has been found guilty of an offence; and

(b) the circumstances of the offence form, in whole or in part, the subject matter of the complaint,

the person is not liable to a fine under this section in respect of conduct giving rise to the offence.

**Contravention of orders**

**18C.** If a person—

(a) is employed or otherwise engages in the business of a travel agent; or

(b) becomes a director of a body corporate that is a travel agent,

in contravention of an order of the District Court, that person and the agent are each guilty of an offence.

Maximum penalty: \$35 000 or imprisonment for 6 months.

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**PART 3  
THE COMPENSATION SCHEME**

**Approval of the trust deed**

**19.** (1) The Minister may for the purposes of this Act—

- (a) approve an instrument as the trust deed;
- (b) approve any amendment to the trust deed.

(2) The trust deed and any approved amendment to the trust deed must be promulgated by regulation.

**Obligation of agent to participate in scheme**

**20.** (1) A licensed travel agent must be a contributor to the compensation scheme established by the trust deed.

(2) If the trustees determine that a licensed travel agent is not eligible or is no longer eligible to be a contributor to the compensation fund, the licence is, by force of this subsection, cancelled (but it revives if the trustees' determination is reversed on appeal).

**Appeals**

**21.** (1) If the trustees—

- (a) determine that a person is not eligible, or is no longer eligible, to be a contributor to the compensation fund; or
- (b) make a conditional determination that a person is eligible, or is to remain eligible, to be a contributor to the compensation fund,

the person may, within 28 days after service of notice of the determination, appeal against the determination or the condition to the District Court.

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**Trustees subrogated to rights of claimant**

**25.** (1) On payment to a claimant out of the compensation fund, the trustees are, to the extent of the payment, subrogated to the rights of the claimant arising from the circumstances to which the claim relates.

(2) If rights to which the trustees are subrogated lie against a licensed travel agent (or former licensed travel agent) that is a body corporate, the trustees may determine that those rights may be enforced against the directors or one or more of the directors of the body corporate.

(3) It is a defence in proceedings to enforce a right against a director of a body corporate under subsection (2), if the director proves that the director could not, by exercise of reasonable care, have prevented the occurrence of the circumstances out of which the claim arose.

**Name in which trustees may sue and be sued**

**26.** (1) The trustees may sue and be sued under the name "The Travel Compensation Fund".

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**PART 4  
MISCELLANEOUS**

**Delegations**

**27.** (1) The Commissioner may delegate any of the Commissioner's functions or powers under this Act—

- (a) to a person employed in the Public Service; or
- (b) to the person for the time being holding a specified position in the Public Service; or
- (c) to any other person under an agreement under this Act between the Commissioner and an organisation representing the interests of persons affected by this Act.

(2) The Minister may delegate any of the Minister's functions or powers under this Act (except the power to direct the Commissioner).

(3) A delegation under this section—

- (a) must be in writing; and
- (b) may be conditional or unconditional; and
- (c) is revocable at will; and
- (d) does not prevent the delegator from acting in any matter.

**Agreement with professional organisation**

**28.** (1) The Commissioner may, with the approval of the Minister, make an agreement with an organisation representing the interests of persons affected by this Act under which the organisation undertakes a specified role in the administration or enforcement of this Act.

(2) The agreement—

- (a) must be in writing and executed by the Commissioner and the organisation; and
- (b) may contain delegations by the Commissioner of functions or powers under this Act or the *Fair Trading Act 1987*; and
- (c) must set out any conditions governing the performance or exercise of functions or powers conferred on the organisation; and
- (d) must make provision for the variation and termination of the agreement by the Commissioner with the approval of the Minister or the organisation.

(3) The Commissioner may not delegate any of the following for the purposes of the agreement:

- (a) functions or powers under Part 2;
- (b) power to request the Commissioner of Police to investigate and report on matters under this Part;
- (c) power to commence a prosecution for an offence against this Act.

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(4) A delegation by the Commissioner for the purposes of the agreement—

(a) has effect subject to the conditions specified in the agreement; and

(b) may be varied or revoked by the Commissioner in accordance with the terms of the agreement; and

(c) does not prevent the Commissioner from acting in any matter.

(5) The Minister must, within six sitting days after the making of the agreement, cause a copy of the agreement to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

**Exemptions**

**29.** (1) The Minister may, on application by a person, exempt the person from compliance with a specified provision of this Act.

(2) An exemption under this section is subject to the conditions (if any) imposed by the Minister.

(3) The Minister may, at his or her discretion, vary or revoke an exemption under this section.

(4) The grant or a variation or revocation of an exemption under this section must be notified in the *Gazette*.

**Registers**

**30.** (1) The Commissioner must keep a register of persons licensed as travel agents.

(2) The Commissioner must record on the register—

(a) disciplinary action taken against a person under this Act; and

(b) a note of any assurance accepted by the Commissioner under the *Fair Trading Act 1987* in relation to a licensed travel agent.

(3) A person may inspect a register on payment of the fee fixed by regulation.

**Commissioner and proceedings before District Court**

**31.** (1) The Commissioner is entitled to be joined as a party to any proceedings of the District Court under Part 2.

(2) The Commissioner may appear personally in any such proceedings or may be represented at the proceedings by counsel or a person employed in the Public Service.

**False or misleading information**

**32.** A person must not make a statement that is false or misleading in a material particular (whether by reason of the inclusion or omission of any particular) in any information provided, or record kept, under this Act.

Maximum penalty: (a) If the person made the statement knowing that it was false or misleading—\$10 000;

(b) In any other case—\$2 500.

**Notice to be displayed**

**33.** A person carrying on business as a travel agent authorised by a licence must maintain in a conspicuous position in each place from which the business is carried on a notice clearly showing—

- (a) the name of the licensed travel agent as it appears in the licence; and
- (b) any other information required by regulation.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

**Travel agent to use authorised name**

**34.** (1) A licensed travel agent must not carry on business as a travel agent under any name except the agent's authorised name.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

(2) A licensed travel agent must ensure that the agent's authorised name and any other information required by regulation appears—

- (a) in any advertisement (other than an advertisement relating solely to the recruiting of staff) published in the course of the agent's business; and
- (b) in any letter, statement, invoice, cheque, receipt or other document issued in the course of the agent's business.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

**Accounts to be kept**

**35.** (1) A person who carries on business as a travel agent must keep such accounting records as are necessary correctly to record and explain the financial transactions and financial position of the business.

Maximum penalty: \$2 500.

(2) The accounting records must—

- (a) contain sufficient information for the preparation and audit of true and fair profit and loss accounts and balance sheets; and
- (b) be kept at the person's principal place of business in this State; and
- (c) be kept in the English language.

**Statutory declaration**

**36.** If a person is required to provide information to the Commissioner, the Commissioner may require the information to be verified by statutory declaration and, in that event, the person will not be taken to have provided the information as required unless it has been verified in accordance with the requirements of the Commissioner.

**Investigations**

**37.** The Commissioner of Police must, at the request of the Commissioner, investigate and report on any matter relevant to—



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- (a) the determination of an application under this Act; or
- (b) a matter that might constitute proper cause for disciplinary action under this Act.

**General defence**

**38.** It is a defence to a charge of an offence against this Act if the defendant proves that the offence was not committed intentionally and did not result from any failure on the part of the defendant to take reasonable care to avoid the commission of the offence.

**Liability for act or default of officer, employee or agent**

**39.** For the purposes of this Act, an act or default of an officer, employee or agent of a person carrying on a business will be taken to be an act or default of that person unless it is proved that the officer, employee or agent acted outside the scope of his or her actual, usual and ostensible authority.

**Offences by bodies corporate**

**40.** If a body corporate is guilty of an offence against this Act, each director of the body corporate is, subject to the general defence under this Part, guilty of an offence and liable to the same penalty as may be imposed for the principal offence.

**Continuing offence**

**41.** (1) A person convicted of an offence against a provision of this Act in respect of a continuing act or omission—

- (a) is liable, in addition to the penalty otherwise applicable to the offence, to a penalty for each day during which the act or omission continued of not more than one-tenth of the maximum penalty prescribed for that offence; and
- (b) is, if the act or omission continues after the conviction, guilty of a further offence against the provision and liable, in addition to the penalty otherwise applicable to the further offence, to a penalty for each day during which the act or omission continued after the conviction of not more than one-tenth of the maximum penalty prescribed for the offence.

(2) If an offence consists of an omission to do something that is required to be done, the omission will be taken to continue for as long as the thing required to be done remains undone after the end of the period for compliance with the requirement.

**Prosecutions**

**42.** (1) Proceedings for an offence against this Act must be commenced—

- (a) in the case of an expiable offence—within the time limits prescribed for expiable offences by the *Summary Procedure Act 1921*;
- (b) in any other case—within 2 years of the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed or, with the authorisation of the Minister, at a later time within 5 years of that date.

(2) A prosecution for an offence against this Act cannot be commenced except by—

- (a) the Commissioner; or
- (b) an authorised officer under the *Fair Trading Act 1987*; or
- (c) a person who has the consent of the Minister to commence the prosecution.

(3) In any proceedings, an apparently genuine document purporting to be a certificate of the Minister certifying authorisation of, or consent to, a prosecution for an offence against this Act will be accepted, in the absence of proof to the contrary, as proof of the authorisation or consent.

### **Evidence**

**43.** In any proceedings, an apparently genuine document purporting to be a certificate of the Commissioner certifying that a person was or was not licensed as a travel agent on a specified date will be accepted, in the absence of proof to the contrary, as proof of the matters so certified.

### **Service of documents**

**44.** (1) Subject to this Act, a notice or document required or authorised by this Act to be given to or served on a person may—

- (a) be served on the person personally; or
- (b) be posted in an envelope addressed to the person—
  - (i) at the person's last known address; or
  - (ii) if the person is a licensed travel agent—at the person's address for service; or
- (c) if the person is a licensed travel agent—be left for the person at the address for service with someone apparently over the age of 16 years; or
- (d) be transmitted by facsimile transmission to a facsimile number provided by the person (in which case the notice or document will be taken to have been given or served at the time of transmission).

(2) The address for service of a licensed travel agent is the address of which the Commissioner has been last notified in writing by the agent as the agent's address for service.

### **Annual report**

**45.** (1) The Commissioner must, on or before 31 October in each year, submit to the Minister a report on the administration of this Act during the period of 12 months ending on the preceding 30 June.

(2) The Minister must, within six sitting days after receipt of the report, cause a copy of the report to be laid before each House of Parliament.

### **Regulations**

**46.** (1) The Governor may make such regulations as are contemplated by, or necessary or expedient for the purposes of, this Act.

- (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the regulations may—
- (a) require licensed travel agents to comply with a code of conduct;
  - (b) fix fees to be paid in respect of any matter under this Act and regulate the recovery, refund, waiver or reduction of such fees;
  - (c) exempt (conditionally or unconditionally) classes of persons or activities from the application of this Act or specified provisions of this Act;
  - (d) prescribe the records to be kept by licensed travel agents and the manner in which the records must be kept;

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- (e) require periodic audits to be made of the accounts required by this Act to be kept by persons who carry on business as travel agents, and provide for the appointment of auditors;
  - (f) regulate the form and content of advertisements concerning the services offered by persons carrying on business as travel agents;
  - (g) provide for the furnishing of returns to enable calculation of contributions to the compensation fund;
  - (h) impose a penalty (not exceeding a fine of \$2 500) for contravention of, or non-compliance with, a regulation;
  - (i) fix expiation fees, not exceeding \$210, for alleged offences against the regulations.
- (3) Regulations under this Act—
- (a) may be of general application or limited application;
  - (b) may make different provision according to the matters or circumstances to which they are expressed to apply;
  - (c) may provide that a matter or thing in respect of which regulations may be made is to be determined according to the discretion of the Commissioner or the Minister.
- (4) The regulations may operate by reference to a specified code as in force at a specified time or as in force from time to time.
- (5) If a code is referred to in the regulations—
- (a) a copy of the code must be kept available for inspection by members of the public, without charge and during normal office hours, at an office determined by the Minister; and
  - (b) evidence of the contents of the code may be given in any legal proceedings by production of a document apparently certified by the Minister to be a true copy of the code.

**SCHEDULE**

*Appointment and Selection of Assessors for District Court*

(1) The Minister must establish the following panels of persons who may sit with the District Court as assessors in proceedings under Part 2—

- (a) a panel consisting of persons representative of travel agents;
- (b) a panel consisting of persons representative of members of the public who deal with travel agents.

(2) A member of a panel is to be appointed by the Minister for a term of office not exceeding three years and on conditions determined by the Minister and specified in the instrument of appointment.

(3) A member of a panel is, on the expiration of a term of office, eligible for reappointment.

(4) Subject to subclause (5), if assessors are to sit with the District Court in proceedings under Part 2, a Judge of the Court must select one member from each of the panels to sit with the Court in the proceedings.

(5) A member of a panel who has a personal or a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in a matter before the District Court is disqualified from participating in the hearing of the matter.

(6) If an assessor dies or is for any reason unable to continue with any proceedings, the District Court constituted of the judicial officer who is presiding at the proceedings and the other assessor may, if the judicial officer so determines, continue and complete the proceedings.

**Travel Agents Act 1986****APPENDIX****LEGISLATIVE HISTORY****Transitional Provisions**

*(Transitional provisions from Travel Agents (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 1996, s. 10)*

10. (1) Subject to this Act, a licence in force under Division 1 of Part 2 of the principal Act immediately before the commencement of this Act continues in force as a licence under Division 1 of Part 2 of the principal Act as amended by this Act subject to the same licence conditions (if any).

(2) An approval of qualifications by the Commercial Tribunal in force under section 10A of the principal Act immediately before the commencement of this Act continues as an approval by the Commissioner under section 13 of the principal Act as amended by this Act.

(3) If an order or decision of the Commercial Tribunal is in force or continues to have effect under Division 2 of Part 2 of the principal Act immediately before the commencement of this Act, the order or decision has effect as if it were an order of the District Court under Division 2 of Part 2 of the principal Act as amended by this Act.

**Legislative History**

*(entries in bold type indicate amendments incorporated since the last reprint)*

Section 2:	repealed by 11, 1996, s. 11 (Sched.)
Section 3:	definition of "authorised name" amended by 11, 1996, s. 3(a) definition of "authorised officer" amended by 43, 1987, s. 26(a) definition of "the compensation fund" amended by 73, 1988, s. 2 definitions of "director" and "District Court" inserted by 11, 1996, s. 3(b) definition of "office" repealed by 11, 1996, s. 11 (Sched.) definitions of "the Registrar" and "the Tribunal" repealed by 11, 1996, s. 3(c)
Section 4(1):	substituted by 11, 1996, s. 4(a)
Section 4(2):	amended by 11, 1996, s. 4(b)
	Part 2 comprising ss. 7 - 18 and headings amended by 88, 1986, ss. 3-6; 55, 1992, ss. 19, 20; repealed and ss. 7 - 18C and headings inserted in its place by 11, 1996, s. 5
<b>Section 11(2):</b>	<b>amended by 4, 2000, s. 9(1) (Sched. 1 cl. 46(a))</b>
<b>Section 11(5):</b>	<b>repealed by 4, 2000, s. 9(1) (Sched. 1 cl. 46(b))</b>
<b>Section 11(6):</b>	<b>repealed by 4, 2000, s. 9(1) (Sched. 1 cl. 46(c))</b>
Section 18A:	amended by 21, 1998, s. 37
Section 18B(1):	amended by 21, 1998, Sched. cl. 10
Section 19(2):	amended by 11, 1996, s. 11 (Sched.)
Sections 20 and 21:	substituted by 73, 1988, s. 3
Section 21(1):	amended by 11, 1996, s. 6(a)
Section 21(2):	repealed by 11, 1996, s. 6(b)
<b>Section 21(3):</b>	<b>amended by 11, 1996, s. 6(c); repealed by 4, 2000, s. 9(1)</b> <b>(Sched. 1 cl. 46(d))</b>
Sections 22 - 24:	repealed by 73, 1988, s. 3
Section 25(2) and (3):	substituted by 11, 1996, s. 7
Section 26(2):	repealed by 73, 1988, s. 4
Sections 27 and 28:	repealed by 43, 1987, s. 26(b)

Part 4 comprising ss. 29 - 38 and heading amended by 73, 1988,  
ss. 5, 6; repealed and ss. 27 - 46 and heading inserted in its  
place by 11, 1996, s. 8

Section 42(1):

substituted by 21, 1998, Sched. cl. 10

Section 46(2):

amended by 34, 1996, s. 4 (Sched. cl. 40)

Schedule

inserted by 11, 1996, s. 9

Subclause (4):

amended by 21, 1998, s. 38