

**BELIZE**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY**

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*Commencement: 27th July, 1935*

*Short title.*

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Safety Act.

*Governor General may make regulations in emergency.*

2. Whenever the Governor-General is satisfied that a state of civil commotion which threatens the public safety exists or is likely to arise in Belize or in any part thereof, he may by order make regulations for all or any of the following matters, that is to say-

*[S.I. 19 of 1964.]*

- (a) the regulation, restriction or prohibition of the entry of all or certain persons or certain classes of persons into, the movement of such persons within, and the exit of such persons from, such area or areas as may from time to time be prescribed by the Governor-General;
- (b) the regulation or restriction of the movements of means of transport and supply of animals or articles which give motive power to the means of transport;
- (c) the regulation or restriction of the supply or possession of intoxicating liquor and the prohibition or restriction of the opening or closing of premises or any part of premises in which intoxicating liquor is sold or supplied or of the opening or closing of any house of refreshment,

resort and entertainment licensed under the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act [CAP 150. ];

(d) the regulation of the storage, possession or use, by all persons or by certain classes of persons or by persons in particular areas or by persons following particular occupations, of firearms, ammunition or explosives, and all or any offensive weapons or instruments of whatever description and the seizure and forfeiture thereof, and the limitation or variation of the conditions of any licence, certificate or permit possessed by any persons under any law relating to arms, ammunition or explosives;

(e) the regulation, restriction or prohibition of gatherings of persons in any place whatever and the prohibition of the holding of meetings in any place whatever without the permission of the Commissioner of Police and any gathering of persons or meeting held in contravention of any of the provisions of any regulations made under this subsection shall be deemed to be an unlawful assembly and may be dealt with accordingly;

(f) the prohibition and prevention of any description of intimidation or acts or threats of violence or any other disorderly conduct of whatever description; and

*[S.I. 19 of 1964.]*

(g) generally for all such matters as in the opinion of the Governor-General will better provide for the public safety.

*Penalty for contravening regulations.*

3. Every person who infringes or contravenes any of the regulations made by the Governor-General under this Act is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to such fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for such term not exceeding twelve months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment, as the Governor-General may prescribe.

*Defacing regulations, etc.*

4. Every person who without lawful authority, the proof whereof shall be upon him, defaces, obliterates, covers over, removes or destroys any copy of any of the regulations made by the Governor-General under this Act affixed to any building or place shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.

*Arrest. [S.I. 19 of 1964.]*

5. In respect of offences against any regulation made by the Governor-General under the authority of this Act-

(a) the offender, or if there is suspicion of such an offence which is of a serious nature, the suspected offender, may be arrested-

(i) upon the warrant of any person authorised by law to issue warrants; or

(ii) upon the written order of any officer of the police department; or

(iii) if there is reason to believe that the delay in obtaining a warrant or written order would defeat the ends of justice or prevent the enforcement of those regulations, without any such warrant or written order;

(b) if the offence or suspected offence against those regulations is not of a serious nature it shall not be necessary to arrest the offender or suspected offender but he may be summoned or warned to appear before the magistrate's court in a manner prescribed by the law, rules and practice governing such court;

*[42 of 1999.]*

(c) any arrest made under this section may be effected by any member of the police department.

*Bail.*

6. A person charged with or suspected of an offence against any of the regulations made by the Governor-General under the authority of this Act shall not be admitted to bail if the offence is in the opinion of the magistrate of a serious nature.

*Publication in Gazette to be taken judicial notice of.*

7. The production of the *Gazette* containing any regulations made under the provisions of this Act shall in all courts of law be conclusive evidence of the making and publication of such regulations and of the fulfillment of all the conditions precedent to the making of such regulations.

*Governor-General to consult Prime Minister.*

*[S.I. 19 of 1964.]*

8. The powers conferred upon the Governor-General under this Act shall be exercised by him after consultation with the Prime Minister.