



ANNO TERTIO

GEORGII V REGIS.

A.D. 1912.

No. 1082.

An Act for the Prevention of Disorderly Conduct at Public Meetings.

[Assented to, November 14th, 1912.]

BE it Enacted by the Governor of the State of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Parliament thereof, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as "The Public Meetings Act, 1912." Short title.
2. In this Act "place" includes any place whatsoever, whether the same is or is not a hall, room, or building, or part thereof. Interpretation.
3. Any person who in, at, or near any place where a public meeting is being held—
 - i. Behaves in a riotous, disorderly, indecent, offensive, threatening, or insulting manner; or Misbehavior at public meeting an offence. Vict. 2047, 1906, s. 2. Tas. 6, 1911, s. 2.
 - ii. Uses any threatening, abusive, or insulting words or word; or
 - iii. In any way whatsoever, except by lawful authority or on some other lawful ground, obstructs or interferes with any of the proceedings at such meeting, or with the chairman for the time being presiding at such meeting in the conduct thereof,

shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Five Pounds or to imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for a term not exceeding one month.

4. (1) Where

The Public Meetings Act.—1912.

Power of chairman to deal with misbehavior at meeting.

Cf. *ibid.*, s. 3.

4. (1) Where in the opinion of the chairman for the time being presiding at any public meeting any person in, at, or near the place where such meeting is being held—

- I. Behaves in a riotous, disorderly, indecent, offensive, threatening, or insulting manner; or
- II. Uses any threatening, abusive, or insulting words or word; or
- III. In any way whatsoever, except by lawful authority or on some other lawful ground, obstructs or interferes with any of the proceedings at such meeting, or with such chairman in the conduct of such meeting,

such chairman may verbally direct any member of the Police Force, or the police generally, to remove such person from such place or the neighborhood thereof.

(2) Upon such direction being given it shall be the duty of the member of the Police Force to whom it was addressed, or if it was not addressed to any particular member of the said Force, then of any member of the said Force present in, at, or near such place, to remove such person according to the said direction.

(3) If such person, or any other person, obstructs or interferes with any member of the Police Force in the performance of his duty under this section he shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding Five Pounds or to imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for a term not exceeding one month, in addition to any penalty or imprisonment awarded against him or to which he may be liable, for any offence against section 3.

Summary proceedings.

5. All proceedings in respect of offences against this Act shall be by information, and shall be heard and determined in a summary way by a Special Magistrate or two Justices, and shall be regulated by the Ordinance No. 6 of 1850, and any Acts amending the same, or by any other Act or Acts for the time being in force regulating summary proceedings of Justices of the Peace.

Appeals.

6. (1) There shall be an appeal to the Local Court of Adelaide in its Full Jurisdiction from any conviction under this Act, or from any order dismissing any information for any offence against this Act, or from any other order by a Magistrate or Justices in proceedings under this Act.

(2) Such appeal shall be regulated by the said Ordinance No. 6 of 1850, or any other Act for the time being in force regulating appeals to Local Courts: Provided that the Court may make any order as to costs although such costs exceed Ten Pounds.

Special case.

7. (1) The Local Court, upon the hearing of any such appeal, may state one or more special case or cases for the opinion of the Supreme Court.

(2) The

The Public Meetings Act.—1912.

(2) The Supreme Court shall hear and decide all such special cases according to the practice of the Supreme Court on special cases, and may make such order as to costs of any such special case as to the said Court appears just.

(3) The Supreme Court may send the special case back for amendment or may itself amend the same.

(4) The Local Court shall make an order in respect to the matters referred to the Supreme Court in conformity with the certificate of the Supreme Court, or of any Judge thereof; and such order shall be enforced in manner provided for the enforcement of orders of Justices by the said Ordinance No. 6 of 1850, or any Act for the time being in force in that behalf.

In the name and on behalf of His Majesty, I hereby assent to this Bill.

DAY H. BOSANQUET, Governor.