

2022 -- S 2511

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LC005170  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- HOTELS

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, McCaffrey, Burke, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: March 01, 2022

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 5-14-4 and 5-14-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-14 entitled  
2 "Hotels" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **5-14-4. Innkeeper's right to eject.**

4           (a) An innkeeper may remove or cause to be removed from a hotel a guest or other person  
5 who:

6           (1) Refuses or is unable to pay for accommodations or services;

7           (2) While on the premises of the hotel, acts in an obviously intoxicated manner, destroys  
8 or threatens to destroy hotel property, [verbally or physically threatens employees or guests](#), or  
9 causes or threatens to cause a public disturbance;

10           (3) The innkeeper has direct knowledge a person is using the premises for the unlawful  
11 possession or use of controlled substances by the person in violation of chapter 28 of title 21, or  
12 using the premises for the consumption of alcohol by a person under the age of twenty-one (21)  
13 years of age in violation of chapter 8 of title 3;

14           (4) The innkeeper has direct knowledge a person has brought property into the hotel that  
15 may be dangerous to other persons, such as firearms or explosives;

16           (5) A person violates any federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or rules relating to the  
17 hotel; ~~or~~

18           (6) Violates a rule of the hotel that is clearly and conspicuously posted at or near the front  
19 desk ~~and on the inside of the entrance door of every guest room~~, [or posted online where the guest](#)

1 [can view it before making a reservation at the hotel; or](#)

2 [\(7\) Uses verbally abusive language towards the hotel's employees or guests.](#)

3 (b) If the guest has paid in advance, the innkeeper shall tender to the guest any unused  
4 portion of the advance payment at the time of removal.

5 **5-14-5. Refusal of admission.**

6 An innkeeper may refuse to admit or refuse service or accommodations to a person who:

7 (1) While on the premises of the hotel, acts in an obviously intoxicated manner, destroys  
8 or threatens to destroy hotel property, or causes or threatens to cause a public disturbance.

9 (2) The innkeeper has direct knowledge a person is seeking accommodations for the  
10 unlawful possession or use of controlled substances in violation of chapter 28 of title 21 or the use  
11 of the premises for the consumption of intoxicating liquor by a person.

12 (3) A person under the age of eighteen (18) years ~~if they are not in proper condition or are~~  
13 ~~unable to pay for their charges~~ [old.](#)

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would expand the authority of an innkeeper to remove a person from a hotel if  
2 they use verbally abusive language or physically threaten an employee or guest. It would also  
3 permit refusal of service to a person under the age of eighteen (18) years old and require online  
4 posting of hotel rules.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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