

onal Registration Act, 1915.

[5 & 6 GEO. 5. CH. 60.]

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

A.D. 1915.

Section.

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CHAPTER 60.

An Act for the compilation of a National Register. A.D. 1915.
 [15th July 1915.]

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1. A register shall be formed of all persons, male and female, between the ages of fifteen and sixty-five (not being members of any of His Majesty's naval forces or of His Majesty's regular or territorial forces), subject to the exceptions mentioned in this Act. Register of persons between the ages of fifteen and sixty-five.

2. The Registrar-General, acting under the directions of the Local Government Board, shall be the central registration authority, and the Common Council of the City of London, and the councils of metropolitan and municipal boroughs, and of urban and rural districts, and the Council of the Scilly Islands shall be the local registration authorities for their respective areas, and each such area shall be a separate registration district; but any such council may delegate to a committee of the council all or any of their powers as such local registration authority as aforesaid. Registration authorities and districts.

3. It shall be the duty of the local registration authority, in accordance with instructions issued by the Local Government Board, to compile and maintain the register so far as it relates to their area, to tabulate the contents thereof, and to make them available for such purposes as may be prescribed, and to furnish to the central registration authority and to other Government Departments such returns therefrom as may be required. Duty to compile register.

4.—(1) For the purpose of enabling such a register to be compiled it shall be the duty of every such person as aforesaid, within the prescribed time, to fill up and sign a form showing the following particulars :— Duty to fill up and return forms.

(a) name; place of residence; age; whether single, married, or widowed; number of dependants (if any)

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distinguishing wife, children, and other dependants ;
profession or occupation (if any) ; name and business
address of employer (if any), and nature of employer's
business ; and (in the case of a person born abroad)
nationality, if not British ; and

(b) whether the work on which he is employed is work for
or under any Government Department ;

(c) whether he is skilled in and able and willing to perform
any work other than the work (if any) at which he
is at the time employed, and, if so, the nature
thereof.

(2) The central registration authority shall cause forms to
be prepared and issued to the local registration authorities, and
every local registration authority shall, in accordance with
instructions from the Local Government Board, cause the forms
to be distributed so as to secure that, as far as possible, a
sufficient number of forms shall be left at every dwelling-
house within their registration district, and shall also give
public notice as to the places within the registration district
where forms can be obtained.

(3) The local registration authority shall also make arrange-
ments for the collection, in the prescribed manner and within
the prescribed times, of forms when filled up and signed.

Completion
and correction
of forms.

5. The local registration authority shall cause the forms,
when filled up and signed, to be examined, and such of them
as appear to be incomplete or incorrect to be completed or
corrected, and may take such steps as appear to them necessary
to enable such completion or correction to be effected, and
where it appears to the local registration authority that no
form has been returned, or that the form returned cannot be
completed or corrected without the personal attendance of the
person concerned, they may require his attendance at such
place, and at such time as they may appoint, and it shall be
the duty of every person whose attendance is so required to
attend, and to answer such questions as may be addressed to
him for the purpose of enabling the form to be filled up, com-
pleted, or corrected.

Right to
certificates of
registration.

6. After the return by a person of a form filled up and
signed, and, where necessary, completed and corrected, in
accordance with this Act, there shall be supplied to him a
certificate of registration, which shall be signed and preserved
by him.

Notification
of changes of
address, &c.

7.—(1) If any person registered under this Act changes his
place of residence he shall, unless such change is merely tem-
porary, within twenty-eight days thereafter send or deliver to
the local registration authority of the district in which the new
place of residence is situate, by post or otherwise, his certificate
of registration, with the new place of residence noted thereon,
and there shall be supplied to him a fresh certificate of regis-

tration, and, if his new place of residence is in a different district from that in which the previous place of residence was situate, the local registration authority receiving the certificate shall communicate the change to the local registration authority of the last-mentioned district, and the change shall be noted in the register. A.D. 1915.

(2) Within twenty-eight days after the arrival in the United Kingdom of any person between such ages as aforesaid, he shall, if not previously registered, send or deliver to a local registration authority, by post or otherwise, notice of his arrival, together with the particulars concerning himself required by this Act to be registered, and shall, if so required, attend at such place and time as the authority may appoint, and shall answer such questions as may be addressed to him for the purpose of enabling the necessary particulars to be registered, and thereupon shall be supplied with a certificate of registration.

8. The Local Government Board may issue such instructions as appear to them to be necessary for carrying this Act into effect, and may by such instructions prescribe— Matters to be prescribed by instructions.

- (a) the manner in which the register is to be compiled, and the nature of the forms to be issued; and
- (b) the duties of registration authorities, and persons employed by them under this Act; and
- (c) anything authorised by this Act to be prescribed.

9.—(1) The expenses of the Local Government Board and Registrar-General in carrying this Act into operation, to such an amount as the Treasury may sanction, shall be defrayed out of money provided by Parliament. Expenses.

(2) There shall be paid, out of money provided by Parliament, to the local registration authorities, towards their expenses under this Act, allowances on such scale as the Treasury may approve, and the expenses of local registration authorities under this Act, so far as not covered by such allowances, shall be paid, in the case of a municipal borough council out of the borough fund or borough rate, and in the case of any other local registration authority out of the fund or rate out of which the general expenses of the authority are payable.

10. For the purposes of facilitating the compilation and maintenance of the register, it shall be the duty of any employer of labour (including heads of Government departments) to supply to any registration authority such information and render such assistance as may be prescribed in respect of such persons in his employment as are required to be registered under this Act. Duty of employers to furnish information.

11. No person shall be registered in more than one area, and, if any person is liable to be registered in two or more areas, he shall have liberty to choose in which area he shall be registered. Registration in one area only.

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Exceptions. **12.** The duty of registering under this Act shall not, except to such extent as may be prescribed, apply to any prisoner in a prison, certified lunatic or defective, or inmate of any poor law institution, hospital, or other prescribed institution, nor to a prisoner of war or a person who is interned.

Penalties for offences. **13.**—(1) If any person employed under this Act makes wilful default in the performance of any of his duties under this Act, he shall for each offence be liable, on conviction under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

(2) If any person employed in collecting, correcting, or completing forms, or otherwise acting in the compilation or maintenance of the register, or the tabulation of the contents thereof, or any person using the register, communicates without lawful authority any information acquired in the course of his employment, or from such use, he shall, on conviction under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding three months, or to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds, or to both such imprisonment and fine.

(3) If any person over eighteen years of age required to register himself under this Act—

- (a) refuses, or without lawful excuse neglects, to fill up or cause to be filled up a form to the best of his knowledge and belief, or to sign it as by this Act required; or
- (b) refuses, or without lawful excuse neglects, to attend at any place or time at which his attendance is required under this Act; or
- (c) wilfully makes or signs, or causes to be made or signed, any false return of any matter specified in the form; or
- (d) refuses to answer, or wilfully gives a false answer to, any question necessary for obtaining the information required to be obtained under this Act; or
- (e) refuses, or without lawful excuse neglects, to perform any other duty imposed on him by or under this Act;

he shall for each offence be liable, on conviction under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, to a fine not exceeding five pounds, and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding one pound for each day during which the offence continues.

(4) If any person falsely represents himself to be a person to whom a certificate of registration has been issued under this Act, he shall, on conviction under the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding three months, or to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds, or to both such imprisonment and fine.

14. In the application of this Act to Scotland—

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- (1) "Secretary for Scotland" shall be substituted for "Local Government Board" and "Board"; "Registrar-General for Scotland" for "Registrar-General":
Application to Scotland.
- (2) The council of a county, and the town council of a royal, parliamentary, or police burgh, shall be the local registration authorities for their respective areas, and each such area shall be a separate registration district; provided that the boundaries of a royal or parliamentary burgh for police purposes shall be the boundaries thereof for the purposes of this Act; and provided further that a local registration authority shall be entitled to call upon the other local authorities within its area for their assistance and co-operation to such extent and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed. Any two or more local registration authorities may combine for the purposes of this Act, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed:
- (3) The expenses of local registration authorities under this Act, so far as not covered by allowances from the Treasury, shall be paid, in the case of a county council out of the general purposes rate, and in the case of a town council out of the burgh general improvement assessment or any other assessment leviable by the town council in equal proportions on owners and occupiers; provided that the rate-payers of a police burgh shall not be assessed by the county council for any such expenses.

15. This Act shall apply to Ireland to such extent and subject to such modifications as are hereinafter mentioned:—
Application to Ireland.

- (1) The Lord Lieutenant may, by Order, apply section one of this Act, with the necessary modifications, to Ireland or to any area or areas in Ireland specified in the Order:
- (2) The register for Ireland, or, as the case may be, for any such area or areas as aforesaid, shall be formed under the directions of the Lord Lieutenant by the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Ireland (in this section referred to as the Registrar-General for Ireland), whose duty it shall be to compile and maintain the register from information at his disposal or furnished by any other officer or department of the Government pursuant to such directions, or by the council of any county or of any county borough which may be desirous of assisting in the formation of the register:
- (3) The register shall contain, as respects the persons registered, the particulars set forth in paragraphs (a), (b),

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and (c) of subsection (1) of section four of this Act, so far as the same have been ascertained from the information at the disposal of or furnished to the Registrar-General for Ireland as aforesaid, and the Registrar-General for Ireland shall tabulate the contents and make them available for such purposes as may be ordered by the Lord Lieutenant:

- (4) As respects areas in Ireland to which section one of this Act is not applied, lists of persons desiring to be registered may, if the Lord Lieutenant thinks proper, be compiled by the Registrar-General for Ireland under the directions of the Lord Lieutenant, and the Lord Lieutenant for that purpose may cause forms to be issued to any such persons on their application:
- (5) The expenses of the Lord Lieutenant and of the Registrar-General for Ireland in carrying this Act into operation shall, to such an extent as the Treasury may sanction, be defrayed out of money provided by Parliament:
- (6) There shall be paid, out of moneys provided by Parliament, towards expenses incurred, with the sanction of the Local Government Board for Ireland, by county councils and county borough councils in assisting in the formation of the register, allowances on such scale as the Treasury may approve, and such expenses, so far as not covered by the allowances, shall be defrayed in the case of a county council out of the poor rate as a county at large charge, and in the case of a county borough council out of the rate or fund applicable to the purposes of the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1907:
- (7) Save as provided in this section, the foregoing provisions of this Act shall not apply to Ireland.

Short title and duration.

16.—(1) This Act may be cited as the National Registration Act, 1915.

(2) This Act shall continue in force during the continuance of the present war and no longer, without prejudice, however, to the taking or prosecution of proceedings for any offence committed before the expiration of this Act.

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FOR

FREDERICK ATTERBURY, Esq., C.B., the King's Printer of Acts of Parliament.