

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ACT**

**CHAPTER 19:10**

**Act**

**L.I. 1 of 1907**

Amended by

L.I. 22 of 1937

19 of 1939

10 of 1940

11 of 1946

1 of 1953

7 of 1959

37 of 1965

6 of 1966

12 of 1990

**Current Authorised Pages**

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**Note  
on  
Title of Act**

This Act originally entitled "Bank Holidays Ordinance" in the 1961 Revised Edition has been re-named "Public Holidays Act".

**CHAPTER 19:10**

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ACT**

**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

**SECTION**

1. Short title.
2. Declaration of public holidays.
3. Observation of public holiday: mode and places.
4. No persons obliged to make payment, etc., on public holidays.
5. Power of President to appoint special public holidays.
6. Penalty for opening on public holidays.
7. Sales of drugs permitted.
8. Exceptions.
9. Two holidays on same day.

**SCHEDULE**

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## CHAPTER 19:10

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ACT

1961 Ed.  
Cap. 123.  
1 of 1907.

**AN ACT relating to public holidays.**

Commencement.

[30th May 1907]

Short title.  
[12 of 1990].

**1. This Act may be cited as the –  
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS ACT.**

Declaration of  
public holidays.  
Schedule.  
[12 of 1990].

**2. The several days specified in the Schedule and the days declared to be public holidays by Order under this Act shall be public holidays and shall be observed as such in accordance with the provisions of this Act.**

Observation of  
public holiday:  
mode and places.  
[12 of 1990].

**3. (1) A public holiday under this Act shall be kept as a close holiday in all departments and offices of the public service and all business places in the State.**

(2) In this section the expression “business place” means any bank, shop, store, factory, agency or other place of business or employment in the State, and includes any place prescribed by Order of the Minister to be a business place.

(3) The Minister may by Order exempt any place of business from the application of this section subject to such conditions and qualifications as he may think fit.

No persons  
obliged to make  
payment, etc., on  
public holiday.  
[12 of 1990].

**4. Where the day or the final day on which a person is under any obligation to make any payment or to do any act falls on a public holiday such person shall not be compelled to make the payment or do the act on such public holiday; and the payment may be made or the act done on the next following day not being itself a public holiday, and the making of such payment or doing such act on such following day shall be as valid a performance of the obligation as if it had been done on the public holiday.**

5. The President may by Order –

- (a) amend the Schedule;
- (b) provide that in a particular year any of the days specified in the Schedule shall not be a public holiday;
- (c) appoint a special day to be observed as a public holiday in a particular year either in addition to or in substitution for any day specified in the Schedule;
- (d) exempt any area of the State or any office of the public service or business place from the application of the provisions or certain specified provisions of this Act, either wholly or partially and either absolutely or subject to conditions.

Power of President to appoint special public holidays. [12 of 1990].

6. Any person after the coming into operation of this Act who keeps open any business place in contravention of this Act, is liable on summary conviction to a fine of three thousand dollars.

Penalty for opening on public holidays. [12 of 1990].

7. Nothing in this Act shall prevent the opening of a drug store or drug shop on a public holiday in case of necessity for making up prescriptions and supplying drugs.

Sales of drugs permitted.

8. Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to prohibit the opening of any public market or the sale at any place of any article of food or drink up to the hour of nine o'clock in the morning.

Exceptions.

9. Where in any year two public holidays fall on the same day, then the next succeeding day not being itself a public holiday shall be observed as a public holiday; and the President may, where he thinks it necessary, declare by Notice in the *Gazette* which, if any, of the two holidays shall be deemed to have been postponed to the later date.

Two holidays on same day. [12 of 1990].

Section 2.  
[12 of 1990].

## SCHEDULE

Every Sunday

New Year's Day (1st January)

Carnival Monday

Carnival Tuesday

} the two days immediately preceding Ash Wednesday

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Labour Day (1st May)

Whit Monday

The first Monday of August

Independence Day (3rd November)

Community Day (4th November)

Christmas Day (25th December)

Boxing Day (26th December)

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## SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

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### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (TAVERNS) ORDER

27/1953.

*deemed to be under section 3\**

[24th September 1953]

Commencement.

1. This Order may be cited as the –

Short title.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (TAVERNS) ORDER.

2. Premises in respect of which a Tavern Licence has been taken out under the Liquor Licences Act may be kept open on Public Holidays for the sale of liquor for consumption on the premises from 7.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.

Opening of  
taverns.  
Ch. 70:03.

3. This Order shall extend to those parts of the State to which the Public Holidays Act applies.

Extent of Order.

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\* This Order was made under the former section 11A inserted by L.I. Act 22 of 1937 but appeared in the 1961 Revised Edition as section 12. The Law Revision (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1990 repealed this section in its original form but provided for the Order to continue to have effect as if made under section 11.

