DISCLAIMER

The South Carolina Legislative Council is offering access to the unannotated South Carolina Code of Laws on the Internet as a service to the public. The unannotated South Carolina Code on the General Assembly's website is now current through the 2009 session. The unannotated South Carolina Code, consisting only of Code text and numbering, may be copied from this website at the reader's expense and effort without need for permission.

The Legislative Council is unable to assist users of this service with legal questions. Also, legislative staff cannot respond to requests for legal advice or the application of the law to specific facts. Therefore, to understand and protect your legal rights, you should consult your own private lawyer regarding all legal questions.

While every effort was made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the unannotated South Carolina Code available on the South Carolina General Assembly's website, the unannotated South Carolina Code is not official, and the state agencies preparing this website and the General Assembly are not responsible for any errors or omissions which may occur in these files. Only the current published volumes of the South Carolina Code of Laws Annotated and any pertinent acts and joint resolutions contain the official version.

Please note that the Legislative Council is not able to respond to individual inquiries regarding research or the features, format, or use of this website. However, you may notify Legislative Printing, Information and Technology Systems at LPITS@scstatehouse.gov regarding any apparent errors or omissions in content of Code sections on this website, in which case LPITS will relay the information to appropriate staff members of the South Carolina Legislative Council for investigation.

CHAPTER 2.

 THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT ACT

**SECTION 45‑2‑10.** Short title.

Sections 45‑2‑10 through 45‑2‑80 may be cited as the Lodging Establishment Act.

**SECTION 45‑2‑20.** Definitions.

For purposes of Sections 45‑2‑10 through 45‑2‑80:

(1) “Innkeeper” means the owner, operator, manager, or keeper of a lodging establishment;

(2) “Lodging establishment” means a hotel, motel, villa, condominium, inn, tourist court, tourist camp, campground, bed and breakfast, residence, or any place in which rooms, lodging, or sleeping accommodations are furnished to transients for a consideration;

(3) “Minor” means an unemancipated person under age eighteen.

**SECTION 45‑2‑30.** Refusal or denial of accommodations, facilities or privileges; demonstration of ability to pay; minors; deduction from advance payment for value of lodging.

(A) An innkeeper may refuse or deny any accommodations, facilities, or privileges of a lodging establishment to:

(1) A person who is unwilling or unable to pay for accommodations and services of the lodging establishment. The innkeeper may require the prospective guest to demonstrate his ability to pay by cash, valid credit card, or a validated check. The innkeeper may require a parent of a minor:

(a) to accept in writing liability of the guest room costs, taxes, all charges by the minor, and any damages to the guest room or its furnishings caused by the minor while a guest at the lodging establishment; and

(b) to provide the innkeeper with a valid credit card number to cover the guest room costs, taxes, charges by the minor, and any damages to the guest room or its furnishings caused by the minor; or

(c) if the credit card is not an option, give the innkeeper:

(i) an advance cash payment to cover the guest room costs and taxes for all room nights reserved for the minor; plus

(ii) a one hundred dollar cash deposit towards the payment of any charges by the minor or any damages to the guest room or its furnishings, which must be refunded to the extent not used to cover any such charges or any damages as determined by the innkeeper following room inspection at check‑out.

(2) A person who is visibly intoxicated or who is disorderly so as to create a public nuisance.

(3) A person whom the innkeeper reasonably believes is seeking accommodations for any unlawful purpose, including the unlawful possession or use of controlled substances by such person in violation of Chapter 53 of Title 44 or the use of the premises for the consumption of beer, wine, or alcoholic liquors by a person under the age of twenty‑one years in violation of Sections 63‑19‑2440 or 63‑19‑2450.

(4) A person whom the innkeeper reasonably believes is bringing in property which may be dangerous to other persons including, but not limited to, firearms or explosives.

(5) A person in excess of the number of persons a lodging establishment allows to occupy a particular guest room in the lodging establishment.

(B) The innkeeper refusing or denying accommodations, facilities, or privileges of a lodging establishment for any of the reasons specified in items (1) through (5) of this section may not be determined liable in any civil or criminal action or for any fine or penalty based upon the refusal or denial, except that the accommodation, facilities, or privilege of a lodging establishment may not be refused or denied based upon a person’s race, creed, color, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status.

(C) The innkeeper may deduct from a refund of an advance payment to a person who has been ejected from the lodging establishment the value of one day’s lodging plus half the value of lodging for any additional days remaining in the reserved period. This subsection would not preclude the innkeeper from deducting a lesser amount of the advance payment or making a full refund.

**SECTION 45‑2‑35.** Canines certified to work with law enforcement officers or fire service personnel permitted to stay overnight in certain places of public accommodation on official business; penalties for violations.

(A) Canines certified to work with law enforcement officers or fire service personnel for the purpose of fire investigations, training, or other related purposes must be permitted to stay overnight with the officers or personnel when they are staying in a place of public accommodation on official business. No extra charge may be made for the certified canine; however, the employer of the officer or personnel in the accompany of the canine is liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by the certified canine. In a nonemergency situation, the law enforcement or fire service agency shall notify the manager of the place of public accommodation at the time of making the reservation for the law enforcement officer or fire service personnel that a certified canine shall accompany the law enforcement officer or fire service personnel.

(B) A person who refuses to allow law enforcement officers or fire service personnel to stay overnight on official business in a place of public accommodation because the officer or personnel is accompanied by a certified canine is subject to a civil fine not exceeding one hundred dollars for each violation.

(C) Hotels which operate for the express purpose of renting individually owned private dwellings are exempt from this section.

(D) An innkeeper of a lodging establishment, as defined in Section 45‑2‑20, may designate a specific room for use by the certified canine and the accompanying law enforcement officer or fire service personnel.

**SECTION 45‑2‑40.** Violations committed by person on premises or property of lodging establishment; classification; penalties; fines.

(A) A person who on the premises or property of a lodging establishment:

(1) uses or possesses a controlled substance in violation of Chapter 53 of Title 44;

(2) consumes or possesses beer, wine, or alcoholic liquors in violation of Sections 63‑19‑2440 or 630‑19‑2450; is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

(B) A person who on the premises or property of a lodging establishment maliciously and wilfully commits a violation of this chapter resulting in damage to a lodging establishment room or its furnishings is guilty of a:

(1) felony and, upon conviction, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than ten years if the amount of injury or damage to the property is five thousand dollars or more;

(2) felony and, upon conviction, must be fined in the discretion of the court or imprisoned not more than five years if the amount of injury or damage to the property is more than one thousand dollars but less than five thousand dollars;

(3) misdemeanor triable in magistrate’s court if the amount of injury or damage to the property is one thousand dollars or less. Upon conviction, the person must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

(C) A person who rents or leases a room in a lodging establishment for the purpose of allowing the room to be used by another to do any act enumerated in subsections (A) or (B) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days.

(D) In a case arising under this section involving damage to a lodging establishment room or its furnishings, the court may order the person renting or leasing the lodging establishment room or the person causing such damage, or both:

(1) to pay restitution for any damages suffered by the owner or operator of the lodging establishment, which damages may include the lodging establishment’s loss of revenue resulting from the establishment’s inability to rent or lease the room during the period of time the lodging establishment room is being repaired; and

(2) to pay damages or restitution to any other person who is injured in person or property.

In a case arising under this section triable in magistrate’s court, a magistrate may order restitution not to exceed one thousand dollars.

In the case of a minor, the parents of the minor are liable for acts of the minor in violation of this section which cause damages to the lodging establishment room or furnishings or cause injury to persons or property.

(E) This section does not prohibit the prosecution of a person for the underlying violation which occurred on the premises or property of the lodging establishment.

**SECTION 45‑2‑50.** Guest register; requirement; identification; form, duration of record; parent of minor.

The innkeeper of a lodging establishment shall keep for at least five years a guest register showing the name, residence, date of arrival, and departure of hotel guests. Every guest shall register, and the registering guest may be required by the innkeeper to produce a valid driver’s license, or other identification satisfactory to the innkeeper, containing a photograph of the guest and setting forth the name and residence of the guest. If the guest is a minor, the innkeeper may also require a parent of the guest to register and to accept in writing liability for the guest room costs, taxes, all charges by the minor, and any damages to the guest room or its furnishings caused by the minor while a guest at the lodging establishment. The guest register may be kept within the meaning of this section when reproduced on any photographic, photostatic, microfilm, microcard, miniature photographic, or other process which actually reproduces the original record.

**SECTION 45‑2‑60.** Ejection of guest, grounds.

An innkeeper may eject a person from the lodging establishment premises for any of the following reasons:

(1) nonpayment of the lodging establishment’s charges for accommodations or services;

(2) the person is visibly intoxicated, or the person is disorderly so as to create a public nuisance;

(3) the innkeeper reasonably believes that the person is using the premises for unlawful purposes, including the unlawful use or possession of controlled substances by the person in violation of Chapter 53 of Title 44 or the use of the premises for the consumption of beer, wine, or alcoholic liquors by a person under the age of twenty‑one years in violation of Sections 63‑19‑2440 or 63‑19‑2450;

(4) the innkeeper reasonably believes that the person has brought property into the lodging establishment premises which may be dangerous to other persons including, but not limited to, firearms or explosives;

(5) violation of any federal, state, or local laws, or regulations relating to the lodging establishment;

(6) violation of a rule of the lodging establishment which is posted in a conspicuous place and manner in the lodging establishment in accordance with Section 45‑2‑70, but no rule may authorize the innkeeper to eject or to refuse or deny service or accommodations to a person because of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, disability, or marital status.

**SECTION 45‑2‑70.** Posting of rules of establishment, statutes.

The innkeeper shall post a copy of this chapter, including the requirements of Section 45‑5‑80, together with all rules of the lodging establishment, in a conspicuous place at or near the guest registration desk.

**SECTION 45‑2‑80.** Grounds enumerated in chapter do not preclude ejection or denial of accommodation for other valid reasons.

Nothing in this chapter prohibits an innkeeper from denying accommodations to a guest or ejecting a guest for any valid nondiscriminatory reason not otherwise provided in this chapter.