

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



ANNO NONO

EDWARDI SEPTIMI REGIS,

XIII.

No. 17 of 1909.

AN ACT to establish Limited Partnerships.

[Assented to 6th February, 1909.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Limited Partnerships Act*, Short title, 1909.

2. This Act shall come into force on the first day of May, Commencement, one thousand nine hundred and nine.

3. In the construction of this Act the following words and expressions shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in this section, unless there is something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction:—

“Firm,” “firm name,” and “business” have the same meanings as in the Partnership Act, 1895

Interpretation.
7 Edw. VII., c. 24,
s. 3.

“ General partner ” shall mean any partner who is not a limited partner as defined by this Act.

Definition and constitution of limited partnership.

Ibid., s. 4.

4. (1.) From and after the commencement of this Act, limited partnerships may be formed in the manner and subject to the conditions by this Act provided.

(2.) A limited partnership shall not consist, in the case of a partnership carrying on the business of banking, of more than ten persons, and, in the case of any other partnership, of more than twenty persons, and must consist of one or more persons called general partners, who shall be liable for all debts and obligations of the firm, and one or more persons to be called limited partners, who shall at the time of entering into such partnership contribute thereto or undertake to contribute thereto a sum or sums as capital or property valued at a stated amount, which shall be chargeable with and applicable to the payment of the debts and obligations of the firm, and who shall not otherwise be liable for the debts or obligations of the firm.

(3.) A limited partner shall not, during the continuance of the partnership, either directly or indirectly, draw out or receive back any part of his contribution, and if he does so draw out or receive back any such part shall be liable for the debts and obligations of the firm up to the amount so drawn out or received back.

(4.) A body corporate may be a limited partner.

Registration of limited partnership required.

Ibid., s. 5.

5. Every limited partnership must be registered as such in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or in default thereof it shall be deemed to be a general partnership, and every limited partner shall be deemed to be a general partner.

Modifications of general law in the case of limited partnerships.

Ibid., s. 6.

6. (1.) A limited partner shall not take part in the management of the partnership business, and shall not have power to bind the firm :

Provided that the limited partner may, by himself or his agent, at any time inspect the books of the firm and examine into the state and prospects of the partnership business, and may advise with the partners thereon.

If a limited partner takes part in the management of the partnership business, he shall be liable for all debts and obligations of the firm incurred while he so takes part in the management as though he were a general partner.

(2.) A limited partnership shall not be dissolved by the death or bankruptcy of a limited partner, and the lunacy of a limited partner shall not be a ground for dissolution of the partnership by the court.

(3.) In the event of the dissolution of a limited partnership its affairs should be wound up by the general partners, unless the court otherwise orders.

(4.) Applications to the court to wind up a limited partnership, shall be by petition under the Companies Act, 1893, and the provisions of that Act relating to the winding-up of companies by the court, and of the rules made thereunder (including provisions as to fees), shall, subject to such modifications, if any, as the Governor may by rules provide, apply to the winding-up by the court of limited partnership, with the substitution of general partners for directors.

(5.) Subject to any agreement expressed or implied between the partners—

- (a.) Any difference arising as to ordinary matters connected with the partnership business may be decided by a majority of the general partners ;
- (b.) A limited partner may, with the consent of the general partners, assign his share in the partnership, and upon such an assignment the assignee shall become a limited partner with all the rights of the assignor ;
- (c.) The other partners shall not be entitled to dissolve the partnership by reason of any limited partner suffering his share to be charged for his separate debt ;
- (d.) A person may be introduced as a partner without the consent of the existing limited partners ;
- (e.) A limited partner shall not be entitled to dissolve the partnership by notice.

7. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Partnership Act, 1895, and the rules of equity and of common law applicable to partnerships, except so far as they are inconsistent with the express provisions of the last-mentioned Act, shall apply to limited partnerships.

Law as to private partnerships to apply where not excluded by this Act.
Ibid., s. 7.

8. The registration of a limited partnership shall be effected by sending by post or delivering to the Registrar a statement signed by the partners containing the following particulars:—

Manner and particulars of registration.

Ibid., s. 8.

- (a.) The firm name ;
- (b.) The general nature of the business ;
- (c.) The principal place of business ;
- (d.) The full name of each of the partners ;
- (e.) The term, if any, for which the partnership is entered into, and the date of its commencement ;
- (f.) A statement that the partnership is limited, and the description of every limited partner as such ;
- (g.) The sum contributed by each limited partner, and whether paid in cash or how otherwise.

Registration of changes in partnerships.

Ibid., s. 9.

9. (1.) If, during the continuance of a limited partnership, any change is made or occurs in ;

- (a.) The firm name;
- (b.) The general nature of the business ;
- (c.) The principal place of business;
- (d.) The partners or the name of any partner ;
- (e.) The term or character of the partnership ;
- (f.) The sum contributed by any limited partner ;
- (g.) The liability of any partner by reason of his becoming a limited instead of a general partner or a general instead of a limited partner,

a statement, signed by the firm, specifying the nature of the change shall, within seven days, be sent by post or delivered to the registrar.

(2.) If default is made in compliance with the requirements of this section, each of the general partners shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding one pound for each day during which the default continues.

Notice in *Gazette* of general partner becoming a limited partner and of assignment of share of limited partner.

Ibid., s. 10.

10. Notice of any arrangement or transaction under which any person will cease to be a general partner in any firm, and will become a limited partner in that firm, or under which the share of a limited partner in a firm will be assigned to any person, shall be forthwith advertised in the "Government Gazette," and until notice of the arrangement or transaction is so advertised, the arrangement or transaction shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to be of no effect.

Ad valorem stamp duty on contributions by limited partners.

Ibid., s. 11.

11. The statement of the amount contributed by a limited partner, and a statement of any increase in that amount, sent to the registrar for registration under this Act, shall be charged with *ad valorem* stamp duty of five shillings for every one hundred pounds, and any fraction of one hundred pounds over any multiple of one hundred pounds, of the amount so contributed, or of the increase of that amount, as the case may be; and in default of payment of stamp duty thereon as herein required, the duty, with interest thereon at the rate of five per cent. per annum from the date of delivery of such statement, shall be a joint and several debt to His Majesty, recoverable from the partners, or any of them, in the said statements named, or, in the case of an increase, from all or any of the said partners whose discontinuance in the firm shall not, before the date of delivery of such statement of increase, have been duly notified to the Registrar.

Making false returns to be misdemeanour.

Ibid., s. 12.

12. Every one commits a misdemeanour, and shall be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for a term not exceeding two years,

who makes, signs, sends, or delivers for the purpose of registration under this Act any false statement known by him to be false.

13. On receiving any statement made in pursuance of this Act, the Registrar shall cause the same to be filed, and he shall send by post to the firm from whom such statement shall have been received a certificate of the registration thereof.

Registrar to file statement and issue certificate of registration.

Ibid., s. 13.

14. The Registrar shall keep, in proper books to be provided for the purpose, a register and an index of all the limited partnerships registered as aforesaid, and of all the statements registered in relation to such partnerships.

Register and index to be kept.

Ibid., s. 14.

15. The Registrar of Companies shall be the Registrar of limited partnerships, and the office for the registration of companies in Perth shall be the office for the registration of limited partnerships.

Registrar of joint stock companies to be registrar under Act.

Ibid., s. 15.

16. (1.) Any person may inspect the statements filed by the Registrar in the register offices aforesaid, and there shall be paid for such inspection such fees as may be appointed by the Governor, not exceeding one shilling for each inspection; and any person may require a certificate of the registration of any limited partnership, or a copy of or extract from any registered statement, to be certified by the Registrar, and there shall be paid for such certificate of registration, certified copy, or extract such fees as the Governor may appoint, not exceeding two shillings for the certificate of registration, and not exceeding sixpence for each folio of seventy-two words.

Inspection of statements registered.

Ibid., s. 15.

(2.) A certificate of registration, or a copy of or extract from any statement registered under this Act, if duly certified to be a true copy under the hand of the Registrar (whom it shall not be necessary to prove to be the Registrar) shall, in all legal proceedings, civil or criminal, and in all cases whatsoever be received in evidence.

17. The Governor may make rules concerning any of the following matters:—

Power to make rules.

Ibid., s. 17.

- (a.) The fees to be paid to the Registrar under this Act, so that they do not exceed in the case of the original registration of a limited partnership the sum of two pounds, and in any other case the sum of five shillings;
- (b.) The duties or additional duties to be performed by the Registrar for the purposes of this Act;
- (c.) The forms to be used for the purposes of this Act;
- (d.) Generally the conduct and regulation of registration under this Act and any matters incidental thereto.