

Jamaica Post Office Act of 1906

JAMAICA LAW 8 OF 1906.

A Law to amend the Post Office Law, 1868. (Law 18 of 1868).

[18 April 1906]

BE it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of Jamaica, as follows:- Preamble-

1 – This Law shall be construed and read as one with Law 18 of 1868, entitled "A Law to provide for the management of the Post Office in this Island," which law is hereinafter referred to as the Principal Law. Incorporation of Laws

2 – Section 22 of the Principal Law is hereby repealed. Repeal

3 – (1) Every master of a vessel outward bound, or passing coastwise or otherwise between ports or places within the colony, shall receive on board his vessel every mail bag, and all parcel post mails, and postal packets of any description, tendered to him by an officer of the Post Office for conveyance; and, having received the same, shall deliver it or them to the addressee on arriving at the port or place of his destination, without delay; and, if he fails to comply with this section, he shall be guilty of an offence, and on being convicted thereof, be liable to a penalty, not exceeding one hundred pounds. Reception and delivery of mails by masters of vessels, outward bound

(2) In any proceedings under this section, a Resident Magistrate shall have the same power to issue a commission for taking the examination upon oath of the addressee, or any other witness residing out of the island, as is conferred on the Resident Magistrate in civil cases, by section 169 of The Resident Magistrates Law, 1904. On the commission being returned, the same shall and may be read and allowed in evidence, saving all just exceptions, On proof that the addressee or other witness is, at the time of the hearing of the complaint, dead, or still residing out of the island. Examination of witnesses out of Jamaica.

4 – (1) Every master of a vessel inward bound, shall collect all letters on board his vessel, not being letters excepted from the privilege of the Postmaster for Jamaica, and not being letters by this Law defined as shipowners' letters, and enclose them in some bag or other covering, sealed with his seal, and addressed to the Postmaster for Jamaica; and, without delay, deliver such letters to the proper officer of the Post Office demanding such letters, or, if no demand is made by such officer, then at the Post Office with which he can first communicate, or, if the vessel is subjected to the performance of quarantine, to the person appointed to superintend the quarantine, who, after taking the proper precautions, shall deliver them at the Post Office. Collection and delivery of letters on vessels inward bound

(2) The master of every such vessel shall, at the port where the vessel reports, sign, in the presence of the proper officer of the Post Office, who shall also sign the same, a declaration of compliance with this Law, (which may be in the form contained in the Schedule to this Law) and shall not break bulk, or make entry in any port, until he has complied with this section. Declaration of compliance with this Law.

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- (3) If any master of a vessel acts in contravention of, or fails to comply with this section, he shall be guilty of an offence and, if he has wilfully delayed the delivery of letters, as required by this section, be liable, on being convicted thereof, to a penalty not exceeding Forty Pounds, and, in any other case, to a penalty not exceeding Twenty Pounds. Contravention of this section by masters.
- (4) If any person appointed to superintend the quarantine, acts in contravention of, or fails to comply with this section, he shall be guilty of an offence; and on being convicted thereof, be liable to a penalty not exceeding Forty Pounds. contravention of this section by person superintending quarantine.
- 5 – (1) If any master of a vessel – Offences by masters of vessels etc.
- (a) Opens a sealed mail bag with which he is entrusted for conveyance; or
- (b) Takes out of a mail bag with which he is entrusted for conveyance, any postal packet, or other thing he shall be guilty of an offence, and on being convicted thereof, be liable to a penalty, not exceeding one hundred pounds.
- (2) If any person to whom letters have been entrusted by the master of a vessel to bring on shore, breaks the seal, or in any manner wilfully opens the same, he shall be guilty of an offence; and on being convicted thereof, be liable to a penalty, not exceeding one hundred pounds.
- 6 – (1) An officer of Customs shall not allow any inward bound vessel to report, until the master has made the declaration required by this Law with respect to letters, and shall not permit any such vessel to break bulk, or make any entry, until the letters on board thereof have been delivered to an officer of the Post Office, or at a Port Office, as required by this Law, and shall, if he deems it necessary, search every such vessel for letters, which may be on board contrary to this Law, and may seize the same, and forward them to the nearest Post Office. Duties of Officers of Customs.
- (2) If any officer of Customs acts in contravention of, or fails to comply with this section, he shall, on being convicted thereof, be guilty of an offence and liable to a penalty not exceeding Forty Pounds. Penalty for contravention thereof.
- 7 – (1) The following letters (in this Law referred to as shipowners letters"), that is to say, letters of the owners, charterers, or consignees of vessels inward bound, and of the owners, consignees, or shippers of goods on board such vessels, when not exceeding the weights, and when complying with the conditions hereinafter mentioned, shall – “Shipowners Letters”
- (a) If required to be delivered at the port of the vessel's arrival, be delivered to such owners, charterers, consignees, or shippers by the master, and shall be so delivered free of inland postage; and
- (b) If required to be delivered elsewhere in the Colony, shall be delivered on payment of inland postage only;

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Provided that –

- (i) The letters brought by any one vessel to any such person shall not collectively exceed six ounces in weight;
- (ii) The owner, charterer, or consignee shall be described as such on the address and superscription; and
- (iii) In the case of owners, consignees' or shippers of goods, it shall also appear by the ship's Manifest that they have goods on board the vessel

(2) If any shipowner's letters are found by an officer of Customs to be in excess of the weights herein-before limited by this section, that officer shall seize so many of the letters as will reduce the remainder within the said weights, and shall forward those seized to the nearest Post, Office.

8 – The Postmaster for Jamaica may, (with the approval of the Governor in Privy Council) allow to masters of vessels in respect of letters, mail bags, parcel post packages, or postal packets of any kind, conveyed by them on behalf of the Post Office, such gratuities, under such regulations and restrictions, as may from time to time be prescribed by the Governor in Privy Council.

Gratuities to masters of vessels.

9 – If any person, being either the master, or one of the officers or crew of a vessel inward bound, or a passenger thereof, knowingly has in his baggage, or in his possession or custody, any letter not excepted from the privilege of the Postmaster for Jamaica, after the master has sent any part of the letters on board his vessel to the Post Office, he shall for every such letter be liable, on being convicted, to a penalty, not exceeding Three Pounds, and if he detains any such letter after demand is made for the same, either by an officer of Customs, or by a person authorised by the Postmaster for Jamaica to demand the letters on board the vessel, he shall be guilty of an offence; and for every such letter be liable, on being convicted, to a penalty not exceeding Six Pounds.

Knowingly having unprivileged letters after master has sent ship letters to Post Office.

10 – All pecuniary penalties imposed by this Law, may be recovered and enforced in the same manner as penalties imposed by the Principal Law.

Recovery and enforcement of penalties.

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SCHEDULE.

Declaration of Master of Vessel.

I, A. B....., commander of the (state the name of the ship or vessel) arriving from (state the place), do, as required by law, solemnly and sincerely declare that I have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, delivered, or caused to be delivered to the Post Office, every letter-bag package, or parcel of letters that was on board the (state the name of the ship), except such letters as are exempted by law. Declaration of master.

(Signed.) A.B.

Declared before me this day of

(Signed.)

Passed in Council, this 2nd day of March, 1906.

J. A. SWETTENHAM,

President.