

(No. 92.)



1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LICENSING AMENDMENT BILL:

**PETITIONS FROM LICENSED VICTUALLERS AND OTHERS
AGAINST CERTAIN CLAUSES.**

Laid upon the Table by Messrs. Lette and Burgess, and ordered by the House to
be printed, July 24, 1884.



*To the Honorable the Speaker, and Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania,
in Parliament assembled.*

The Memorial of the undersigned Licensed Victuallers of Launceston, and others interested in the
Liquor trade.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT, as a Licensing Amendment Bill is now before your Honorable House for consideration, your Memorialists desire to respectfully represent that if your Honorable House should deem it expedient to establish Annual and Quarterly Licensing Benches in lieu of the existing Annual and Quarterly Licensing Meetings of Justices (Sect. 5), special provision should be made to constitute such Licensing Bench strictly impartial.

With this desirable object in view, your Memorialists respectfully suggest that actual owners of public-houses, and members of any organized Society pledged to suppress or to unreasonably restrict the liquor trade, should not be eligible to become Members of such Licensing Benches.

That your Memorialists, after a careful consideration of the Local Option element in the said Bill (Sections 23 to 26), regret to find the scheme surrounded by serious obstacles to its satisfactory working; and that amongst several harassing features calculated to evoke social strife, not the least is the constant fear of the licensed victualler of incurring the ill-will of neighbours predisposed under any circumstances to become objectors to the granting of public-house licences.

That your Memorialists, in considering the proviso embodied in transfers (Section 28), respectfully point out the necessity to either considerably modify or to expunge the conditions, as in many instances it is almost impossible to be carried out, particularly in cases in which both the original holder of the licence and the incoming tenant have families. To compel both families to live together in the licensed house until the transfer is approved of by the Licensing Bench (perhaps nearly three months) inflicts a grievous hardship of such a nature as, your Memorialists feel, was never contemplated by its framer.

That your Memorialists deem the present time a fitting opportunity to respectfully crave the consideration of your Honorable House to some portions of the existing Licensing Act which evidently require to be altered and improved, especially the Sunday clause, the hour of closing, and the compulsory keeping of a lighted lamp over the doors of licensed houses during the night.

With regard to the Sunday clause, your Memorialists respectfully beg to aver that the infringement of this clause would be much lessened, if not altogether abolished, by permitting licensed houses to be opened between the hours of one and two midday, and between the hours of eight and nine in the evening, on Sundays, for the purpose of supplying at those stated hours the dinner and supper beverages.

That your Memorialists feel convinced there would be but little invasion of the Law concerning opening after hours if the hour of closing was extended to eleven o'clock,—the hour in force in New South Wales and Adelaide. The desirability for such extension will be obvious when it is found that all places of public amusement are seldom closed till past ten, at which time no refreshment can be obtained here at any public-house without the present law being broken.

That the compulsory keeping of a lighted lamp over the doors of licensed houses during the night was enacted long before the introduction of gas into the Town, and at that time probably supplied a want which now does not exist. Your Memorialists therefore respectfully trust that your Honorable House may think fit to repeal this useless yet vexatious enactment.

Your Memorialists now respectfully pray that the objections herein set forth to some of the provisions of the Licensing Amendment Bill now before your Honorable House, and the reasons adduced for seeking the mentioned alteration and improvement of the existing Licensing Act, may receive your favourable consideration.

And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 58 Signatures.]

Similar Petition, with 111 Signatures, from Licensed Victuallers and others in Hobart.