

No. 29, A.]

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CHAPTER 429

AN ACT to repeal section 4438b of the statutes and to create a new section of the statutes to be numbered 4438b, relating to fraud on hotel keepers and providing a penalty.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 4438b of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 2. There is added to the statutes a new section to be numbered and to read: Section 4438b. 1. (1) Any person who obtains any food, lodging, or other service or accommodation at any hotel or inn without paying therefor, except when credit shall have been given by express agreement; and (2) any person who obtains credit at any hotel or inn by the use of any false show or pretenses of baggage or by other false and fraudulent means or misrepresentation; and (3) any person who, after obtaining food, lodging, credit or other service or accommodation at any hotel or inn, absconds or surreptitiously removes his baggage or other effects therefrom without paying for such food, lodging, or other service or accommodation; and any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this section or who shall either while a guest at any hotel or inn, or upon severing the relationship of guest, in any other manner defraud any such hotel or inn, the proprietor, manager, clerk, cashier or other person in charge thereof, in any transaction arising out of such relationship as guest, shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year or by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or by both such fine and imprisonment.

2. For the purposes of this act, the refusal of payment upon presentation when due, and the return unpaid of any bank check, draft, money order, or other instrument for the payment of money, given to any hotel or inn, the proprietor, manager, clerk, cashier or other person in charge thereof, in payment of any obligation owing such hotel or inn, shall be prima facie evidence of an intent to defraud.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved June 14, 1917.