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ARMS AMENDMENT BILL.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

THE main purpose of this Bill is to relax the severity of the requirements of the Arms Act, 1920, as to the purchase and possession of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

It is not proposed to make any change in the law as to the possession of automatic pistols or of other weapons declared to be unlawful weapons under the Act, but it is proposed to limit to the purchase of pistols (that is, firearms less than twelve inches in length of barrel) the provisions which now necessitate the obtaining of a permit for the purchase of firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

It is also proposed to limit the provisions of the Act as to the registration of the owners of firearms so as to require only the registration of the owners of pistols.

The restriction to pistols of the provisions hereinbefore referred to renders unnecessary the provisions of sections 6, 7, and 8 of the Arms Amendment Act, 1921-22 (relating to explosives in blasting operations, ammunition for rifle clubs, and ammunition for sporting rifles), and it is proposed to repeal these sections accordingly.

Hon. Mr. Wilford.

ARMS AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

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| <p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Firearms or ammunition brought to New Zealand without permit may be seized and detained.</p> <p>3. Restricting the provisions of principal Act requiring the issue of a permit for purchase of firearms, &c. Repeal.</p> <p>4. Restricting the provisions of principal Act requiring owners of firearms to be registered.</p> | <p>5. Repeal.</p> <p>6. Amending section 12 of principal Act, as to the record of sales to be kept by licensed dealers.</p> <p>7. Provisions as to seizure of firearms, &c., in possession of intoxicated or mentally defective person.</p> <p>8. Authorizing disposal of firearms, &c., detained by police under authority of principal Act.</p> <p>9. Consequential repeals.</p> <p>10. Application of principal Act to air-pistols.</p> |
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Arms Act, 1920.

Title.

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the Arms Amendment Act, 1929, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Arms Act, 1920 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

Short Title.

2. Section six of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsection :—

Firearms or ammunition brought to New Zealand without permit may be seized and detained.

“(5) All firearms, ammunition, and explosives brought or caused to be brought into New Zealand or into the territorial waters thereof by any person other than a licensed dealer may be seized and detained by any officer of Police or Customs unless a permit in respect thereof has been issued and remains in force under this section. In any such case such force may be used as is reasonably necessary for effecting the seizure of such goods.”

3. (1) Section seven of the principal Act is hereby amended as follows :—

Restricting the provisions of principal Act requiring the issue of a permit for purchase of firearms, &c.

(a) By omitting from subsection one and also from subsection two the words “firearm, ammunition, or explosive,” and in each case substituting the word “pistol” ;

(b) By repealing subsection three thereof.

(2) Nothing in section seven of the principal Act shall apply with respect to the importation of pistols into New Zealand by a licensed dealer.

(3) Subsection two of section three of the Arms Amendment Act, 1921-22, is hereby repealed.

Repeal.

Restricting the provisions of principal Act requiring owners of firearms to be registered.

Repeal.

Amending section 12 of principal Act, as to the record of sales to be kept by licensed dealers.

Provisions as to seizure of firearms, &c., in possession of intoxicated or mentally defective person.

Authorizing disposal of firearms, &c., detained by police under authority of principal Act.

Consequential repeals.

Application of principal Act to air-pistols.

4. Section nine of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the word "firearm" wherever it occurs therein, and in each case substituting the word "pistol."

5. Subsection four of section eleven of the principal Act is hereby repealed. 5

6. Section twelve of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection one the words "for the purchase of which a permit is required by this Act."

7. Section fifteen of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following as subsection two hereof:— 10

"(2) If any officer of police has reasonable grounds to suspect that any person has in his possession or under his control in any place any firearm, ammunition, or explosive, and that such person is of unsound mind, or is in a state of intoxication, or has attempted or threatened to kill or do serious bodily injury to himself or any other person, the officer may, without warrant, search that person or place, and may detain that person for the purpose of such search, and may seize any such firearm, ammunition, or explosive, and detain the same." 15

8. (1) Without limiting the operation of any other provisions as to the disposal of firearms, ammunition, or explosives seized or detained under the principal Act, any such firearms, ammunition, or explosives that have been detained for not less than six months may be disposed of in such manner as the Commissioner of Police may direct. 20

(2) Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of a Magistrate to make an order for the restoration of any such firearms, ammunition, or explosives on complaint made under section nineteen of the principal Act. 25

9. Sections six, seven, and eight of the Arms Amendment Act, 1921-22, are hereby repealed.

10. Section twelve of the Arms Amendment Act, 1921-22, is hereby amended by omitting the word "firearms" where it first occurs, and substituting the word "pistols"; and by omitting the words "guns or." 30