

ROYAL TITLES BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill provides for the assent of Parliament to the adoption by Her Majesty the Queen of the following style and titles in relation to New Zealand:—

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Her Other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

This is to give effect to the agreement referred to in the following communique issued at a meeting of the Prime Ministers and other representatives of Commonwealth countries held in London in December 1952:—

“ The Prime Ministers and other representatives of Commonwealth countries assembled in London for the Commonwealth Economic Conference have considered the form of the royal title. They recognized that the present title is not in accord with current constitutional relations within the Commonwealth, and that there is need for a new form of title which will, in particular, reflect the special position of the Sovereign as Head of the Commonwealth. They concluded, after full consideration, that in the present stage of development of the Commonwealth relationship, it would be in accord with the established constitutional position that each member country should use for its own purposes a form of title which suits its own particular circumstances but retains a substantial element which is common to all. They agreed that the various forms of the title should, in addition to an appropriate territorial designation, have as their common element the description of the Sovereign as Queen of Her other realms and territories and Head of the Commonwealth. The representatives of all the Commonwealth countries concerned have agreed to take, at the earliest convenient opportunity, such action as is necessary in each country to secure the appropriate constitutional approval for the changes now envisaged. Her Majesty will then be advised to exercise Her prerogative power by the issue of Proclamations giving effect to such changes in the title as may be recommended. It is contemplated that the Proclamations will be issued simultaneously in all the countries concerned.”

The following are the forms of the royal titles proposed for use in the other Commonwealth countries:—

United Kingdom

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her Other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

Canada

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her Other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

Australia

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, Australia and Her Other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

South Africa

Elizabeth the Second, Queen of South Africa and of Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

Pakistan

Elizabeth the Second, Queen of the United Kingdom and of Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

Ceylon

Elizabeth the Second, Queen of Ceylon and of Her Other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

Right Hon. Mr. Holland

ROYAL TITLES

ANALYSIS

Title.
Preamble.
1. Short Title.

2. Assent of Parliament to alteration of royal style and titles.
3. Repeal.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to assent to an alteration of the royal style and titles. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient that the style and titles at Preamble.
5 present appertaining to the Crown should be altered so as to reflect more clearly the existing relations of the members of the Commonwealth to one another and their recognition of the Crown as the symbol of their free association and of the Sovereign as the Head of the
10 Commonwealth: And whereas it was agreed between representatives of Her Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon assembled in London in the month of December, nineteen hundred
15 and fifty-two, that there is need for an alteration thereof which, while permitting of the use, in relation to each of those countries, of a form suited to its particular circumstances, would retain a substantial element common to all:

No. 6—1

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

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the **Royal Titles Act 1953.**

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Assent of Parliament to alteration of royal style and titles.

2. The assent of the Parliament of New Zealand is hereby given to the adoption by Her Majesty, for use in relation to New Zealand and all other territories for whose foreign relations Her Government in New Zealand is responsible, of the style and titles—

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Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Her Other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith—

instead of the style and titles at present appertaining to the Crown, and to the issue by Her for that purpose of Her Royal Proclamation.

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Repeal.
1947, No. 11

3. The Royal Titles Act 1947 is hereby consequentially repealed.