

*Bill Dillon*

## ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

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### ANALYSIS

Title	
1. Short Title and commencement	EXTRADITION
	6. Sections to be read with Extradition Act 1965
CRIMES	7. Power to decline extradition to face death penalty
2. Sections to be read with Crimes Act 1961	FUGITIVE OFFENDERS
3. Removal of death penalty for crime of treason	8. Sections to be read with Fugitive Offenders Act 1881 (U.K.)
ARMED FORCES DISCIPLINE	9. Power to decline extradition to face death penalty in Commonwealth country
4. Sections to be read with Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971	
5. Removal of death penalty for treachery in the Armed Forces	

### A BILL INTITULED

**An Act to abolish the death penalty, and to amend the Crimes Act 1961, the Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971, the Extradition Act 1965, and the Fugitive Offenders Act 1881 (U.K.)**

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of New Zealand as follows:

**1. Short Title and commencement**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Abolition of the Death Penalty Act 1989.

(2) This Act shall come into force on the 28th day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

### CRIMES

**2. Sections to be read with Crimes Act 1961**—This section and the next succeeding section shall be read together with and deemed part of the Crimes Act 1961 (in that section referred to as the principal Act).

**3. Removal of death penalty for crime of treason**—

(1) The principal Act is hereby amended—

No. 133—1

- (a) By repealing sections 14, 15, 16, 74 (1), and 399 (2);
- (b) By repealing the First Schedule and Forms 1 and 2 in the Second Schedule.

(2) Section 74 (1) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “sentenced to death”, and substituting the words “liable to imprisonment for life”. 5

(3) Section 315 (2) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “death or” in each case where they occur.

(4) Section 317 (1) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “death or”. 10

(5) Section 361B (5) of the principal Act (as inserted by section 2 (1) of the Crimes Amendment Act (No. 2) 1979) is hereby amended by omitting the words “death or”.

#### ARMED FORCES DISCIPLINE

**4. Sections to be read with Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971** 15  
—This section and the next succeeding section shall be read together with and deemed part of the Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971 (in that section referred to as the principal Act).

**5. Removal of death penalty for treachery in the Armed Forces** 20  
—(1) The principal Act is hereby amended by repealing sections 80 (2), 81, 133 (3), 133 (4), and 137 (4).

(2) Section 23 (1) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “be sentenced to death”, and substituting the words “imprisonment for life”. 25

(3) Section 24 (1) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “be sentenced to death”, and substituting the words “imprisonment for life”.

(4) Section 26 of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “be sentenced to death”, and substituting the words “imprisonment for life”. 30

(5) Section 32 (1) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “be sentenced to death”, and substituting the words “imprisonment for life”.

(6) Section 32 (2) of the principal Act (as amended by section 14 (2) of the Armed Forces Discipline Amendment Act 1985) is hereby amended by omitting the words “to death”. 35

(7) Section 77 (1) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “death or”.

(8) Section 118 (3) (c) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “to death or”. 40

(9) Section 139 (1) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “by death or”.

(10) The Second Schedule to the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting clause 1 (a).

EXTRADITION

**6. Sections to be read with Extradition Act 1965**—This section and the next succeeding section shall be read together with and deemed part of the Extradition Act 1965 (in that section referred to as the principal Act).

**7. Power to decline extradition to face death penalty**—(1) Section 5 (1) of the Extradition Act 1965 is hereby amended by adding to paragraph (b) the word “; or”, and by adding the following paragraph:

“(c) If the Minister is of the opinion that there are substantial grounds for believing that the offender has been sentenced to death or is liable to be so sentenced by the appropriate authority in the country to which the offender’s surrender is sought.”

(2) Section 6 of the Extradition Act 1965 is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:

“(4) If the Minister of Justice is of the opinion that there are substantial grounds for believing that the offender whose surrender is requested has been sentenced to death or is liable to be so sentenced, if the request were granted, by the appropriate authority in the country to which the offender’s surrender is sought, the Minister shall refuse to notify a District Court Judge of the request, and may also at any time order the offender to be discharged from custody.”

FUGITIVE OFFENDERS

**8. Sections to be read with Fugitive Offenders Act 1881 (U.K.)**—This section and the next succeeding section shall, for the purposes of the law of New Zealand, be read together with and deemed part of the Fugitive Offenders Act 1881 (U.K.) (in that section referred to as the principal Act).

**9. Power to decline extradition to face death penalty in Commonwealth country**—Section 29A of the Fugitive Offenders Act 1881 (as inserted by section 7 of the Fugitive Offenders Amendment Act 1976) is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

“(3) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, a person accused of an offence shall not be returned under Part I of this Act from New Zealand to a Commonwealth country if it appears to the Minister of Justice that there are substantial grounds for

believing that the fugitive has been sentenced to death or is liable to be so sentenced by the appropriate authority in the part of the Commonwealth to which the fugitive's surrender is sought.

“(4) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, a person accused 5 of an offence shall not be returned under Part II of this Act from New Zealand to a neighbouring Commonwealth country without the consent of the Minister of Justice if it appears to any court before which the accused is brought, or to any court or Judge on an application for a writ of *habeas corpus*, that there 10 are substantial grounds for believing that the accused has been sentenced to death or is liable to be so sentenced by the appropriate authority in the part of the Commonwealth to which the fugitive's surrender is sought.”