

## DANGEROUS DRUGS AMENDMENT BILL.

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### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

THE purpose of this Bill is to remove a restriction placed on the laying of informations in respect of offences against Part II of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1927. It was contemplated that the whole of the facts relating to the use of dangerous drugs would be peculiarly within the knowledge of Medical Officers of Health, and that they alone should have authority to lay informations, even where an alleged breach of the Act was discovered or reported by some other officer or person. In practice it is found that the majority of the offences against Part II of the Act relate to opium-smoking. The police are almost wholly responsible for discovering offences of this kind, and medical officers seldom have any knowledge of the circumstances. It is now desired that the police should lay the informations in this class of case, and the Bill therefore removes the former restriction as far as Part II is concerned.

*Hon. Mr. Young.*

DANGEROUS DRUGS AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.  
1. Short Title.

2. Information for offences against Part II of principal Act may be laid by other than Medical Health Officers.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1927.

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 Dangerous Drugs Amendment Act, 1928, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1927 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

Short Title.

2. (1) Section thirteen of the principal Act is hereby amended—  
(a) By omitting from subsection two all words after the words “Justice of the Peace,” and substituting the words “to be dealt with as hereinafter provided”:

Informations for offences against Part II of principal Act may be laid by other than Medical Health Officers.

(b) By omitting from subsection three the word “such” occurring after the words “Pending the laying of.”

(2) Section twenty-five of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection two the words “and every information for an offence against Part II shall be laid by a Medical Officer of Health.”

By Authority: W. A. G. SKINNER, Government Printer, Wellington.—1928.

No. 84—1.