



### ANALYSIS

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1980, No. 58

An Act to give proper recognition to New Zealand passports and to the right of New Zealand citizens to such passports, and to consolidate and amend the law relating to passports and certificates of identity [10 December 1980]

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

1. **Short Title and commencement**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Passports Act 1980.  
 (2) This Act shall come into force on the 1st day of January 1981.

**2. Interpretation**—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“Applicant”, in relation to an application for a passport, means the person who will be the holder of the passport if the application is granted:

“Certificate of identity” means a document (other than a passport) issued by the Government of any country to any person for the purposes of facilitating his entry into or his exit from any country, and purporting to establish the identity but not the nationality of that person:

“Conviction on indictment” has the same meaning as in the Crimes Act 1961:

“Holder”, in relation to a passport, means the person in whose name the passport has been issued:

“Minister” means the Minister of Internal Affairs:

“New Zealand passport” means a passport issued by or on behalf of the Government of New Zealand to a New Zealand citizen:

“Officer” means an officer of the Department of Internal Affairs; and includes an overseas representative, an officer of Customs, and a member of the Police; and also includes a person or a member of a class of persons authorised by the Minister to exercise the powers conferred on officers by this Act:

“Passport” means a document that is issued by or on behalf of the Government of any country, and that purports to establish the identity and nationality of the holder; but does not include such a document that has expired and is incapable of being renewed, or that has been cancelled:

“Prescribed” means prescribed by regulations made under this Act, or by the Minister.

Cf. 1946, No. 10, s. 2

#### *Issue, Renewal, and Cancellation of Passports and Other Documents*

**3. Citizen’s right to passport**—Except as provided in this Act, every New Zealand citizen is entitled as of right to a New Zealand passport.

**4. Issue of passport—**(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, on an application to him in the prescribed form and manner by or on behalf of any New Zealand citizen, the Minister shall issue a New Zealand passport to the citizen.

(2) The Minister may refuse to issue a New Zealand passport in any of the following cases:

(a) Where the applicant has not attained the age of 16 years and has not produced the written consent of one of his parents or guardians to the issue of a passport to him:

(b) Where—

(i) There is in force a warrant issued in New Zealand for the arrest of the applicant; or

(ii) The applicant is on bail or parole or probation, or is required by an order made by any New Zealand Court to remain in New Zealand or to refrain from obtaining a passport:

(c) Where the applicant already holds a New Zealand passport and there is no sufficient reason why he should have another passport issued to him.

(3) Every New Zealand passport shall be valid for 10 years or such shorter time as the Minister may determine in a particular case.

Cf. 1946, No. 10, s. 3

**5. Passports for children under 16 years of age—**

(1) Where the Minister grants an application for a passport on behalf of a child who is under the age of 16 years, he shall, if requested to do so by a parent or guardian of the child, endorse the name of that child on the passport of that parent or guardian instead of issuing a separate passport in the name of the child.

(2) In any case where the Minister has endorsed a passport under subsection (1) of this section, a parent or guardian of the child may subsequently apply in accordance with this Act for a separate passport for that child, and, if the Minister issues such a passport, he shall cancel the endorsement.

(3) For the purposes of the cancellation of the endorsement, the holder or other person who has the endorsed passport in his possession or under his control shall, on demand by an officer, surrender the passport to the officer.

(4) Every person commits an offence against this Act who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with subsection (3) of this section.

**6. Renewal, endorsement, and cancellation of passport—**

(1) On the application of the holder of a New Zealand passport, the Minister may from time to time, in accordance with regulations made under this Act, renew any New Zealand passport.

(2) The Minister may from time to time, in accordance with regulations made under this Act, endorse any New Zealand passport in such manner as he thinks fit in relation to the identity or status of the holder.

(3) The Minister may from time to time, in accordance with regulations made under this Act, cancel any particular New Zealand passport issued to any person if the Minister considers it necessary or desirable to do so for the proper administration of this Act.

(4) Subject to sections 4 (2) and 7 of this Act, in any case where the Minister—

(a) Refuses to renew a passport under subsection (1) of this section; or

(b) Cancels a passport under subsection (3) of this section,—

he shall, on the application of the holder of that passport, issue another New Zealand passport to replace that passport.

Cf. 1946, No. 10, s. 4

**7. Recall of passport—**(1) The Minister may, by writing under his hand, recall any New Zealand passport, and cancel it or retain possession of it, in any of the following cases:

(a) Where the holder has not attained the age of 16 years and the parent or guardian who gave his consent to the issue of the passport has written to the Minister withdrawing that consent:

(b) Where there is in force a warrant issued in New Zealand for the arrest of the holder:

(c) Where the holder has renounced or been deprived of New Zealand citizenship under section 15 or section 16 of the Citizenship Act 1977:

(d) Where there is reasonable cause to believe—

(i) That the passport, or any renewal or endorsement of the passport, has been obtained by means of any false representation or any statement that is false in a material particular; or

(ii) That the passport is in the wrongful possession of any person other than the holder.

(2) Where the Minister recalls any passport under this section, the holder or other person who has the passport in his possession or under his control shall, on demand by an officer, surrender the passport to the officer.

(3) Every person commits an offence against this Act who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with subsection (2) of this section.

Cf. 1946, No. 10, s. 6

**8. Issue and cancellation of certificate of identity**—(1) The Minister may, in accordance with regulations made under this Act, issue a certificate of identity to any person.

(2) The Minister may, in accordance with regulations made under this Act, cancel a certificate of identity issued to any person by or on behalf of the Government of New Zealand, in which case it shall cease to have effect.

(3) Where the Minister cancels any certificate of identity under subsection (2) of this section, the holder or other person who has the certificate in his possession or under his control shall, on demand by an officer, surrender the certificate to the officer.

(4) Every person commits an offence against this Act who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with subsection (3) of this section.

Cf. 1946, No. 10, s. 7

**9. Appeal to High Court**—(1) Every person who, being—

(a) The applicant for the issue, renewal, or endorsement of a New Zealand passport; or

(b) The holder of such a passport,—  
is dissatisfied with any decision of the Minister made in relation to the application or passport under any of sections 4 to 8 of this Act may appeal to the High Court against that decision.

(2) Every appeal under this section shall be filed within 28 days after the date on which notice of the decision that is the subject of the appeal has been given to the person seeking to bring the appeal, or within such extended time as the Court may allow.

(3) Every appeal under this section shall be heard and determined by the Administrative Division of the High Court.

(4) On any appeal under this section, the Court may confirm, modify, or quash the decision that is the subject of the appeal, and may give all such directions (if any) to the Minister or any other person concerned as may be necessary to give effect to the Court's decision.

(5) Where the appeal relates to a matter within the discretion of the Minister, the Court may substitute its own discretion for that of the Minister.

(6) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this section, the procedure in respect of any appeal under this section shall be in accordance with rules of Court.

(7) Except as provided in section 10 of this Act, every decision of the Court on an appeal under this section shall be final.

**10. Appeal to Court of Appeal in certain cases**—(1) Any party to an appeal before the High Court under section 9 of this Act who is dissatisfied with any decision of the Court may, with the leave of the Court or of the Court of Appeal, appeal to the Court of Appeal.

(2) The Court to which an application for leave to appeal is made under subsection (1) of this section shall not grant leave unless it is satisfied that a question of law or of general principle is involved.

(3) On any appeal under this section, the Court of Appeal shall have the same powers as are conferred on the High Court by subsection (4) of section 9 of this Act in respect of appeals under that section.

(4) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this section, the procedure in respect of any appeal under this section shall be in accordance with rules of Court.

(5) Every decision of the Court of Appeal on an appeal under this section shall be final.

#### *Offences Relating to Passports*

**11. Possession of unauthorised material**—(1) Every person commits a crime who, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, makes or uses or has in his possession or disposes of any paper or other material that he knows is specially provided by the proper authorities for any purpose relating to New Zealand passports.

(2) Every person who commits a crime against subsection (1) of this section is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

**12. Misusing passport—**(1) Every person commits a crime who,—

- (a) Except as may be permitted by or under regulations made under this Act, for purposes of travel and without reasonable excuse, uses a New Zealand passport that has expired or has been cancelled; or
  - (b) For purposes of travel or identification and without reasonable excuse, uses a New Zealand passport that was issued to or in respect of another person; or
  - (c) Being a person to whom a New Zealand passport has been issued, without reasonable excuse permits another person to use that passport for purposes of travel or identification; or
  - (d) Without lawful authority, takes or retains in his possession or under his control a New Zealand passport against the will of the holder; or
  - (e) Without reasonable excuse, has in his possession or under his control—
    - (i) A New Zealand passport that he knows or has reason to suspect has been falsified; or
    - (ii) A document (not being a New Zealand passport) that purports to be a New Zealand passport; or
  - (f) Without reasonable excuse, has in his possession or under his control within New Zealand—
    - (i) A passport issued by or on behalf of the Government of any country other than New Zealand, being a passport that he knows or has reason to suspect has been falsified; or
    - (ii) A document (not being a passport issued at any time by or on behalf of the Government of any country other than New Zealand) that purports to be a passport issued by or on behalf of such a Government.
- (2) Every person commits a crime who wilfully defaces or destroys a New Zealand passport.
- (3) Every person who commits a crime against subsection (1) or subsection (2) of this section is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years.

**13. False representation—**Every person commits an offence against this Act who, for the purpose of procuring anything to be done or not to be done under any of sections 4 to 8 of

this Act, whether for his own benefit or for the benefit of any other person, makes a statement that he knows to be false in a material particular, or recklessly makes a statement that is false in a material particular.

Cf. 1946, No. 10, s. 5

### *Miscellaneous Provisions*

#### **14. Passports property of New Zealand Government—**

(1) All New Zealand passports and certificates of identity issued by or on behalf of the Government of New Zealand, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, shall be the property of the Government of New Zealand.

(2) The right in a passport or certificate of identity conferred on the Government of New Zealand by subsection (1) of this section shall not be defeated or affected by any pledge, deposit, or encumbrance given or made in respect of the passport or certificate of identity by the holder or by any other person.

#### **15. Minister may delegate powers—**(1) The Minister may delegate to any person any of the powers conferred on him by sections 4 to 8 of this Act.

(2) The delegation of a power under this section may be made generally, or in respect of a particular case or class of cases.

(3) A power delegated under this section may be exercised by the person to whom it is delegated in the same manner and to the same extent as if it were conferred by this Act and not by delegation.

(4) The delegation of a power under this section shall not prevent the exercise of that power by the Minister.

#### **16. Offences—**(1) Every person who commits an offence against this Act for which no penalty is provided elsewhere than in this section is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or a fine not exceeding \$500.

(2) Notwithstanding section 14 of the Summary Proceedings Act 1957, an information in respect of any offence against this Act or any regulations made under this Act may be laid at any time within 2 years after the time when the matter of the information arose.

**17. Indictable crimes triable summarily**—Part II of the First Schedule to the Summary Proceedings Act 1957 is hereby amended by inserting, in the appropriate alphabetical order, the following item:

“The Passports Act 1980	11	Possession of unauthorised material
	12	Misusing passport”.

**18. Regulations**—The Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council, make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:

- (a) Prescribing the forms in which passports, certificates of identity, and other documents are to be issued under this Act;
- (b) Requiring the payment of fees, and prescribing the amount of such fees, in respect of applications for and the issue of passports, certificates of identity, and other documents under this Act, and for the renewal or endorsement of any such document;
- (c) Prescribing the circumstances in which and the conditions subject to which New Zealand passports may be renewed, endorsed, and cancelled under section 6 of this Act;
- (d) Prescribing offences in respect of the contravention of or non-compliance with any regulations made under this Act, and prescribing the amount of any fine that may be imposed in respect of any such offence, being an amount not exceeding \$200 and, where the offence is a continuing one, a further amount not exceeding \$20 for every day during which the offence has continued;
- (e) Providing for such other matters as are contemplated by or necessary for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act and for its due administration.

Cf. 1946, No. 10, ss. 10, (1), 12

**19. Existing passports, etc., not affected by passing of this Act**—Without limiting section 20A of the Acts Interpretation Act 1924, every passport and certificate of identity, and every renewal or endorsement of a passport or certificate of identity, issued, granted, or made by or on behalf of the Government of New Zealand before the commencement of this Act shall continue to have effect as if it was issued, granted, or made under this Act.

**20. Repeal**—The Passports Act 1946 is hereby consequentially repealed.

**21. Immigration Act 1964 amended**—(1) The Immigration Act 1964 is hereby amended by inserting in Part VI, before section 33, the following sections:

**"32A. Grant and cancellation of visas**—(1) The Minister may, subject to any regulations that may be made under this Act, grant a visa in respect of any passport or certificate of identity that requires a New Zealand visa.

"(2) The Minister may, subject to any regulations that may be made under this Act, cancel a visa granted under subsection (1) of this section, in which case it shall cease to have effect.

"(3) Where the Minister cancels any visa under subsection (2) of this section, the holder or other person who has the passport or certificate of identity in respect of which the visa was granted in his possession or under his control shall, on demand by an Immigration Officer, surrender the passport or certificate of identity to the Immigration Officer for the purpose of the cancellation of the visa; and when the visa has been cancelled, the passport or certificate of identity shall be returned to the holder.

"(4) Every person commits an offence against this Act who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with subsection (3) of this section.

Cf. 1946, No. 10, s. 4

**"32B. Production and surrender of passport**—(1) Except as may be provided by or under regulations made under this Act, every person who lands in New Zealand from overseas shall, on demand by an Immigration Officer authorised for the purpose under this Act, produce a passport, or a certificate of identity that complies with the requirements (if any) specified in any such regulations, to enable the Immigration Officer to determine whether or not the person is entitled to enter New Zealand with or without a permit under this Act.

"(2) If the person is denied entry to New Zealand, his passport or certificate of identity shall be returned to him on his departure from New Zealand.

"(3) If the person is permitted to enter New Zealand, his passport or certificate of identity shall be returned to him as soon as the Immigration Officer is satisfied of the matters

referred to in subsection (1) of this section, being in no case later than 28 days after the person is permitted to enter New Zealand, or on his earlier departure from New Zealand.

“(4) If any Immigration Officer believes on reasonable grounds that the holder of any passport or certificate of identity has committed an offence against this Act, he may require the person who has that passport or certificate of identity in his possession or under his control to surrender it to the Immigration Officer.

“(5) If, in any case to which subsection (4) of this section applies, no information for an offence against this Act is laid against the holder of the passport or certificate of identity within 28 days after it is surrendered to the Immigration Officer, the passport or certificate of identity shall be returned to the holder, but nothing in this subsection shall prevent the laying of such an information subsequent to the expiry of that period.

“(6) Notwithstanding subsection (5) of this section, if the holder of any passport or certificate of identity that is surrendered under subsection (4) of this section leaves New Zealand, the passport or certificate of identity shall be returned to him on his departure.

“(7) Every person commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$200 who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with subsection (1) or subsection (4) of this section.”

Cf. 1946, No. 10, s. 11

(2) Section 38 of the Immigration Act 1964 is hereby amended by inserting, after paragraph (b), the following paragraphs:

“(ba) Specifying the countries whose nationals or residents do or do not require visas under section 32A of this Act on arrival in New Zealand;

“(bb) Prescribing fees payable on the granting of visas under that section, and prescribing the countries whose nationals or residents are or are not required to pay such fees:”.

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