

This PUBLIC BILL originated in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

House of Representatives.
19th October, 1905.

Hon. Mr. McGowan.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT (No. 2).

ANALYSIS.

| Title. 1. Short Title. | 2. Offence of criminal defamation. |
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Criminal Code Act, 1893."

Title.

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

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Criminal Code Amendment Act, 1905 (No. 2)"; and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Criminal Code Act, 1893."

Short Title.

2. (1.) Every person who, without legal justification or excuse, speaks any words which are likely to injure the reputation of any other person by exposing such last mentioned person to hatred or contempt, or to injure him in his profession or trade, is guilty of "criminal defamation," which is hereby declared to be an offence:

Offence of criminal defamation.

Provided that the speaking of such words shall not constitute, or be deemed to constitute, an offence unless spoken within the hearing of not less than twenty persons at a meeting to which the public are invited to attend or have access:

Provided further that no proceedings in respect of an offence against this Act shall be commenced after the expiration of two months after the commission of the offence.

(2.) The provisions of sections four, five, six, and seven of "The Criminal Code Amendment Act, 1901," shall, *mutatis mutandis*, extend and apply to all cases of criminal defamation:

Provided that, before making any order under section five of that Act in respect of any offence of criminal defamation, the Judge or Magistrate making such order shall be satisfied that there is reasonable ground for a prosecution.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1905.