

Memorandum by the Minister of JusticeLegislation for the reprint of amended  
copies of existing laws

Several Government Departments have been pressing for the reprinting of certain chapters of the Laws of Malta which are out of print and are required by both the members of the public and the departments concerned. Certain Government Departments have also insisted on the reprint of amended copies.

The Attorney-General advised that reprints of any Acts or Ordinances incorporating any relative amendment cannot be carried out unless duly authorized by the Statutory Law Revision Commission or specifically by way of an ad hoc Act.

It has not been considered appropriate at this stage to embark on the consolidation of all the laws as amended. In fact, independence is apt to bring in its wake several changes in our law.

No reprinting of the chapters of the Laws of Malta has been undertaken since 1956, and the members of the public endeavouring to purchase certain laws from the Department of Information are sent back empty-handed, and by 1960 23 laws, some of them of major interest, were already out of print. (See Appendix "A")

The bill under review aims at solving this impasse. In fact it aims to provide for the reprinting of official copies of any existing law embodying all amendments up to the date of reprinting. It is important to note that this measure is conceived as an interim provision as it is intended to operate in the periods between one revised edition and the next, whenever copies of particular laws may be out of print or in short supply. It is to be distinguished from the practice of reprinting particular laws in their original text under administrative authority.

Honourable Members are asked to give approval to the bill with a view to further action in the Legislative Assembly.

24th April, 1963.

List of Chapters of the Revised Laws of Malta, etc.  
which are out of print

1. Chapter 12 - Criminal Code
2. " 13 - Code of Police Laws
3. " 35 - Police Ordinance
4. " 48 - Industrial Property (Protection)
5. " 56 - Explosives Ordinance
6. " 59 - Prevention of Disease
7. " 60 - Customs Ordinance
8. " 89 - Encouragement of New Industry
9. " 90 - Antiquities (Protection)
10. " 95 - Widows and Orphans Pensions Act
11. " 109 - Reletting of Urban Property
12. " 110 - Public Lotto Ordinance
13. " 117 - Press Ordinance
14. " 122 - Empire Preferential Tariff
15. " 135 - Aesthetics Ordinance
16. " 143 - Pensions Ordinance
17. " 148 - Medical and Health Department (Constitution)
18. " 164 - Insanitary Areas
19. " 165 - Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third Party)
20. G. N. 368/56 - Trade Union Regulations
21. Conditions of Employment (Regulations) Act, 1952
22. G. N. 787/49 - The Factories (Woodwork Machinery) Regulations.
23. The Trade Union and Trade Disputes Ordinance, 1945.

Existing Laws (Reprint) Act, 1963

AN ACT to provide for the reprinting of amended copies of existing laws.

ENACTED by the Legislature of Malta:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Existing Laws (Reprint) Act, 1963.

Reprint of amended copies of existing laws.

2. (1) Where any law in force in Malta has been amended by other laws, the Attorney-General may, if so directed by the Minister of Justice, prepare and certify a copy of any such law with all amendments embodied therein and cause it to be printed under official authority and the text of the law so printed shall be deemed and shall be without any question whatsoever in all Courts of Justice and for all purposes whatsoever an authentic text of such law:

Provided that in every such case a memorandum shall be printed on the reprinted law stating that it has been reprinted -

(a) under the authority of this Act, and

(b) as amended up to a specified date.

(2) In the exercise of his functions under subsection (1) of this section the Attorney-General shall have power to correct any grammatical, typographical and similar mistakes in the existing copies of laws and for that purpose to make verbal additions, omissions or alterations not affecting the meaning of any law.

Objects and Reasons

The object of this Bill is to provide for the reprinting of official copies of any existing law embodying all amendments up to the date of reprinting. This measure, which is to be distinguished from the practice of reprinting particular laws in their original text under administrative authority, is intended for the convenience of the public in the periods intervening between the publication of one revised edition of the laws and the next, where copies of particular laws may be out of print or in short supply.