

PARLIAMENT OFFICE
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana.

27th November, 2004

The following Bill which will be introduced in the National Assembly is published for general information.

S. E. Isaacs,
Clerk of the National Assembly.



GUYANA

BILL No. 22 of 2004

AGE OF CONSENT BILL 2004

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Short title.
2. Amendment of section 69 of Criminal Law (Offences) Act.
3. Amendment of section 70 of Criminal Law (Offences) Act.
4. Amendment of section 87 of Criminal Law (Offences) Act.
5. Amendment of section 32 of the Marriage Act.

**A BILL
Intituled**

AN ACT to amend the Criminal Law (Offences) Act and the Marriage Act.

A. D. 2004

Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:-

Short title.
Cap. 8:01
Cap. 45:01

1. This Act, which amends the Criminal Law (Offences) Act and the Marriage Act may be cited as the Age of Consent Act 2004.

Amendment of
section 69 of the
Criminal Law
(Offences) Act.
Cap. 8:01

2. Section 69 of the Criminal Law (Offences) Act is hereby amended in the following manner -

- (a) in subsection (1) by the substitution for the words "twelve years" and "thirteen years" of the words "fifteen years" and "sixteen years" respectively;
- (b) in subsection (2), by the substitution for the words "thirteen years" of the words "sixteen years";
- (c) in the marginal note by the substitution for the words "12" and "13" of the words "15" and "16", respectively.

Amendment of
section 70 of the
Criminal Law
(Offences) Act.
Cap. 8:01

3. Section 70 of the Criminal Law (Offences) Act is hereby amended by the substitution for the words "twelve years" of the words "fifteen years" and in the marginal note by the substitution for the words "12" of the words "15".

Amendment of
section 87 of the
Criminal Law
(Offences) Act.
Cap. 8:01

4. Section 87 of the Criminal Law (Offences) Act is hereby amended in the following manner -

- (a) in subsection (1)
 - (i) in paragraph (a), by the substitution for the words "twelve years", "thirteen years" and "two years" of the words "fifteen years", "sixteen years" and "five years", respectively.
 - (ii) in paragraph (b), by the substitution for the words "twelve years" of the words "fifteen years".

Amendment of
section 32 of the
Marriage Act:
Cap. 45:01

5. follows -

(b) in subsection (2) by the substitution for the words "thirteen years" of the words "sixteen years".

Section 32 of the Marriage Act is hereby amended as

"(a) in subsection (1) by the substitution therefor of the following -

"(1) Notwithstanding section 31, a marriage shall be void if the parties or either of them is under the age of sixteen."

(b) in subsection (2), for the words beginning with the words "If a female" and ending with the words "years becomes" substitute the words "If a female sixteen or seventeen years of age becomes".

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Criminal Law (Offences) Act, Cap. 8:01, to increase the age of consent to sixteen years. It also amends the Marriage Act, Cap. 45:01, to say that a female of sixteen or seventeen years of age may petition the High Court for permission to be married.

Bob Shadid

Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.