

A BILL

ENTITLED

AN ACT to Amend the Parole Act.

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BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives of Jamaica, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

1. Short title and construction.

1. This Act may be cited as the Parole (Amendment) Act, 2008, and shall be read and construed as one with the Parole Act (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) and all amendments thereto.

2. Amendment of section 6 of principal Act.

2. Section 6 of the principal Act is amended-

(a) in subsection (4), by deleting the words "subsection (5)" and substituting therefor the words "subsections (4A) and (5)"; and

(b) by inserting next after subsection (4) the following as subsection (4A)-

" (4A) Subject to subsection (5), an inmate who has been sentenced to imprisonment for life, or for a period of fifteen years or more, for-

(a) any offence under section 4, 9, 10 (7) (a), 20 (4), 24 or 25 of the Firearms Act; or

(b) any of the following offences referred to in section 20(2) of the Offences Against the Person Act, namely-

(i) shooting with intent to cause grievous bodily harm or with intent to resist or prevent the lawful apprehension or detainer of any person; or

(ii) wounding with intent, with use of a firearm,

committed after the coming into operation of this Act, shall be eligible for parole after having served a period of not less than ten years."

MEMORANDUM OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

A decision has been taken to amend the Parole Act in order to provide that persons who have been sentenced to imprisonment for life, or for a period of fifteen years or more, for specified firearms offences shall not be eligible for parole until after having served a period of not less than ten years of the sentence.

This Bill seeks to give effect to that decision, which is intended to emphasize the serious nature of those offences, and is a companion to other proposed legislation aimed at reducing crime.

TREVOR MACMILLAN
Minister of National Security.