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[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1918.

A BILL

To regulate the publication in newspapers of certain official documents and information ; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Official Secrets Short title. Act, 1918."

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2. (1) Any official document or official information, of a confidential nature, which is in the possession of any person by virtue of his holding office under His Majesty, or being an officer in the public service, or which has been entrusted or communicated to any person in confidence by a person holding such an office or being such an officer, shall not be published in any newspaper printed in New South Wales :

Publication of official documents, &c., of a confidential nature.

Provided that such a document or information may be so published on the written authority of the Premier of the State, or of the Minister of the Crown administering the department to which such document or information refers.

(2) In any prosecution under this Act the onus of proving that such authority has been granted shall lie on the person accused.

Onus of proving authority.

(3) The proprietor, publisher, and printer of any newspaper printed in New South Wales, in which is published any document or information in contravention of the provisions of this Act, shall severally be liable to a penalty not exceeding _____ pounds.

Penalty.
