

BELIZE:

INDICTABLE PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

1. Short title.
2. Insertion of new section 8A and 8B.
3. Amendment of section 65A.
4. Amendment of Schedule I.

BELIZE:

BILL

for

AN ACT to amend the Indictable Procedure Act, Chapter 96 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; to expand the list of offences for trial without a jury in certain criminal cases; to allow for hearings or trials before the court to be conducted virtually; to allow for additional crimes to be included in a count of an indictment; to allow for the Schedules to be amended by Order; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted2022).

BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the

Short title.

INDICTABLE PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2022,

and shall be read and construed as one with the Indictable Procedure Act, which is hereinafter referred to as the principal Act.

CAP. 96.

2. The principal Act is amended by inserting the following new sections immediately after section 8–

Insertion of new section 8A and 8B.

“Virtual hearings and trials
8A. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Act or any other enactment, the Chief Justice may, by Practice Directions, direct that hearings or trials before the court may be conducted virtually.

Amendment of Schedules.
8B. The Minister may, by Order published in the *Gazette* amend the Schedules.”.

3. The principal Act is amended in section 65A(2)–

Amendment of section 65A.

(a) in paragraph (c), by deleting the word “and”;

(b) in paragraph (d), by deleting the full stop and substituting a semi-colon;

(c) by inserting after paragraph (d), the following new paragraphs—

“(e) manslaughter;

(f) abduction of a child;

(g) sexual offences;

CAP. 108:02.

(h) any offence under the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Prohibition) Act; and

CAP. 108:01.

(i) any offence under the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act.”.

4. The principal Act is amended in Schedule I in rule 5, by inserting the following new sub-rule immediately after sub-rule (1)—

Amendment of
Schedule I.

“(1A) Notwithstanding sub-rule (1), more than one incident of the commission of the offence may be included in a count if those incidents taken together amount to a course of conduct having regard to the time, place or purpose of commission or the victim of the offence.”.