

"(3.) An offence against this Act may be prosecuted either summarily or upon indictment, but an offender is not liable to be punished more than once in respect of the same offence.

"(4.) The punishment for an offence against this Act is—

- (a) if the offence is prosecuted summarily—a fine not exceeding Two hundred pounds or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both; or
- (b) if the offence is prosecuted upon indictment—a fine not exceeding Five hundred pounds or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both, or, if the offender is a body corporate, a fine not exceeding Five thousand pounds.

"(5.) Proceedings for the commitment of a person for trial on indictment for an offence against this Act shall not be instituted except with the consent in writing of the Director-General.

"(6.) Proceedings for the summary prosecution of an offence against this Act shall not be instituted except with the consent in writing of the Director-General or a person authorized by the Director-General, by writing under his hand, to give such consents.

"(7.) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this section, the regulations may make provision for or in relation to other consequences (in addition to punishment for an offence) of contravention of, or failure to comply with, a provision of this Act or the regulations or to ensure compliance with a provision of this Act or the regulations.

Defences in proceedings with respect to offences.

"23.—(1.) In any proceedings with respect to an offence against this Act or the regulations, it is a defence if the act or omission charged is proved to have been due to stress of weather or other unavoidable cause.

"(2.) In any proceedings against the owner, operator, hirer, pilot in command or other pilot of an aircraft with respect to an offence against this Act or the regulations, it is a defence if the act or omission charged is proved to have taken place without his fault or privity.

Crown not liable to prosecution.

"24. Nothing in this Act shall be taken to subject the Crown in right of the Commonwealth or of a State to liability to be prosecuted for an offence, but this section does not affect any liability of a member of the crew of an aircraft of which the Crown is the owner or of any other person in the employment of the Crown to be so prosecuted.

Jurisdiction of Courts.

"25.—(1.) Subject to the succeeding provisions of this section—

- (a) the several courts of the States are invested with federal jurisdiction; and