

# Civil Defence Act

## Principal Act

Act. No. 1953-02

*Commencement*

1.8.1953

*Assent*

26.2.1953

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## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### Section

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AN ACT TO SECURE THAT PRECAUTIONS SHALL BE TAKEN WITH A VIEW TO THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY FROM INJURY OR DAMAGE IN THE EVENT OF HOSTILE ATTACK FROM LAND, SEA OR THE AIR.

**Short title.**

1. This Act may be cited as the Civil Defence Act.

**Interpretation.**

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Authority” means such person or persons as may from time to time be appointed by the Governor to prepare schemes under this Act;

“hostile attack” shall be deemed to include any hostile attack from land, sea or the air;

“precaution scheme” means a scheme prepared under section 3.

**Duty of the Authority to prepare and submit precaution schemes.**

3. It shall be the duty of the Authority to prepare and submit to the Governor, as and when required by him, schemes making provision as to the arrangements to be made for the protection of persons and property from injury or damage in the event of hostile attack, and as to the persons by whom such arrangements are to be carried out.

**Approval of precaution schemes.**

4.(1) The Governor may approve, with or without modifications, any precaution scheme submitted to him under this Act, and any such scheme shall, upon being so approved, come into force on such date as the Governor may direct.

(2) It shall be the duty of any person to discharge such functions as may be imposed on such person by this Act or by any precaution scheme in force thereunder.

**Reimbursement of expenditure lawfully incurred.**

5. All expenditure lawfully incurred by any person under the provisions of this Act shall be reimbursed to such person out of the Consolidated Fund.

**Regulations.**

6. The Governor may make regulations for the purposes of this Act and such regulations shall provide—

- (a) for the storage of equipment, appliances or material acquired by him under this Act ;
- (b) as to loans, gifts and sales of such equipment, appliances or material; and
- (c) for the matters as to which provision is to be made by precaution schemes.

**Existing air-raid shelters and equipment.**

7. All public air-raid shelters already constructed and all equipment acquired under the provisions of the Air-Raid Precautions Act and still held by any public body, as at the coming into force of this Act, shall be vested in the Governor and shall be placed under such control as he may from time to time direct.

**Penalties.**

8. A person who, without lawful excuse, fails or neglects to perform any duty which is required of him under this Act or who obstructs any other person in the performance thereof, is guilty of an offence and is liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for six months and to a fine of £500.