



# PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

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## JUDICATURE (AMENDMENT)

A

**BILL**

**to amend the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978**

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*Presented by the Minister of Justice and National Integration  
on 18th of December, 2025*

(Published in the Gazette on November 20, 2025)

*Ordered by Parliament to be printed*

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**[Bill No. 44]**

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PRINTED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT PRINTING, SRI LANKA  
TO BE PURCHASED AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS BUREAU, COLOMBO 5

**Price : Rs. 14.40**

**Postage : Rs. 150.00**



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#### *STATEMENT OF LEGAL EFFECT*

*Clause 2:* This clause amends section 9 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and the legal effect of the section as amended is to provide for all prosecutions and indictments in respect of an offence committed by any person on the high seas under the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218), Conventions Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, No. 1 of 2008 or any such written law to be heard, tried and determined by the High Court of the Republic of Sri Lanka.

*Judicature (Amendment)*

L.D.-O 38/2024

AN ACT TO AMEND THE JUDICATURE ACT, NO. 2 OF 1978

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows: -

1. This Act may be cited as the Judicature (Amendment) Act, No. of 2025. Short title

5 2. Section 9 of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 is hereby amended, by the repeal of paragraph (d) of subsection (1) of that section, and substitution therefor, of the following paragraph:- Amendment of section 9 of Act, No. 2 of 1978

10 “(d) any offence committed by any person on the high seas where-  
(i) such offence is piracy by the law of nations; or  
(ii) such offence is an offence under the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Chapter 218), Conventions Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, No. 1 of 2008 or any such written law;”.

15 3. In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail. Sinhala text to prevail in case of inconsistency

