



Western Australia.

ANNO SEXAGESIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. XXXI.

AN ACT to amend the Laws of Evidence.

[Assented to, 27th October, 1896.]

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. (1.) EVERY person charged with any offence punishable on summary conviction before a Justice or Justices of the Peace in Petty Sessions or otherwise, and the wife or husband of a person so charged, shall be a competent witness.

In certain cases the accused, &c., to be competent witness.

(2.) Nothing in this Act shall affect a case where the wife or husband of a person charged with any offence is at common law a competent and compellable witness.

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Criminal Evidence—Amendment.

Accused not to be
prejudiced by not
giving evidence.

2. IF a person charged with an offence, other than an offence in the last preceding section mentioned, shall refrain from giving evidence on his or her own behalf, or from calling his wife or her husband, as the case may be, as a witness, such person shall not be prejudiced thereby, and no comment adverse to the person charged shall be allowed to be made thereon.

Short title.

3. THIS Act may be cited as the Criminal Evidence Act, 1896.

In the name and on behalf of the Queen I hereby assent
to this Act.

ALEX. C. ONSLOW, Governor's Deputy.