

New Zealand.



ANALYSIS.

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| <p>Title.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short Title. 2. Duration of House of Representatives. Consequential repeals. 3. Alteration of mode of conducting elections for Maori electoral districts. Consequential amendments of principal Act. Repeal. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Miscellaneous amendments with respect to polls for election of Maori members. 5. Application to Maori elections of certain provisions relating to European elections. 6. Amending provisions as to deposits by candidates. |
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1937, No. 18.

Title.

AN ACT to amend the Electoral Act, 1927.

[11th December, 1937.]

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Electoral Amendment Act, 1937, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Electoral Act, 1927 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. VI, p. 469

Duration of House of Representatives.

2. (1) The House of Representatives, as existing on the passing of this Act, and every House of Representatives hereafter elected, shall, unless the General Assembly is sooner dissolved, continue for a period of three years, computed from the day fixed for the return of the writs issued for the general election of members of that House of Representatives, and no longer.

(2) Subsection two of section three of the principal Act, and subsection one of section two of the Electoral Amendment Act, 1934, are hereby repealed.

Consequential
repeals.
1934, No. 16

3. (1) Every person proposing to vote at any election of a Maori member of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Part IV of the principal Act, shall make to the Deputy Returning Officer at the polling-place at which he proposes to vote an application in the prescribed form for a voting-paper.

Alteration of
mode of
conducting
elections for
Maori electoral
districts.

See Reprint
of Statutes,
Vol. VI, p. 542

(2) On receipt of such application the Deputy Returning Officer or his associate shall put to the person proposing to vote the following questions, namely:—

“(a) Are you a *bona fide* resident of the [*Name of Maori Electoral District*]?”

“(b) Are you twenty-one years of age or over that age?”

“(c) Have you already voted at this election in your own name or in any other name?”

“(d) Are you registered on any European roll?”

“(e) Are you disqualified from voting for any reason?”

and shall inform the person proposing to vote of the grounds of disqualification prescribed by section one hundred and twenty-seven and section one hundred and eighty-one of the principal Act.

(3) If the first and second of the said questions are not answered absolutely in the affirmative, and the other questions are not answered absolutely in the negative, the person to whom such questions are put shall not be entitled to vote.

(4) If, after the said questions have been duly put and answered, the Deputy Returning Officer is satisfied that the person proposing to vote is entitled to vote, he shall give to him a ballot-paper in the prescribed form, and the voter shall thereupon retire into one of the inner compartments provided for the purpose, and shall there alone and secretly mark his ballot-paper by striking out the names of the candidates for whom he does not wish to vote.

(5) Every voter, before leaving the inner compartment, shall fold up his ballot-paper so that the contents cannot be seen, and, after showing the Deputy Returning Officer the official mark thereon, shall then deposit the ballot-paper so folded in the ballot-box.

(6) The ballot-paper to be used at elections of Maori members shall be in the form numbered (16) in the First Schedule to the principal Act (being the same form as is used for elections of European members):

Provided that the directions to voters appearing on that form shall, in the case of the election of a Maori member, be given both in the English language and in the Maori language.

Consequential amendments of principal Act.

(7) Subsection one of section one hundred and eighty-six of the principal Act is hereby consequentially amended as follows:—

(a) By omitting from paragraph (*y*) thereof the words “in the form numbered (5) in the Second Schedule hereto”:

(b) By repealing paragraph (*cc*) thereof:

(c) By omitting from paragraph (*dd*) thereof the words “such voting-paper”, and substituting the words “voting-paper, before delivering it to the voter”:

(d) By repealing paragraphs (*ee*) and (*ff*) thereof.

Repeal.

(8) The form numbered (5) in the Second Schedule to the principal Act is hereby repealed.

Miscellaneous amendments with respect to polls for election of Maori members.

4. Section one hundred and eighty-six of the principal Act is hereby further amended as follows:—

(a) By omitting from paragraph (*x*) the words “four o'clock”, and substituting the words “five o'clock”:

(b) By omitting from paragraph (*aa*) all words after the words “one scrutineer for each booth”, and substituting the words “who shall be entitled to be present in that part of the booth in which voting-papers are delivered to voters”:

(c) By inserting, after the words “his associate and clerks” in paragraph (*gg*), the words “any scrutineers duly appointed”.

Cf. 1927, No. 44, s. 124

Application to Maori elections of certain provisions relating to European elections.

5. The following provisions relating to the election of European members shall also apply with respect to the election of Maori members, namely:—

(a) Section one hundred and twenty-six of the principal Act (relating to scrutineers):

(b) Section one hundred and twenty-seven of the principal Act (relating to persons disqualified from voting):

- (c) Section one hundred and twenty-nine of the principal Act (relating to duties of the Deputy Returning Officer immediately prior to the opening of the poll):
- (d) Section one hundred and thirty-five of the principal Act (relating to spoilt ballot-papers):
- (e) Section one hundred and thirty-seven of the principal Act (relating to blind voters):
- (f) Section one hundred and thirty-eight of the principal Act (relating to cases where a voter records more than one vote or two or more voters vote under the same name):
- (g) Section three of the Electoral Amendment Act, 1934, No. 16 1934 (relating to blind voters, and to voters who are unable to read or write).

6. (1) Forthwith after the receipt by him of any deposit made pursuant to section one hundred and eleven or pursuant to paragraph (q) of subsection one of section one hundred and eighty-six of the principal Act, the Returning Officer shall lodge the same at the nearest branch of the Bank of New Zealand by means of a remitting warrant, for credit of the Deposit Account of the Chief Electoral Officer at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand at Wellington.

Amending provisions as to deposits by candidates.

(2) The principal Act is hereby consequentially amended by omitting the words " which sum shall be retained by the Returning Officer until after the official declaration of the poll " from subsection one of section one hundred and eleven thereof, and also from paragraph (q) of subsection one of section one hundred and eighty-six thereof.
