

Coroners (Coronial Cap) Amendment Bill

Government Bill

Explanatory note

General policy statement

This Bill amends the Coroners Act 2006 to increase the maximum number of coroners (full-time equivalents) that can be appointed at any time from 20 to 22.

Departmental disclosure statement

The Ministry of Justice is required to prepare a disclosure statement to assist with the scrutiny of this Bill. The disclosure statement provides access to information about the policy development of the Bill and identifies any significant or unusual legislative features of the Bill.

A copy of the statement can be found at <http://legislation.govt.nz/disclosure.aspx?type=bill&subtype=government&year=2022&no=119>

Regulatory impact statement

A regulatory impact statement is not required for this Bill.

Clause by clause analysis

Clause 1 is the Title clause.

Clause 2 relates to commencement. The Amendment Act will come into force on the day after the date of Royal assent.

Clause 3 indicates that the principal Act amended is the Coroners Act 2006.

Clause 4(1) amends section 109(1) to increase the maximum number of coroners (full-time equivalents) that can be appointed at any time from 20 to 22.

Section 109(2) provides that, for the purposes of section 109(1),—

- a person who (under section 22(a) of the District Court Act 2016) is a coroner by virtue of holding office as a District Court Judge does not count unless he or she is also the chief coroner:
- a person who is a relief coroner does not count (*see also* section 104(7)):
- a coroner who is acting on a full-time basis counts as 1:
- a coroner who is acting on a part-time basis counts as an appropriate fraction of 1:
- the aggregate number [of coroners] (for example, 21.5) must not exceed the maximum number of coroners that is for the time being permitted by section 109(1).

Clause 4(2) makes a consequential amendment to section 109(2)(e).

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The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title

This Act is the Coroners (Coronial Cap) Amendment Act **2022**.

2 Commencement

This Act comes into force on the day after the date of Royal assent. 5

3 Principal Act

This Act amends the Coroners Act 2006.

4 Section 109 amended (Maximum number of coroners)

Substantive amendment

(1) In section 109(1), replace “20” with “22”. 10

Consequential amendment

(2) In section 109(2)(e), replace “13.5” with “21.5”.