

*Hon. Mr Seath*

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND EMPOWERING  
AMENDMENT**

[PRIVATE]

ANALYSIS

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A BILL INTITULED

**An Act to amend the Church of England Empowering Act  
1928**

WHEREAS it is expedient to remove any doubts as to  
5 whether the General Synod of the Church of the Province  
of New Zealand (commonly called the Church of England)  
may authorise the use of different forms of service in different  
parts of the Province: Because the said General Synod now  
meets biennially and not triennially as heretofore it is desirable  
10 to vary the period within which any alteration to the formu-  
laries shall be confirmed by the said General Synod: The  
said General Synod has resolved to permit the experimental  
use of new or amended forms of service under such con-  
ditions and for such period as it shall determine: It is requisite  
15 to amend the Church of England Empowering Act 1928 to  
give effect to the said recited objects:

No. 92—1

*Price 6d.*

2 *Church of England Empowering Amendment*

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

1. **Short Title**—This Act may be cited as The Church of England Empowering Amendment Act 1966 and shall be read together with and deemed part of The Church of England Empowering Act 1928 (hereinafter called “the principal Act”).

2. **Definition of “General Synod”**—Section 2 of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing the definition of the term “General Synod” and substituting the following definition therefor:

“‘General Synod’ shall, except where inconsistent with the context hereof, mean the representative governing body of the Church, including the representatives of the Missionary Dioceses from time to time declared by Canon or Statute of the General Synod to be associated with the General Synod.”

3. **Power to alter formularies for use in any part of the Province**—The principal Act is hereby amended by repealing section 3, and substituting the following section:

“3. It shall be lawful for the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Church, in General Synod assembled, from time to time in such way and to such extent as may to them seem expedient, but subject to the provisions in this Act contained, to alter, add to, or diminish the formularies, or any one or more of them, or any part or parts thereof, or to frame or adopt for use in the Church or in any part of the Province or in any associated Missionary Diocese new formularies in lieu thereof or as alternative thereto or of or to any part or parts thereof and to order or permit the use in public worship of a version or versions other than the Authorised Version of the Bible or of any part or parts thereof:

“Provided that the provisions of this section shall not empower or be deemed to empower the General Synod to depart from the Doctrine and Sacraments of the Church as defined in clause one of the Constitution.”

4. **Amending period within which proposed alterations are to be confirmed**—Section 4 of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing paragraph (c), and substituting the following paragraph:

5 “(c) The General Synod at a session after there shall have been a fresh general election of its members subsequent to such proposal having been adopted shall have confirmed the same by a majority of two-thirds of the members in each order:

Provided that not less than one year nor more than five years shall have elapsed between the first adoption of the proposal in the General Synod and its final confirmation therein; and”.

10 **5. Power to permit experimental use of new or amended form of service**—(1) The principal Act is hereby further amended by inserting after section 4, the following section:

15 “4A. Where a proposal to add to or alter the formularies has been approved by the General Synod with a view to its being made known to the several Diocesan Synods, the General Synod may by resolution determine that after the proposal has received the assent of a majority of the Diocesan Synods the experimental use of the new or amended form of service be permitted under such conditions and for such  
20 period (terminating not later than the last day of the next ensuing ordinary session of the General Synod) as the General Synod shall determine.”

(2) Any resolution expressly stated to be passed by the General Synod in anticipation of the passing of this Act shall  
25 be deemed to have been as valid as if this Act had been passed immediately before and been in operation at the time of the passing of such resolution.

**6. Private Act**—This Act is hereby declared to be a private Act.