

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill amends the Electoral Act 1956 by altering the minimum age for persons qualified to be registered as electors, and to vote at elections, from 20 to 18.

Clause 1 is the Short Title.

Clause 2: Subclause (1) amends the definition of the term "adult" in section 2 (1) of the principal Act. As a result of the amendment the term will mean a person of or over the age of 18 years. Consequently, such a person will be qualified to be registered as an elector under section 39 of the principal Act and to vote under section 99.

Subclause (2) consequently amends section 99 (e) of the principal Act, which states that a serviceman outside New Zealand may vote if he is or will be of or over the age of 20 years before polling day. The subclause alters the age to 18.

Clause 3 amends section 189 (1) (e) of the principal Act, under which (*inter alia*) the definition of "adult" in section 2 (1), and also section 99 (e), are reserved provisions so far as they prescribe 20 years as the minimum age for persons qualified to be registered as electors or to vote. The clause alters the age to 18.

Clause 4 provides that references to the age of 20 years in forms used for the purposes of the principal Act are to be read as references to the age of 18 years.

Clause 5 is a consequential repeal.

Hon. Dr Finlay

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

Title
1. Short Title
2. Qualification of electors

3. Restriction on amendment or repeal
of certain provisions
4. References in forms to age
5. Repeal

A BILL INTITULED

An Act to amend the Electoral Act 1956

BE IT 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 Electoral Amendment Act 1974, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Electoral Act 1956* (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

*1957 Reprint, Vol. 4, p. 341
Amendments: 1958, No. 64; 1959, No. 60; 1960, No. 4; 1963, No. 85; 1965, No. 17; 1967, No. 149; 1969, No. 19

10 2. Qualification of electors—(1) Section 2 (1) of the principal Act (as amended by section 2 (1) of the Electoral Amendment Act 1969) is hereby further amended by omitting from the definition of the term “adult” the words “20 years”, and substituting the words “18 years”.

No. 124—1

(2) Section 99 (e) of the principal Act (as amended by section 2 (2) of the Electoral Amendment Act 1969) is hereby further amended by omitting the words "20 years", and substituting the words "18 years".

3. Restriction on amendment or repeal of certain provisions—Section 189 (1) (e) of the principal Act (as amended by section 3 of the Electoral Amendment Act 1969) is hereby further amended by omitting the words "20 years", and substituting the words "18 years".

4. References in forms to age—Every reference to the age of 20 years in any form hereafter used or intended to be used for the purposes of any application or declaration made or to be made under the principal Act shall be read as a reference to the age of 18 years.

5. Repeal—The Electoral Amendment Act 1969 is hereby repealed.

ENACTED IN PARLIAMENT

THIS 14th DAY OF DECEMBER 1974

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of Parliament at Wellington, this 14th day of December 1974.

EDWARD SHAW, Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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