

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the better Representation of the Native Aboriginal Inhabitants of the Colony of New Zealand.

WHEREAS owing to the peculiar nature of the tenure of Maori land and to other causes the native aboriginal inhabitants of this Colony of New Zealand have not heretofore with few exceptions been able to become registered as electors or to vote at the election of members of the House of Representatives or of the Provincial Councils of the said Colony and it is expedient for the better protection of the interests of Her Majesty's subjects of the native race that temporary provision should be made for the special representation of such Her Majesty's Native subjects in the House of Representatives and the Provincial Councils of the said Colony

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

1. The Short Title of this Act shall be "The Maori Representation Act 1867."

2. The term "Maori" in this Act shall mean an aboriginal native inhabitant of New Zealand and shall not include half-castes.

3. The islands of New Zealand shall for the purposes of this Act be divided into four districts which shall be called severally the Northern Eastern Western and Southern Native Electoral Districts whereof the Northern Native Electoral District shall include the native tribes residing adjacent to and to the north of the city of Auckland The Eastern Native Electoral District shall comprise the native tribe residing to the southward of the said Northern Native Electoral District on the eastern coast of the Northern Island The Western Native Electoral District shall comprise all that part of the Northern Island not included in the Northern and Eastern Native Electoral Districts aforesaid and the Southern Native Electoral District shall comprise the native tribes residing in the Middle and Southern Islands of the said Colony and it

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shall be lawful for the Governor in Council by a proclamation to be issued in that behalf more particularly to define and declare the several boundaries between the northern eastern and western districts herein-before mentioned and the boundaries so defined and declared shall be taken and deemed to be the boundaries of the said districts as fully as if the same had been set forth in this Act. 5

4. For each of the four native electoral districts hereby constituted one member shall be returned to the House of Representatives by the Maori inhabitants thereof as the member thereof as hereinafter provided 10

5. Every Maori inhabitant of any native district constituted by this Act being a male adult of sound mind who shall not have been convicted of any treason or felony shall be entitled to vote at the election of the member of the House of Representatives for such native electoral district. 15

6. So soon as conveniently may be after the passing of this Act the Governor shall appoint fit and proper persons to be the returning officers for each such native electoral district and shall appoint the time and place at which the first election for each such district shall take place and shall cause all proper and necessary steps to be taken for the conduct of every such election and for taking the poll thereat and generally for carrying this Act into operation provided that such steps shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of any law for the time being in force for the conduct of elections. 20

7. It shall be lawful for the Superintendent and Provincial Council 25 of any Province by any Act or Ordinance to be passed in that behalf to provide that one or more members of such Provincial Council shall be elected by the inhabitants of such Province who by virtue of this Act shall have become entitled to vote for a member of the House of Representatives and for such purpose to constitute such 30 native electoral district within such Province as the Superintendent and Provincial Council thereof shall think fit.

8. This Act shall continue in force for five years after the passing thereof Provided that any person who shall have been duly elected under the authority hereof shall continue to be a member of the House 35 of Representatives or of a Provincial Council as the case may be after the expiration of this Act until he shall resign his seat or until the then next dissolution of the House of Representatives or of the Provincial Council as the case may be of which he shall be a member Provided also that any Act or Ordinance of any Superintendent and Provincial 40 Council passed under the authority of this Act shall continue in force notwithstanding the expiration of this Act for such time as shall in such Provincial Act or Ordinance be provided.