## [As Reported from the Education Committee]

House of Representatives, 27 November 1962

Words struck out by the Education Committee are shown with black rule at beginning and after last line of struck out matter; words inserted are shown in roman underlined with a double rule, or with double rule before first line and after last line of new matter.

[As Reported from the Committee of the Whole]

Words struck out by Committee are shown in italics within bold round brackets; words inserted by the Committee are shown with double rule before first line and after last line, with single rule in margin.

Hon. Mr Tennent

# RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND OBSERVANCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### **ANALYSIS**

Title

1. Short Title

Religious instruction and observances in public schools
Attendance at religious instruction

or observances not compulsory

- 4. Teachers may be freed from duties to take part in religious instruction or observances
- 5. Schools other than public schools not affected

#### A BILL INTITULED

# An Act to make provision for religious instruction and observances in public schools

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand 5 in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. Short Title—This Act may be cited as the Religious Instruction and Observances in Public Schools Act 1962, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Education 10 Act 1914\* (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

\*1931 Reprint, Vol. II, p. 1007 Amendments: 1932-33, No. 49; 1934-35, No. 46; 1936, No. 44; 1938, No. 14; 1947, No. 53; 1948, No. 68; 1949, No. 17; 1950, No. 77; 1952, No. 39; 1953, No. 70; 1954, No. 56; 1955, No. 87; 1957, No. 101; 1958, No. 54; 1959, No. 23; 1960, No. 56; 1961, No. 56

2. Religious instruction and observances in public schools— Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in subsection (4) of section 56 of the principal Act and notwithstanding the hours defined under section 32 of that Act for the opening and closing of any public school, if the School Committee for the school district in which the school is situated, after consultation with the Head Teacher, so determines, any class or classes at the school, or the school as a whole, may be closed at any time or times of the school day for a period not exceeding thirty minutes for any class in any week for 10 the purposes of religious instruction given by voluntary instructors approved by the School Committee and of religious observances (at school assemblies) conducted in a manner approved by the School Committee or for either of those purposes; and the school buildings may be used for those 15 purposes or for either of them.

### Struck Out

3. Attendance at religious instruction or observances not compulsory—(1) No pupil enrolled at a public school shall be required to attend or take part in any such instruction or 20 observances—

(a) If, in the case of a pupil who is enrolled at the school at the commencement of this Act and remains continuously so enrolled, any parent or guardian of the pupil does not wish the pupil to take part therein 25 and makes his or her wishes known to the School Committee or to the Head Teacher of the school:

(b) Unless, in the case of any other pupil, a parent or guardian of the pupil has consented thereto in writing.

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(2) Any parent or guardian who has given such an indication of wishes or such a consent may at any time withdraw it.

### New

3. Attendance at religious instruction or observances not compulsory—(1) No pupil enrolled at a public school shall 35 be required to attend or take part in any such instruction or observances if any parent or guardian of the pupil does not wish the pupil to take part therein and makes his or her wishes known in writing to the Head Teacher of the school.

(2) Any parent or guardian who has given such an indica- 40 tion of wishes may at any time withdraw it.

4. Teachers may be freed from duties to take part in religious instruction or observances—Any teacher at a public school shall, if the School Committee for the school district in which the school is situated so approves, at his request be freed from school duties for up to thirty minutes a week to allow him to take part in his own school in religious instruction and religious observances or either,

New

but no person shall directly or indirectly bring any pressure to bear on a teacher to induce the teacher to take any such part, and the position of any teacher and his opportunities for appointments and for promotion shall not be adversely affected because he does not take part in religious instruction and religious observances or either.

5. Schools other than public schools not affected—Nothing in this Act shall affect religious instruction or religious observances in schools other than public schools.