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(Mr. Bunny.)

Wellington Mayors.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	3. First election under this Act.
Preamble.	4. How election to take place.
1. Short Title.	5. Extraordinary vacancies.
2. When present office vacant, Mayors to be elected by ratepayers.	6. How filled up.
	7. Existing Act to apply.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Election of Mayors of the City of Wellington. Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make other provisions than those which by law now exist for the election of Mayors of the City of Wellington: Preamble.

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 Wellington Mayors Act, 1874." Short Title.

2. So soon as the present Mayor of the City of Wellington shall under the provisions of "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1867," or of any Act passed subsequently thereto relating to Municipal Corporations in New Zealand, cease to be Mayor of the said city, either by effluxion of the term of office or from or by any other cause or means, then and from thenceforward the Mayor for the time being of the said city shall be elected in manner hereinafter provided. When present office vacant, Mayors to be elected by ratepayers.

3. So soon as the present Mayor of the said city shall cease to be Mayor as aforesaid, then, if such vacancy shall occur by effluxion of the term of office, an election shall be held to fill the said office on the day next after the day on which such vacancy shall occur, if such day shall not be a Sunday or a public holiday, and in that case on the following day; and in case such vacancy shall occur otherwise than by effluxion of the term of office, then an election shall be held to fill such office on the fourteenth day next after the day on which such vacancy shall occur, if such day be not a Sunday or a public holiday, and in that case on the following day; and the Town Clerk shall notify such vacancy as last mentioned in some newspaper generally circulating within the city, and that an election will take place to fill the same; and on the day of election in either of the said cases, those persons who for the time being would be entitled to vote in the election of Councillors for the said city shall in manner hereinafter mentioned elect to be Mayor of the said city some person then qualified to be a Councillor for the said city, and the person so elected shall hold the office of Mayor of the said city until the third First election under this Act.

Wednesday in the month of December next succeeding his election ; and on the third Wednesday in the month of December in each year succeeding the year in which a Mayor shall first be elected under the preceding part of this section, if such day shall not be a Sunday or a public holiday, and in that case on the day following, some person so qualified as aforesaid shall in like manner be elected Mayor of the said city for the year then next ensuing. 5

How election to take place.

4. Every election of a Mayor of the said city to be made under the authority of this Act shall be held in the same manner, and the proceedings shall be the like as now are or as shall from time to time by law hereafter be required and provided for with respect to the elections of Councillors for the said city, save that the candidate who shall have the greatest number of votes in all the wards of the said city taken together shall be deemed and declared to be elected Mayor ; and all the provisions of the laws now in force relating to the election of Councillors of the said city shall, so far as the same are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, apply to elections under this Act. 10 15

Extraordinary vacancies.

5. Every extraordinary vacancy in the office of Mayor of the said city shall be filled up by election as aforesaid as if the same were an ordinary vacancy ; but the person elected to fill an extraordinary vacancy shall hold the office of Mayor until the expiration of the current year of office only, and he shall then go out of office. 20

How filled up.

6. Whenever an extraordinary vacancy shall occur in the office of Mayor of the said city, the persons by whom such vacancy is to be filled up shall upon a day which shall be notified by the Town Clerk in some newspaper generally circulating within the said city, not being less than eight nor more than fourteen days after the occurrence of such vacancy, and in default of such notification then on the fourteenth day after the occurrence of such vacancy if such day shall not be a Sunday or a public holiday, and then on the following day, elect in manner aforesaid a person qualified as aforesaid to fill such vacancy. 25 30

Existing Act to apply.

7. Except in regard to the mode of electing the Mayor of the said city as aforesaid, all the provisions of the hereinbefore-mentioned Act, and of all other Acts for the time in force relating to Municipal Corporations in New Zealand, shall, so far as the same are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, apply to every Mayor elected for the said city under this Act. 35