

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

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Presented to the House of Representatives in accordance with Standing Order 272 J.17

Legislative Statement – the Education and Training Amendment Bill: Second Reading

The purpose of the Education and Training Amendment Bill is to make a number of small and non-controversial amendments to the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), to progress the education work programme and contribute to the continuous improvement of the education sector.

The Bill was reported back from select committee, without amendment, on 4 August 2021.

The Bill amends the Act to:

- retain three schedules, which would otherwise be repealed and converted to regulations, in the Act. These schedules cover matters related to National Student Numbers, school enrolment schemes and school boards that belong more properly in primary legislation. The Bill must be in force by 1 January 2022 as that is when the first schedule is automatically repealed;
- ensure that the Police vetting requirements work more effectively with the safety checking provisions in the Children’s Act 2014, so that children are safe when engaging in education;
- extend by a year the prohibition on tertiary education providers charging trainees a compulsory student services fee when they transfer to Te Pūkenga, the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology. This is to allow the Ministry time to complete work relating to the fee that was disrupted due to COVID-19;
- specify the five education agencies that must comply with a statement of expectations relating to Te Tiriti o Waitangi issued under section 6 of the Act. The agencies are not named in the Act which has resulted in some uncertainty; and
- make a number of other minor and technical amendments.