



## ANALYSIS

Title	1. Short Title 2. Functions and powers of Society
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1981, No. 54

**An Act to amend the Law Practitioners Act 1955 in respect of the powers of the New Zealand Law Society in relation to law offices and legal advice bureaux in certain localities**  
*[20 October 1981]*

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 Law Practitioners Amendment Act 1981, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Law Practitioners Act 1955 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

**2. Functions and powers of Society**—Section 114 of the principal Act (as amended by section 7 of the Law Practitioners Amendment Act 1975) is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

“(3) The Council may from time to time, in writing, grant to any body of persons operating or intending to operate a law office or legal advice bureau in any locality in which there is or (but for the office or bureau) would be an unmet legal need, or to any solicitor employed by any such body in any such office or bureau, exemption from all or any of the provisions of sections 17, 19, and 20 of this Act; and every such exemption shall have effect according to its tenor.

“(4) The Society may, after consultation with the body of persons concerned, impose in respect of any such exemption such conditions as the Society thinks fit, including any condition designed to ensure that, in general, the law office or legal advice bureau does not undertake any class of legal work in respect of which there is no unmet legal need in that locality.

“(5) Part VI of this Act (which relates to the Solicitors’ Fidelity Guarantee Fund) shall apply, with all necessary modifications, to any office or bureau to which this section applies as if the operation of the office or bureau were the carrying on by a solicitor of the practice of his profession on his own account without partners; and for the purposes of that Part, as applied by this subsection, all fees and levies shall be payable in the same manner and at the same times as they are payable by solicitors.

“(6) In this section the expression ‘unmet legal need’, in relation to any locality, includes legal work required by residents of the locality which, because of the uneconomic nature of the work or the unavailability of practitioners willing to undertake the work, is not being adequately undertaken by practitioners in the ordinary course of their practice.”

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This Act is administered in the Department of Justice.

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