

New Parliament.

Sir G. Grey.

Constitution Act Amendment Act.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title. Preamble. 1. Short Title. 2. Appointment of Board. 3. Board to divide New Zealand into electoral districts, and apportion members.</p>	<p>4. Board to report to Governor. 5. Select Committee to be appointed to consider report. 6. Report as adopted by House to be final.</p>
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The New Zealand Constitution Act." Title.

WHEREAS by the forty-first section of "The New Zealand Constitution Act" it is enacted that, in determining the number of members of the House of Representatives to be elected for each electoral district, regard shall be had to the number of electors within the same, so that the number of members to be assigned to any one district may bear to the whole number of the members of the House of Representatives, as nearly as may be, the same proportion as the number of electors within such district shall bear to the whole number of electors in New Zealand: And whereas no provision has been made for giving effect to this section of "The New Zealand Constitution Act:"

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 is "The Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1879." Short Title.

2. There shall be a Board, consisting of the persons from time to time holding the following offices: The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Colonial Secretary, the Surveyor-General, and the Registrar-General; any three of such persons shall form a quorum, and may exercise all powers and functions vested in the Board. Appointment of Board.

The Board may make such rules for the conduct of its business as it thinks fit, so long as the same are consistent with this Act.

3. Within three months after the end of the present session of Parliament, and within three months after the taking of every census taken under any law for the time being in force, the Board shall divide New Zealand into the same number of electoral districts as the number of members to be elected for the colony, exclusive of Maori members. Board to divide New Zealand into electoral districts and apportion members.

This division into electoral districts shall be so made, that the number of members assigned to each electoral district shall bear to the whole number of the members of the House of Representatives, as nearly as may be, the same proportion as the number of electors within such district shall bear to the whole number of electors in New Zealand. 5

The districts shall be of two classes, country districts and town districts.

The country districts shall, as far as practicable, be so arranged that only one member shall be elected for each district. 10

Board to report to Governor.

4. When the Board shall have performed the functions hereby imposed upon it, it shall make a report to the Governor, setting forth the names and boundaries of the proposed electoral districts and of the number of members assigned to each.

The Governor shall cause such report to be forthwith printed in the Government *Gazette*. 15

Select Committee to be appointed to consider report.

5. Immediately after the commencement of the session of Parliament which shall follow next after the publication of any such report, it shall be presented by the Governor to the House of Representatives, and a Select Committee of members shall be thereupon appointed to consider such report, and either to adopt or alter and amend the same, as the said committee shall think fit; and, upon their adoption, alteration, or amendment of such report, the Committee shall prepare a report stating the reasons for their adoption, alteration, or amendment of the said report, and shall lay the same before the House. 20 25

Report as adopted by House to be final.

6. The House shall thereupon proceed to consider the report of their Committee, and shall either adopt, alter, or amend the said report, as the House may deem expedient; and upon the ultimate adoption by the House of such report, in its original or altered or amended form, the electoral districts so fixed by the House of Representatives, and the number of members, respectively assigned to each, shall constitute the electoral districts into which New Zealand is to be divided, until such time as another census of the colony has been taken, and a new report has been adopted by the House of Representatives of New Zealand, in the manner set forth in this Act. 30