

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

By section 35 of the Finance Act, 1932, the possible duration of the present Parliament was extended by one year. The purpose of the present Bill is to extend this provision to subsequent Parliaments, thus making a maximum interval of four years between general elections.

Under the present law the election of members of Licensing Committees follows the triennial licensing poll; subclause (2) of clause 2 of the Bill makes the necessary consequential amendment, and provides in effect that Licensing Committee elections shall also be held at four-yearly intervals.

This PUBLIC BILL originated in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

*House of Representatives,
4th October, 1934.*

Right Hon. Mr. Forbes.

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.
1. Short Title.

2. Parliamentary elections to be held at intervals of four years. Consequential amendment of provisions for election of Licensing Committees.
3. Voting by blind or illiterate voters.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Electoral Act, 1927.

Title.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Electoral Amendment Act, 1934, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Electoral Act, 1927 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).
- 10 2. (1) Section three of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection two the word "three" and substituting the word "four".
(2) Section fifty-one of the Finance Act, 1931 (No. 4), is hereby amended by omitting from subsection one the
15 word "third" and substituting the word "fourth".
3. (1) In lieu of voting in the manner prescribed by section one hundred and thirty-seven of the principal Act, any voter who is blind or is unable to read or
20 write may, if he so desires, vote in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Short Title.

See Reprint of Statutes,
Vol. VI, p. 469

Parliamentary elections to be held at intervals of four years.

Consequential amendment of provisions for election of Licensing Committees.

See Reprint of Statutes,
Vol. IV, p. 251

Voting by blind or illiterate voters.

See Reprint of Statutes,
Vol. VI, pp. 524,
538

(2) At the request of any such voter who has received a ballot-paper he may be accompanied into one of the inner compartments reserved for the marking of ballot-papers by any person who is qualified in accordance with the provisions of this section to assist such voter in the marking of his ballot-paper, and the ballot-paper shall be there marked by the voter with the assistance of his companion or may be marked by the companion in accordance with the instructions of the voter. 5

(3) No person shall be qualified under this section to assist more than two voters to mark their ballot-papers at any election, and no person shall be qualified to assist any voter as aforesaid unless he is registered as an elector, whether of the same or of some other district. 10 15

(4) Before any person is allowed to assist a person to vote in accordance with this section he shall be required to satisfy the Deputy Returning Officer that he is registered as an elector and that he has not already assisted more than one voter to vote at the election. 20

(5) If any person who assists a voter to vote in accordance with this section communicates at any time to any person any information obtained in the polling-booth as to the candidate for whom the voter is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number on the back of the ballot-paper given to the voter, he shall be liable to the same penalty as if he had committed an offence against section one hundred and sixty-six of the principal Act. 25