

ELECTRIC LINEMEN AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill amends the Electric Linemen Act 1959 to empower the making of regulations prescribing special kinds or techniques of work on overhead lines which may be undertaken by persons qualified to undertake linemen's work only if they are specially qualified in those kinds or techniques of that work.

Clause 1 relates to the Short Title.

Clause 2 amends section 2 of the principal Act by adding to the definition of the term "prescribed work" words which make it clear that certain kinds or techniques of prescribed work may be undertaken only by such classes or categories of qualified persons referred to in section 19 (1) of the principal Act as may be prescribed by regulation.

Clause 3 amends section 9 of the principal Act by inserting 2 new paragraphs extending the functions of the Electric Linemen Training Committee. The new paragraph (ee) enables the Committee to grant and issue certificates relating to examinations passed and experience gained in any special kind or technique of prescribed work by qualified persons referred to in section 19 (1) of the principal Act, other than those holding certificates of competency as electric linemen.

The new paragraph (eee) enables the Committee to endorse on certificates of competency as electric linemen particulars of examinations passed and experience gained by the holders of the certificates in any special kind or technique of prescribed work.

Clause 4 makes consequential amendments to section 16 of the principal Act to enable the Committee to consider applications for certificates of competency as electric linemen, certificates which may be granted to other qualified persons, and endorsements on certificates of competency.

Clause 5 makes amendments to section 17 of the principal Act, and to section 3 (4) of the Electric Linemen Amendment Act 1966. At present, certificates of competency are "endorsed" with particulars of refresher courses in safety precautions and resuscitation undertaken by the holder of the certificate. To avoid confusion with the endorsement of certificates of competency with particulars of special training and experience, this clause provides that particulars of refresher courses will be "noted" on the certificates of competency.

Clause 6 makes 2 small amendments to section 19 of the principal Act. The word "noted" is substituted for the word "endorsed" in paragraph (b) of subsection (1), and mention is made of registered electrical technicians in paragraph (c) of subsection (1) as a further class of person qualified to do work on any overhead line. The class of registered electrical technicians was established under the Electricians Act 1952 by the Electricians Amendment Act 1969 and is the highest category of registration which may be effected under the Electricians Act 1952.

Clause 7 amends section 25 of the principal Act. The words "of competency" are omitted from section 25 (2) of the principal Act. This enables those other forms of certificate mentioned in *clause 3* to be prescribed by regulations. A new paragraph (ff) is inserted to enable regulations to be made prescribing any class or category of qualified persons referred to in section 19 (1) of the principal Act to be the only persons who by virtue of any examination passed or experience gained may engage in any special kind or technique of prescribed work.

Hon. Mr Allen

ELECTRIC LINEMEN AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

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A BILL INTITULED

An Act to amend the Electric Linemen Act 1959

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

1. Short Title—This Act may be cited as the Electric Linemen Amendment Act 1970, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Electric Linemen Act 1959* (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

10 **2. Interpretation**—Section 2 of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding to the definition of the term “prescribed work” the words “or which, being any special kind or technique of prescribed work, may only be done by such classes or categories of those qualified persons as may be prescribed
15 by those regulations in respect of that special kind or technique of prescribed work”.

*1959, No. 46
Amendment: 1966, No. 33

3. Functions of Committee—Section 9 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after paragraph (c), the following paragraphs:

“(ee) To provide for the granting and issue to qualified persons referred to in subsection (1) of section 19 of this Act, other than those holding certificates of competency as electric linemen, certificates relating to examinations passed and experience gained in any special kind or technique of prescribed work: 5 10

“(eee) To provide for the endorsement on certificates of competency as electric linemen particulars of examinations passed and experience gained in any special kind or technique of prescribed work:”.

4. Mode of certification—(1) Section 16 of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection (1) the words “a certificate of competency”, and substituting the words “any certificate or endorsement”. 15

(2) The said section 16 is hereby further amended by repealing subsections (4) to (7), and substituting the following subsections: 20

“(4) If the Committee, after considering any application as aforesaid, is of opinion that the applicant is entitled to the grant of any certificate or endorsement under this Act in accordance with his application, it shall so direct, and the Registrar shall thereupon issue the certificate or endorsement, and shall notify the applicant accordingly. 25

“(5) If the Committee, after considering any application as aforesaid, is of opinion that the applicant is not entitled to a certificate or endorsement under this Act in accordance with his application, it shall direct accordingly, and the Registrar shall thereupon refuse to issue the certificate or endorsement, and shall notify the applicant accordingly. 30

“(6) The Registrar, in accordance with the direction of the Committee, shall compile and keep a register of persons to whom certificates or endorsements have been granted under this Act. 35

“(7) Every person to whom a certificate or endorsement has been granted under this Act shall be entitled to receive a certificate or endorsement under the hand of the Registrar. Every such certificate or endorsement shall remain the property of the Committee and shall be surrendered as required under this Act or on demand by the Registrar in writing.” 40

5. Duration of certificate of competency—(1) Section 17 of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection (3) the word “endorsed”, and substituting the word “noted”.

5 (2) Section 3 of the Electric Linemen Amendment Act 1966 is hereby consequentially amended by omitting from subsection (4) the word “endorsed”, and substituting the word “noted”.

6. Restriction on doing work on overhead line—Section 19 of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a) By omitting from paragraph (b) of subsection (1) (as amended by section 4 of the Electric Linemen Amendment Act 1966) the word “endorsed”, and substituting the word “noted”:

15 (b) By omitting from paragraph (c) of subsection (1) the words “registered electrician”, and inserting the words “registered electrical technician, or registered electrician,”.

7. Regulations—(1) Section 25 of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from subsection (2) the words “of competency” wherever they occur.

(2) The said section 25 is hereby further amended by inserting after paragraph (f) of subsection (2), the following paragraph:

25 “(ff) Prescribing any class or category of qualified persons referred to in subsection (1) of section 19 of this Act who by virtue of any examination passed or experience gained by them in any special kind or technique of prescribed work shall be the only
30 persons who may engage in that special kind or technique of prescribed work:”.