

LICENSING ACT AMENDMENT.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend "The Licensing Act, 1881."

Title.

WHEREAS it is desirable to amend "The Licensing Act, 1881," and to give to the people greater control over the granting and refusing of licenses:

Preamble.

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 Licensing Act 1881 Amendment Act, 1893."

Short Title.

2. In this Act the expression "the said Act" means "The Licensing Act, 1881."

Interpretation.

3. Section forty-five of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following section is substituted therefor, namely,—

Section 45 repealed.

From and after the commencement of this Act no publicans', New Zealand wine, accommodation, or bottle license shall be granted until the electors, whose names appear on the roll to be prepared under the provisions of the sixth section of this Act, shall have previously determined, in manner hereinafter provided,—

- (1.) Whether any such licenses are to be granted or not;
- (2.) Whether the number of any such licenses is to be reduced; and
- (3.) Whether the number of any such licenses is to be increased or not.

4. Section forty-seven of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor, namely,—

Section 47 repealed.

At such poll the questions set forth in the third section of this Act shall be submitted in the form set forth in the Schedule set forth in the ninth section of this Act.

5. Section forty-nine of the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following is enacted in lieu thereof, namely,—

Section 49 repealed.

As soon as conveniently may be after the result of the poll has been ascertained, the Chairman shall give public notice of the number of votes recorded for and against the several proposals as above provided, and shall declare the resolutions to be carried or rejected, as the case may be. If the majority of the votes given are in favour of the proposal that no licenses of the kind in respect whereof the vote has been taken are to be granted, or the proposal that the number of licenses of the kind in respect whereof the vote has been taken is to be reduced, or that the number of licenses of the kind whereof the vote has been taken shall not be increased, then that shall be the determination or determinations, and shall be binding on the Licensing Committee; and in the case of such determination being that the number of licenses is to be reduced, then the number of publicans' licenses granted shall not be more than such a number that there shall be one such license in respect of every seven hundred and fifty inhabitants in the licensing district, and the census returns shall be conclusive evidence of the number of inhabitants in each licensing district; and in the case of wine, accommodation, or bottle licenses the Licensing Committee shall reduce the number by such a number as the Committee shall think desirable.

Electors to be added to ratepayers' roll.

6. Before any poll is taken as provided by the *third* section of this Act the Clerk of the Licensing Committee shall add to the ratepayers' roll of the licensing district the names of all persons (not already in such ratepayers' roll) appearing in the roll of electors for the election of members of the House of Representatives who reside in the licensing district, or are enrolled in respect of any qualification situate in the licensing district; or, if the licensing district is not wholly comprised in one electoral district, but in more than one, then such clerk shall add as aforesaid the names of all electors appearing in the rolls for such electoral districts who reside in the licensing district, or are enrolled on either of such rolls in respect of a qualification situate in the licensing district; and such ratepayers' roll, when so amended as aforesaid, shall be the roll for the taking of the poll under sections of this Act, and the provisions of the second and third paragraphs of the fifty-first section of the said Act shall be deemed to be added to this section.

Section 46 repealed.

7. The forty-sixth section of the said Act is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof it is enacted as follows:—

The Governor in Council shall appoint some one day in the month of March, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four, and thereafter in the month of March in every third year, for the taking in all licensing districts throughout the colony of the poll to be taken under the provisions of the said Act as amended by this Act; and the Returning Officer in each licensing district shall give not less than fourteen days' notice of the day so appointed.

Pledge not to disqualify.

8. The fact that a member of a licensing committee has, prior to his election or at any time, given a pledge to reduce the number of licenses, or to refuse all licenses, or has expressed any opinion as to the policy of granting licenses, shall not disqualify such member from sitting and acting as a member of the licensing committee; nor shall the fact of any member of a licensing committee or any number of members having so pledged or expressed themselves render any decision or act of such committee liable to be questioned or set aside.

Section 47 repealed.

Section 48 repealed.

9. The Second Schedule to the said Act is hereby repealed, and the following is enacted in lieu thereof:—

Form of voting-paper.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

FORM OF VOTING-PAPER.

*In respect of Publicans' Licenses.*

- I vote that no publicans' licenses be granted.
- I vote that the number of publicans' licenses be reduced.
- I vote that the number of publicans' licenses may be increased.
- I vote that the number of publicans' licenses may not be increased.

*In respect of New Zealand Wine Licenses.*

- I vote that no New Zealand wine licenses be granted.
- I vote that the number of New Zealand wine licenses be reduced.
- I vote that the number of New Zealand wine licenses may be increased.
- I vote that the number of New Zealand wine licenses may not be increased.

*In respect of Accommodation Licenses.*

- I vote that no accommodation licenses be granted.
- I vote that the number of accommodation licenses be reduced.
- I vote that the number of accommodation licenses may be increased.
- I vote that the number of accommodation licenses may not be increased.

*In respect of Bottle Licenses.*

- I vote that no bottle licenses be granted.
- I vote that the number of bottle licenses be reduced.
- I vote that the number of bottle licenses may be increased.
- I vote that the number of bottle licenses may not be increased.

*Directions.*

In each of the foregoing cases the voter is to strike out the proposal for which he does not vote by drawing a line through the same with a pencil.

He must be careful not to leave uncancelled more than one proposal in each case; otherwise the vote in such case will be void in respect of that particular proposal.

The ballot-paper so marked by or for the voter is to be dropped by him into the ballot-box.

The voter is not allowed to take his ballot-paper out of the polling-booth.