

Mr. G. W. Russell.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REFORM.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Present Councillors to cease to hold office.</p> <p>3. Council to be elected.</p> <p>4. Number of members.</p> <p>5. Governor to group electoral districts.</p> <p>6. Maori members.</p> <p>7. Returning Officer.</p> <p>8. Qualification of Councillors.</p> <p>9. Qualification of electors.</p> <p>10. Elections.</p>	<p>11. Term of office.</p> <p>12. Vacancies.</p> <p>13. Speaker.</p> <p>14. Chairman of Committees.</p> <p>15. Councillor may resign.</p> <p>16. Vacancy for non-attendance.</p> <p>17. Voting in Council. Speaker shall have a casting-vote.</p> <p>18. Voting in preference.</p> <p>19. Amendment of the Legislature Act, 1908.</p> <p>20. Privileges of Councillors.</p>
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide that the Legislative Council shall be directly chosen by the Electors. Title.

BE IT 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 Legislative Council Reform Act, 1910. Short Title.
- 2. From and after the date of the dissolution of the present General Assembly the persons who are members of the Legislative Council (herein called "the Council") shall cease to hold office. Present Councillors to cease to hold office.
- 3. The Council shall thereafter be composed of persons directly chosen by the electors of the Dominion. Council to be elected.
- 4. The number of members of the Council shall be one-half that of the House of Representatives. Number of members.
- 5. The Governor shall by Order in Council group contiguous electoral districts of the Dominion into groups of four, and for each group of such electoral districts there shall be two members of the Council. Governor to group electoral districts.
- 6. There shall be two Maori members of the Council, who shall be elected for the Maori electoral districts of the Dominion. Maori members.
- 7. The Governor in Council shall appoint a Returning Officer for the election to the Council, who shall be a Returning Officer for one of the electoral districts which are grouped together, and he Returning Officer.

	shall do all things necessary to carry out this Act. All other Returning Officers in the group shall act under his instructions, and do all such things as may be necessary to give effect to this Act.	
Qualification of Councillors.	8. The qualifications of a Councillor shall be the same as those for a member of the House of Representatives.	5
Qualification of electors.	9. The qualifications of electors of Councillors shall be the same as those of electors of members of the House of Representatives, and the rolls of the four grouped electorates shall be the roll for the election of Councillors.	
Elections.	10. The elections to the Council shall take place on the same day, in the same manner and under the same conditions, and at the same polling-places as those for the House of Representatives.	10
Term of office.	11. At the first general election for the Council two members shall be elected to the Council for each group of four electoral districts and the Maori electoral districts. At the next following general election the Councillor who had at the first election received the lesser number of votes in the group for which he was elected shall cease to hold office, and at each successive dissolution of Parliament that member for each group who has been longest in office without re-election shall cease to hold office, so that the tenure of office shall be for two Parliaments.	15 20
Vacancies.	12. If the place of a Councillor becomes vacant before the expiration of his term of office, the Council shall proceed, by resolution, to choose a person to hold the office until the expiration of the term.	25
Speake	13. On assembling after each general election the Council shall, before proceeding to the despatch of any other business, choose a Councillor to be Speaker of the Council; and as often as the office of Speaker becomes vacant the Council shall again choose a Councillor to be Speaker. The Speaker shall cease to hold office if he ceases to be a Councillor. He may be removed from office by a vote of the Council, or he may resign his office or his seat by writing addressed to the Governor.	30
Chairman of Committees.	14. In like manner the Council shall choose a Chairman of Committees, who shall perform the duties of Speaker in the Speaker's absence, and shall hold office or cease to hold office under the same conditions as the Speaker.	35
Councillor may resign.	15. A Councillor may, by writing addressed to the Speaker, or to the Governor if there is no Speaker, resign his seat, which thereupon shall become vacant.	40
Vacancy for non-attendance.	16. The place of a Councillor shall become vacant if for two consecutive months of any session of Parliament he, without the permission of the Council, fails to attend the Council.	
Voting in Council. Speaker shall have a casting-vote.	17. Questions arising in the Council shall be determined by a majority of votes, and each Councillor shall have one vote. The Speaker shall in all cases be entitled to a vote; and when the votes are equal the question shall pass in the negative; and the question shall be again put on the next sitting day, and if the voting is again equal the Speaker shall have a casting-vote.	45
Voting in preference.	18. The ballot-papers for elections to the Council shall be so that each voter may strike out the names of those for whom he does not wish to vote, and may indicate a preference by placing the	50

figures one and two after his first and second preference candidate. The persons who receive the largest number of preference votes shall be declared elected.

5 **19.** In so far as this Act is inconsistent with the Legislature Act, 1908, the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

**20.** The privileges conferred upon members of the Council by section eight of the Legislature Act, 1908, shall be extended to all members of the Council who hold office at the date of the dissolution of the Council now in existence.

Amendment of the  
Legislature Act,  
1908.  
Privileges of  
Councillors.