

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,
3rd September, 1896.*

Hon. Mr. Seddon.

PRIVATE BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

ANALYSIS.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to regulate Benefit Societies established or assisted by Employers for the benefit of their Workers, and to the Funds whereof such Workers contribute. Title.

5 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 Private Benefit Societies Act, 1896," and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Friendly Societies Act, 1882" (hereinafter called "the principal Act"). Short Title.

2. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context,— Interpretation.
"Employer" means any person or company employing any worker for hire or reward:

15 "Worker" means any person of either sex or any age employed for hire or reward by an employer to perform any species of skilled or unskilled manual work, and includes "workman," as defined by "The Truck Act, 1891":

20 "Private benefit society" means any society of not less than seven persons, established or assisted by an employer, which offers to his workers, as members of such society, benefits beyond their ordinary hire or reward, and to the funds of which both employer and workers contribute money or money's worth.

25 3. Every private benefit society now in existence shall, within three months after the passing of this Act, and every such society hereafter formed shall, within one month after its formation, become registered as a friendly society under the principal Act, in manner by that Act prescribed. Benefit societies to register as friendly societies.

- Penalty for neglect. 4. If any private benefit society neglects to so register as aforesaid within the period aforesaid, the employer establishing or assisting such society, and every officer thereof, is liable to a penalty of not less than *ten* shillings, nor more than *two* pounds, for every day during which such neglect continues : 5
- Membership not to be condition of employment. Penalty for making membership a condition of employment. Provided that where any society has applied to be registered, and the rules of such society have been sent to the Registrar for his approval, the penalties herein mentioned shall not be enforced during the period the said rules are under consideration.
- Option of retaining membership. 5. No employer shall in any way make membership of a private benefit society a condition of the employment by him of any worker. 10
- Tables of contributions and surrender values to be certified. 6. Any employer who directly or indirectly, by himself, his agent, manager, clerk, or foreman, makes or attempts to make membership of a private benefit society a condition of employment, or dismisses any worker because of his refusal to join such society, is liable to a penalty of not less than *five* nor more than *ten* pounds : 15
- Matters to be provided for in rules. 7. Members of a private benefit society shall have the option of remaining members of such society after leaving the service of the employer. 20
8. No private benefit society shall be entitled to register unless all tables of contributions and surrender values under which it works are certified to as sufficient by some competent actuary, approved by the Governor, and are sent to the Registrar with the application for registry. 25
9. The rules of every private benefit society, in addition to making provisions in respect to the matters referred to in subsection one of section eleven of the principal Act, shall also make provision in respect of the matters following, that is to say :— 30
- (1.) Status and rights of employer.
 - (2.) Scale and method of contributions by employer and by other members.
 - (3.) Benefits assured to members.
 - (4.) Purposes to which funds may be devoted. 35
 - (5.) Permitting or prohibiting admission of honorary members.
 - (6.) Surrender value to members withdrawing from the society.
 - (7.) Dissolution of the society in the event of the employer ceasing to contribute, or otherwise.