

Hon. Sir J. G. Ward.

PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title.</p> <p>1. Short Title.</p> <p>2. Power of local authorities to disinfect premises.</p> <p>3. Where infectious disease suspected to exist.</p> <p>4. Sections 32 and 35 of principal Act amended.</p>	<p>5. Combined district may be under control of Department.</p> <p>6. Expenses of local authorities.</p> <p>7. Power to close schools.</p> <p>8. Power to order vaccination on outbreak of small-pox.</p>
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Law relating to Public Health.

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 Public Health Amendment Act, 1902," and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Public Health Act, 1900" (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act").

Short Title.

2. (1.) Section twenty-eight of the principal Act (relating to the powers of local authorities in respect of infected persons and things) is hereby amended by inserting after the word "cause," in subsection one thereof, the words "to be disinfected any premises in which any infectious disease has occurred, and also cause."

Power of local authorities to disinfect premises.

(2.) Section twenty-nine of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting after the word "infected," in the proviso thereto, the words "premises and."

3. (1.) Where a local authority has reason to suspect that any infectious disease exists in any premises and no notice thereof under section twenty-six of the principal Act has been given to the local authority, it may authorise any medical practitioner to visit the suspected premises and report thereon.

Where infectious disease suspected to exist.

(2.) If the medical practitioner finds that infectious disease does exist in such premises, the local authority shall take such steps under sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight of the principal Act as they deem necessary to prevent the spread of the infectious disease.

(3.) All costs and expenses incurred by the local authority under this section (including the medical practitioner's fee) shall be paid by the occupier of the premises in every case where an infectious disease is found to exist and no notice as aforesaid has been given, and such costs and expenses may be recovered by the local authority accordingly.

Sections 32 and 35
of principal Act
amended.

(4.) For the purposes of this section the medical practitioner shall be deemed to be an officer of the local authority.

4. Sections thirty-two and thirty-five of the principal Act (imposing penalties for the exposure of infected persons and things), are hereby amended by repealing the word "dangerous," wherever it occurs in those sections. 5

Combined district
may be under con-
trol of Department.

5. Where two or more districts are combined under the provisions of the principal Act into one district, the Governor, in lieu of appointing the local authority of any district to act as the local authority of the combined district, may by Order in Council direct that the combined district shall, on such terms and conditions as the Governor thinks fit to specify, be under the control of the Department of Public Health for any of the purposes of the principal Act specified in the Order in Council. 10

Expenses of local
authorities.

6. All expenses incurred by a local authority in carrying out any of the provisions of the principal Act may be paid by the local authority out of its general funds, and, in order to meet any such expenses, it shall be lawful for the local authority, in addition to its other rating powers, to raise the amount required by a separate rate, not exceeding *two*-pence in the pound on the capital value of the rateable property of the district, or its equivalent on the unimproved value or annual value, according to the system of rating adopted in the district. 15 20

Power to close
schools.

7. The District Health Officer may, whenever he deems it expedient, direct that any school shall be closed for any specified period, and may order the schoolhouse to be disinfected, and the School Committee shall comply with any such direction and order; and if it makes default in so doing the District Health Officer shall cause the work to be done at the cost of the School Committee. 25

Power to order
vaccination on out-
break of small-pox.

8. (1.) It shall be lawful for the Governor, on the occurrence of any case of small-pox in New Zealand, or on board any ship arriving at any port or place in New Zealand, by Proclamation to suspend the operation of section eleven of "The Public Health Amendment Act, 1901 (No. 2)," for a specified time, and either as to the whole of New Zealand or any part thereof, and to order that all persons who have come in contact with, or are likely to come in contact with, any person suffering from small-pox shall be vaccinated or revaccinated within a specified time. 30 35

(2.) Every person who commits a breach of any such Proclamation is liable to a penalty not exceeding *fifty* pounds. 40