

Hon. Sir W. J. Steward.

PUBLIC MORGUES (No. 2).

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make Further Provision relating to Public Morgues.

Title.

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

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1. The Short Title of this Act is "The Public Morgues Act, 1904 (No. 2)."

Short Title.

2. For the purposes of this Act "borough" includes "city" and "town district," and "the said Act" means "The Public Health Act, 1900."

Interpretation.

3. Subject to the provisions of section *five* of this Act, it shall be incumbent upon the local authority of every borough to provide a suitable building for the purposes of a public morgue; and if any such local authority shall fail so to do, then any ten ratepayers of such borough may apply to the Supreme Court for a *mandamus* to compel such local authority to comply with this provision, and shall be entitled to recover from such local authority all costs incurred in and about the obtainment of such *mandamus*.

Local authorities to provide public morgues.

4. The provisions of section forty-three of the said Act shall extend and apply to every such morgue.

Section 43 of Public Health Act to apply.

5. In cases where two or more boroughs adjoin each other, or are so nearly adjacent that the nearest boundary of any one of them is not more than two miles distant from the nearest boundary of any other, the obligation to provide a public morgue shall be only upon that one of such boroughs which has the largest population:

Provision in case of adjacent boroughs.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall be deemed to repeal the provisions of section forty-two of the said Act, or to limit the powers of the Chief Health Officer in relation thereto.

6. When there is no public morgue situated within a distance of three miles from any public hospital, the dead-house of such hospital shall be deemed to be a public morgue, and the Superintendent

In certain cases dead-house of hospital to be deemed a public morgue.

or other person in charge of such hospital shall, at the request of any Justice of the Peace, or officer or constable of police, receive into such dead-house any dead body that may be brought thereto for the purpose of an inquest being held thereon; and for every dead body so received shall be paid the sum of *one* pound out of any money which may be appropriated for such purpose; and if such Superintendent or person in charge shall refuse to receive such dead body for the purpose aforesaid he shall, on conviction thereof before any Justice of the Peace, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding *five* pounds. 5 10

Exemption of licensed premises within three miles of morgue or dead-house.

7. Notwithstanding anything in any other Act contained, no innkeeper shall be required to receive into his licensed premises any dead body that may be brought thereto if such licensed premises are situated within a distance of three miles from any public morgue, or from any hospital dead-house deemed to be a public morgue under the provisions of section *six* of this Act. 15