

New Parliament.

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,
22nd October, 1884.*

Major Steward.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES ELECTION.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to regulate the Election of School Committees.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make other provision in the matter of the election of School Committees :

5 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 School Committees Election Act, 1884."

10 2. The term "the said Act," wherever in this Act occurring, shall mean "The Education Act, 1877."

15 3. The members of every School Committee presently existing shall continue to hold office until the fourth Monday in April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, upon which day they shall retire, and a new Committee shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be elected in their stead, and so on on the fourth Monday in April in every year afterwards. Every Committee so appointed shall hold office until the appointment of its successors, and if any vacancy shall occur by death or otherwise than by effluxion of time in any Committee the remaining members of the Committee shall elect a qualified person or persons to fill such vacancy or vacancies.

20 4. The Board of every educational district shall, not later than the thirty-first day of the month of March in every year, publicly notify, in manner prescribed by section four of the said Act, the times and places appointed for the annual meetings of householders by the next succeeding section of this Act required to be held.

25 5. On the fourth Monday in the month of April a public meeting of the householders in every school district shall be held at the time and place appointed by the Board, as in section four of this Act provided. At such meeting a Chairman shall be chosen, and the Committee for the preceding year shall give a full report of its proceedings, and present a duly-audited balance-

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sheet of its accounts up to the thirty-first day of March next preceding the date of such meeting, and thereupon the meeting shall proceed to elect seven persons to form the Committee for the ensuing year.

If the required number of persons, and no more, shall be nominated, the Chairman shall declare such persons to be duly elected. 5

If more than the required number of persons shall be nominated, a ballot shall be taken, and the seven persons who shall receive the largest number of votes shall be duly elected.

How tie decided.

6. In the case of a tie between any two or more candidates, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. 10

Limitation of votes.

7. At any election held in accordance with the provisions of this Act every elector may exercise as many votes as there are persons required to be elected; but no elector shall be entitled to record more than one vote for any one candidate.

Disqualification.

8. If a member of a School Committee be absent without leave during 15 three consecutive months from all meetings of the Committee, except from temporary illness or other cause to be approved of by the Committee, such person shall cease to be a member of the Committee, and his or her office shall thereupon be vacant.

Special elections.

9. If by any means the number of members of a School Committee be 20 reduced to less than the number required for a quorum, or if five or more members of any Committee shall signify to the Education Board their desire to be relieved from office, the Board may declare their seats vacant, and may direct an election to be held to fill up the vacancies; and the proceedings in connection with such election shall be the same as in the case of an annual election. 25

Settlement of disputes respecting validity of proceedings.

10. If any dispute shall arise respecting the validity of the proceedings at the annual or other election of a member or members of any Committee, the matter in dispute shall be decided as disputed elections are decided, under "The Regulation of Local Elections Act, 1876."

Provision if election not carried out at appointed time.

11. If in any case the householders in any school district shall, from any 30 cause whatever, fail to carry out any annual or other election at the date appointed for the same, it shall be lawful for the Board, if it shall see fit, to fix another date for such election, and the same notice shall be given and, as nearly as may be, the same proceedings taken thereat, as are prescribed in sections *four to seven*, inclusive, of this Act. 35

In case Committee not appointed, Commissioner appointed.

12. If from any cause a Committee shall fail to act, or if a Committee shall not be elected, the Board may at its discretion appoint a Commissioner for the purposes hereinafter mentioned.

Duties of Commissioner.

13. The Commissioner so appointed shall exercise all powers and duties by this Act imposed and conferred on Committees of school districts at any time 40 after he shall have assumed the place and duties of the Committee as aforesaid.

But such Commissioner shall only hold office from the date of appointment to the fourth Monday in the month of April next ensuing.

The power to appoint a Commissioner shall include a power to appoint more than one Commissioner, if the Board see fit, and the foregoing provision shall 45 take effect accordingly, and any Commissioner so appointed may be removed by the Board at its discretion.

Definition of "householder."

14. The definition of the word "householder" as given in section *four* of the said Act is hereby repealed, and for the purposes of the said Act and of this Act the word "householder" shall mean and include every male or female 50 person of the age of twenty-one years or upwards who resides in the school district.

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15. This Act shall be read with and as part of "The Education Act, 1877." Act to be read as part of "Education Act, 1877."
16. Sections sixty-three, sixty-four, sixty-five, sixty-six, sixty-seven, and sixty-eight of the said Act are hereby repealed. Repeal.

By Authority: GEORGE DEDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1884.