

District Court (District Court Judges) Amendment Bill

Government Bill

Explanatory note

General policy statement

This Bill amends the District Court Act 2016 to increase the maximum number of District Court Judges that can be appointed at any time from 160 full-time equivalents to 182 full-time equivalents.

Over the past few years, the District Court's workload has increased significantly due to an increase in both the volume and complexity of the court's work. As District Court Judges are required to deal with most cases, more judges are needed to help manage the increased workload.

In addition, the Youth Court's jurisdiction has been expanded to include 17 year olds. Additional judges are required because the rehabilitative focus of the Youth Court is more resource-intensive than adult court processes.

Departmental disclosure statement

The Ministry of Justice is required to prepare a disclosure statement to assist with the scrutiny of this Bill. The disclosure statement provides access to information about the policy development of the Bill and identifies any significant or unusual legislative features of the Bill.

A copy of the statement can be found at <http://legislation.govt.nz/disclosure.aspx?type=bill&subtype=government&year=2019&no=148>

Regulatory impact assessment

The Ministry of Justice produced 2 regulatory impact assessments in 2016 to help inform the policy decisions taken by the Government relating to the contents of this Bill (to the extent that they relate to expansion of the Youth Court's jurisdiction).

A copy of these 2 regulatory impact assessments can be found at—

- <https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/constitutional-issues-and-human-rights/regulatory-impact-statements/>
- <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/informationreleases/ria>

Clause by clause analysis

Clause 1 is the Title clause.

Clause 2 relates to commencement. The Amendment Act will come into force on the day after the date of Royal assent.

Clause 3 indicates that the principal Act amended is the District Court Act 2016.

Part 1

Substantive amendment

Clause 4 amends section 12(1) to increase the maximum number of District Court Judges appointed from time to time from 160 to 182. (District Court Judges, as specified in section 7(2)(a) to (c), are the Chief District Court Judge, Principal Family Court Judge, Principal Youth Court Judge, and other District Court Judges.)

Part 2

Consequential amendment

Clause 5 makes a consequential amendment to section 12(2)(c).

Hon Andrew Little

District Court (District Court Judges) Amendment Bill

Government Bill

Contents

	Page
1 Title	1
2 Commencement	1
3 Principal Act	1
Part 1	
Substantive amendment	
4 Section 12 amended (Maximum number of Judges)	2
Part 2	
Consequential amendment	
5 Section 12 amended (Maximum number of Judges)	2

The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

- 1 Title**
This Act is the District Court (District Court Judges) Amendment Act **2019**.
- 2 Commencement**
This Act comes into force on the day after the date of Royal assent. 5
- 3 Principal Act**
This Act amends the District Court Act 2016 (the **principal Act**).

Part 1

Substantive amendment

4 Section 12 amended (Maximum number of Judges)

In section 12(1), replace “160” with “182”.

Part 2

5

Consequential amendment

5 Section 12 amended (Maximum number of Judges)

In section 12(2)(c), replace “159.5” with “181.5”.