

Presented to the House of Representatives in accordance with Standing Order 272 J.17

Legislative Statement – the Regulatory Systems (Education) Amendment Bill: First Reading

The Regulatory Systems (Education) Amendment Bill (the Bill) contains minor and technical changes aimed at modernising and updating legislation and regulations. These are:

- amendments to the Pacific Education Foundation Act 1972 that will enable the Pacific Education Foundation to better support Pacific learners and their families. These amendments will:
 - update the definition of a Pacific person who can benefit from the Foundation, so it continues to be representative of Pacific people in New Zealand;
 - update the purpose, makeup and constitution of the Pacific Education Foundation Board to enable it to function more effectively and to provide advice to the Minister and Ministry of Education and other education agencies;
 - recognise the unique relationship the Crown has with New Zealand Realm countries and, through the Treaty of Friendship, with Samoa;
 - update the authorised expenditure of the Pacific Education Foundation;
- amendments to the Ngarimu VC and 28th (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Act 1945 (Ngarimu Act) to:
 - modify the functions of the Ngarimu VC and 28th (Māori) Battalion Memorial Scholarship Fund Board to recognise it as the successor of the 28th Māori Battalion (NZ) Association, for the purposes of authorising the use of words and emblems relating to the 28th Māori Battalion and the Association under the Flags, Emblems and Names Protection Act 1981;
 - create a new national Māori representative position on the Ngarimu VC and 28th (Māori Battalion) Memorial Scholarship Fund Board. This position would be held by a person of Māori descent who has served or is currently serving in the New Zealand Defence Force. This amendment is intended to continue the mana and legacy of the 28th (Māori) Battalion by ensuring that there is a new national Māori representative position on the Board;
- amendments to the Health and Safety at Work (General Risk and Workplace Management) Regulations 2016 to ensure that Police vets for non-teaching and unregistered employees childcare centres such as mall and gym creches are obtained before the employee begins work. The Bill will also require that employers consider the Police vet once it is received to assess any risks to the safety of children. This will create consistency with the Police vetting provisions in the Education and Training Act 2020 and the safety checking requirements in the Children's Act 2014; and
- amend the Children's (Requirements for Safety Checks of Children's Workers) Regulations 2015 to include an additional reference to Kiwi Access Card, as an acceptable form of identity, to reflect the name change of the 18+ card.