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This PUBLIC BILL originated in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES for its concurrence.

Legislative Council,
16th August, 1904.

[AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
29TH SEPTEMBER, 1904.]

Hon. Mr. Pitt.

ADMINISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.

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| 1. Short Title. | 3. Validation of probates by District Courts. |
| 2. Powers of Registrars of Supreme Court not to include the granting of probate. | 4. Regulations. |

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Law relating to the Grant of Probate and Letters of Administration of Deceased Persons' Estates. Title.

5 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 Administration Act Amendment Act, 1904"; and it shall form part of and be read together with "The Administration Act, 1879." Short Title.

10 *Struck out.*

2. The Supreme Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to grant probate and letters of administration of the estates of deceased persons, and such jurisdiction shall be exercisable only by a Judge of that Court. Supreme Court to have exclusive jurisdiction in granting probates. &c.

15 *New clauses.*

2. The powers conferred by "The Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Acts Amendment Act, 1893," on Registrars of the Supreme Court shall not be deemed to include the power to grant probate or letters of administration of the estates of deceased persons: Powers of Registrars of Supreme Court not to include the granting of probate.

20 Provided that all probates and letters of administration heretofore granted by a Registrar of the Supreme Court, and all orders made by a Registrar of the Supreme Court relating to the administration of the estates in respect of which such probates or letters of administration were granted, are hereby declared to be as valid as if the same had been granted or made by the Supreme Court or a Judge thereof.

25 3. All probates and letters of administration heretofore granted by any District Court, or by any Judge thereof, are hereby declared to be as valid as if the same had been granted by the Supreme Court. Validation of probates by District Courts.

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Struck out.

Validating probates,
&c., granted by
Registrars and
District Courts.

3. All probates and letters of administration heretofore granted by a Registrar of the Supreme Court, or by a District Court or a Judge thereof, are hereby declared to be as valid as if the same had been granted by a Judge of the Supreme Court.

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Documents to be
transferred to the
Supreme Court.

4. All wills and other documents relating to probates and letters of administration heretofore granted by any District Court or a Judge thereof shall be transmitted by the Clerk of such Court to the nearest office of a Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Repeals.

5. Section twenty-seven of "The District Courts Act, 1858," and so much of section twelve of "The District Courts Act Amendment Act, 1865," as refers to the first-mentioned section, and sections three and four of "The District Courts Act, 1880," are hereby repealed.

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Saving.

6. Nothing herein shall be deemed to affect the jurisdiction conferred on the Native Land Court by section fifty-one of "The Native Land Court Act, 1894."

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New clauses.

regulations.

4. The Governor may from time to time, by Order in Council gazetted, make regulations—

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(a.) Providing for the safe custody, in some suitable place in Wellington, of certified copies of all wills hereafter admitted to probate or annexed to letters of administration hereafter granted.

(b.) Providing for the inspection by the public of all such wills and for the making of copies thereof and extracts therefrom, and prescribing the fees payable on any such inspection or on the making of any such copy or extract.

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