

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,
26th September, 1912.

Hon. Mr. Bell.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION AMENDMENT.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1908. Title.

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

1. (1.) This Act may be cited as the Births and Deaths Registration Amendment Act, 1912, and shall form part of and be read together with the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1908 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act). Short Title.

(2.) Except as to section *nineteen* hereof, this Act shall commence on the first day of March, nineteen hundred and *thirteen*. Commencement.

2. (1.) The Governor may from time to time appoint a fit person to be the Deputy of the Registrar-General and such fit persons, as he thinks fit, to be Registrars of Births and Deaths under the principal Act. Appointment of officers.

(2.) The Registrar-General may from time to time appoint in writing under his hand a fit person to be the Deputy of any Registrar.

(3.) Every person holding office on the commencement of this Act as Deputy of the Registrar-General, or Registrar, or Deputy of any Registrar, shall be deemed to have been appointed under this Act.

(4.) Subsection two of section three of the principal Act is hereby repealed. Repeal.

3. (1.) Subsection one of section fifteen of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting after the word "notice," the words "according to the best of his knowledge and belief"; and after the word "name," the words "and address." Section 15 of principal Act amended.

(2.) Subsection two of the said section fifteen is hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor:—

How and when notice of birth to be given.

“(2.) Such notice shall be in writing signed by the occupier, and indorsed by some person, if any, (other than the occupier), in attendance at the confinement, and shall be delivered or posted by registered letter to the Registrar within forty-eight hours after the birth if in a borough, or twenty-one days in any other case.” 5

Still-births to be notified and registered.

4. The provisions of the principal Act and of this Act relating to the notification and registration of births shall apply in the case of a still-born child, but it shall not be necessary to register the death of any such child. 10

Section 16 of principal Act amended.

5. Section sixteen of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding to subsection two the following proviso:—

“Provided that such fine may be remitted if the birth of the child is registered pursuant to the next succeeding section; and provided also that if any of the persons required by this section to give information shall give such information, no penalty shall be imposed on the others for not giving the information.” 15

Section 17 of principal Act amended.

6. Section seventeen of the principal Act is hereby amended as follows:— 20

(a.) By omitting from subsection three the words “and on payment of a fee of five shillings”;

(b.) By omitting from subsection four the words “or refuses or neglects to pay the fee above mentioned”;

(c.) By repealing the provisos to subsection four; and 25

(d.) By adding the following subsection:—

“(3A.) A fee of *five* shillings shall be payable on each such registration.”

Section 21 of principal Act amended.

7. Section twenty-one of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a.) By omitting from subsection one thereof the words “upon application of the child’s parent or guardian, and”; and 30

(b.) By inserting the following new subsection:—

“(1A.) If any such birth is not registered within fourteen days after the date of such conviction as aforesaid, the convicting Magistrate or Justices may authorize some person to register the birth, and to sign as informant the entry in the register in respect thereof, and that person may thereupon register the birth accordingly.” 35

Section 24 of principal Act amended.

8. Section twenty-four of the principal Act is hereby amended—

(a.) By omitting all words after the word “duty” down to and including the words “in default”; and by omitting the words “thirty-one days following (but inclusive of) the day of the death,” and substituting the words “three days after the day of the death if in a borough, or seven days in any other case”; 40

(b.) By inserting after the word “funeral,” the words “according to the best of his knowledge and belief.” 45

(c.) By repealing the first proviso to the said section; and

(d.) By omitting from the second proviso the words “Provided also that any of the persons,” and substituting the words “Provided that the person.” 50

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9. In addition to the particulars required by the principal Act for the registration of the death of any married male person there shall be registered the age of the wife of that person if she survives him.
- 5 10. Section twenty-six of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words "fourteen days after the holding of such inquest," and substituting the words "three days after the holding of the inquest if in a borough, or seven days in any other case."
- 10 11. Subsection three of section twenty-seven of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words "seven days," and substituting the words "twenty-four hours."
12. (1.) No person shall bury, or permit to be buried, or take part in the burial of the body of any deceased person unless and until there has been obtained in respect of that deceased person either—
- 15 (a.) A certificate of cause of death signed by a duly registered medical practitioner; or
 (b.) A Coroner's order to bury the body; or
 (c.) A Registrar's certificate of registration of the death.
- (2.) Every person who commits a breach of this section is liable to a fine not exceeding ten pounds.
- 20 13. Subsection one of section thirty-four of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words "seven days," and substituting the words "forty-eight hours."
- 25 14. Subsection one of section thirty-five of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting therefrom the words "Within three days after receiving," and substituting the words "Forthwith upon the receipt of"; and by omitting the words "thirty-one days from the date of such death," and substituting the words "three days after the receipt of the notice if in a borough, or seven days in any other case."
- 30 15. Section forty-three of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after the words "under this Act," the words "or commits a breach of any of the provisions of this Act."
16. (1.) Any fee required by the principal Act to be paid shall be recoverable in the same manner as fines are recovered:
- 35 Provided that any Registrar required by that Act to do any act for which a fee is payable may refuse to do such act until the fee is paid.
- (2.) Section forty-nine of the principal Act is hereby repealed.
- 40 17. The form numbered (1) in the Second Schedule to the principal Act is hereby repealed and the form in the Schedule hereto substituted in lieu thereof.
18. (1.) The Governor may from time to time, by Order in Council, make such regulations as he thinks fit providing for the registration of births and deaths of Maoris.
- 45 (2.) Such regulations may impose a fine not exceeding ten pounds for the breach of any regulation.
- (3.) Such regulations may apply either to the whole of New Zealand or to such specified parts thereof as the Governor from time to time thinks fit, or may apply to any such specified part with such
- 50 modifications as the Governor by Order in Council directs.
- (4.) Except as provided in this section nothing in the principal Act shall apply to Maoris.

Age of wife surviving husband to be registered.

Section 26 of principal Act amended.

Section 27 of principal Act amended.

No burial without certificate or order.

Section 34 of principal Act amended.

Section 35 of principal Act amended.

Section 43 of principal Act amended.

Recovery of fees.

Registrar may refuse to act until fee paid.

Repeal.

Second Schedule to principal Act amended.

Regulations as to registration of births, &c., of Maoris.

(5.) For the purposes of this Act, half-castes and other persons of mixed race living as members of any Maori tribe shall be deemed to be Maoris.

Repeal.

(6.) Section fifty of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

Extension of time for registering births in certain cases.

19. (1.) Notwithstanding anything in the principal Act, it shall be lawful for the Registrar-General to register the birth of any person born in New Zealand previous to the period of six months before the passing of this Act, but whose birth has not been previously registered :

Provided that satisfactory evidence on oath and such other proof as he may deem necessary of the fact, time, and place of birth, and of the particulars of the parents shall be received by the Registrar-General within twelve months after the passing of this Act, and that on application to have such birth registered a fee of *five* shillings shall be paid to the Registrar-General.

(2.) The particulars of the birth and of the nature of the evidence produced shall be entered by the Registrar-General in a separate book to be kept by him for that purpose.

(3.) This section shall come into operation on the date of the passing of this Act.

20. Where by reason of distance from a post-office or Registrar's office, or from any other sufficient cause, any act, matter, or thing required by the principal Act or this Act cannot be done within the time limited by or in strict compliance with the conditions imposed by the principal Act or this Act, it shall be sufficient if such act, matter, or thing be done within a reasonable time thereafter or if the conditions imposed be complied with so far as was reasonably possible.

21. The Registrar-General may in any case dispense with payment of any fee payable under the principal Act or this Act.

22. No prosecution for an offence against the principal Act or this Act shall be commenced without the authority of the Registrar-General.

Schedule.

SCHEDULE.

BIRTHS IN THE DISTRICT OF

No.	Child.			Parents.			Informant.	Registrar.	Child.
	When and where born.	Name of Child.	Sex.	Father.	1. When and where married. 2. Previous issue of Existing Marriage: (a.) Living—Number, Age, and Sex. (b.) Dead—Number and Sex.	Mother.			
64	1909, 20th February, Wakefield Street, Auckland.	Edith Elizabeth.	F.	1. Thomas Edwards. 2. Miner. 3. 37. 4. Redruth, Cornwall, England.	1. 1895, 20th June, Thames. 2. (a.) 2 males, 8 and 4 years; 1 female, 10 years. (b.) 1 male; 1 female.	1. Mary Edwards, formerly Lucas. 2. 33. 3. Plymouth, England.	1. Thomas Edwards. 2. Father. 3. Graham Street, Thames.	1. 1909, 6th March. 2. James Kirk, Registrar.	Name, if added or altered after Registration of Birth.