

Mr. W. Hutchison.

BETTER PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	
1. Short Title.	3. Penalty upon young persons found loitering in public place after certain hour.
2. Penalty upon parent of child found wandering in public place after certain hour.	

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT for the Better Protection of Children and Young Persons. Title.

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 Better Protection of Children and Young Persons Act, 1896." Short Title.

2. Any parent who shall permit any child of his or hers to wander about or frequent any street, thoroughfare, or place of public resort after the hour of eight post meridiem on any day between the first day of April and the thirtieth day of September in each year; and after the hour of nine post meridiem on any day between the first day of October and the thirty-first day of March in each year, unless accompanied by such parent or other adult person of good repute, shall be liable to a penalty, on summary conviction, not exceeding twenty shillings. Penalty upon parent of child found wandering in public place after certain hour.

But nothing in this section shall affect or control the provisions of "The Industrial School Act, 1882," relating to neglected children.

"Parent" in this section means the father, mother, or guardian; and "child" means a person who, in the opinion of the Justices, is under the age of twelve years.

3. Any young person found loitering about any street, thoroughfare, hotel, or place of public resort after the hour of nine o'clock post meridiem, and who, on being warned by any police officer to depart to his or her habitation, persists in so loitering about, shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding twenty shillings; and for a second offence within six months to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings, or in default of payment thereof to imprisonment for any period not exceeding seven days; and for a third offence within six months to imprisonment for any period not exceeding fourteen days. Penalty upon young persons found loitering in public place after certain hour.

"Young person" in this section means a person who, in the opinion of the Justices, is, if a male, over the age of twelve years and under the age of seventeen years; and, if a female, over the age of twelve years and under the age of eighteen years.

