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

House of Representatives,
15th December, 1921.

Hon. Mr. Downie Stewart.

COUNTIES AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	
1. Short Title.	5. Extension of disqualification for failure to pay rates.
2. Arbitration Act not applicable to inquiries and awards under sections 13 and 16 of principal Act.	6. Section 83 of principal Act (relating to travelling expenses of Councillors) amended.
3. Provision as to date on which special orders altering riding boundaries shall take effect. Consequential repeal.	7. Correcting error in section 112 of principal Act.
4. Amendment of provisions as to disqualification of Councillors.	8. Section 131 of principal Act amended.
	9. Section 193 of principal Act amended.
	10. Section 206 of principal Act amended.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Counties Act, 1920.

Title.

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

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Counties Amendment Act, 1921, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Counties Act, 1920 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

2. Neither the Controller and Auditor-General nor any other person appointed under section thirteen or section sixteen of the principal Act to hold an inquiry and make an award with respect to the several matters mentioned in either of those sections shall be deemed to be an arbitrator within the meaning of the Arbitration Act, 1908, and nothing in that Act shall apply to any such inquiry or award.

Arbitration Act not applicable to inquiries and awards under sections 13 and 16 of principal Act.

3. (1.) Subsection one of section one hundred of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting therefrom all words (exclusive of the provisos) after the words "immediately gazetted by him," and substituting the words "and shall take effect on a date to be fixed in that behalf by the Minister and notified in the *Gazette*."

Provision as to date on which special orders altering riding boundaries shall take effect.

(2.) Subsection two of section sixty of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

Consequential repeal.

4. (1.) Section sixty-two of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from paragraph (*h*) the words "neither a director nor," and substituting the word "not."

Amendment of provisions as to disqualification of Councillors.

(2.) Subsection two of section sixty-three of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the reference to paragraph (*g*) of section sixty-two of that Act, and substituting a reference to paragraph (*h*) thereof.

Extension of disqualification for failure to pay rates.

5. No person whose name appears on a list of ratepayers prepared pursuant to section fifty-seven of the principal Act in respect of any election shall be competent to nominate any person as a candidate or to be himself nominated as a candidate for that election, and his signature on any nomination-paper (whether as a nominator of any other person or in signification of his assent to be nominated as a candidate) shall be deemed to be a nullity, whether such nomination-paper is received by the Returning Officer before or after the list has been furnished to the Returning Officer. 5

Section 83 of principal Act (relating to travelling-expenses of Councillors) amended.

6. Subsection one of section eighty-three of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words "from a distance exceeding three miles." 10

Correcting error in section 112 of principal Act.

7. Subsection one of section one hundred and twelve of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting from paragraph (e) the reference to paragraphs (20) and (21) of the Second Schedule to that Act, and substituting a reference to paragraphs (10) and (11) of that Schedule. 15

Section 131 of principal Act amended.

8. Section one hundred and thirty-one of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting subsection four thereof, and substituting the following subsection:— 20

"(4.) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other provisions of this Act, the Council may, by resolution if the amount involved is under one hundred pounds, and otherwise by special order, direct that the cost of any work not falling within paragraph (c) or paragraph (d) of subsection one of this section, shall be borne by the whole county or be apportioned among any two or more ridings mentioned in the resolution or special order, as the case may be, in such proportions as the Council determines." 25

Section 193 of principal Act amended.

9. Section one hundred and ninety-three of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding to subsection two thereof the words "or such higher rate as may be approved by the Minister of Finance." 30

Section 206 of principal Act amended.

10. Subsection one of section two hundred and six of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting all words after the words "perform the functions and discharge the duties which," and substituting the words "would be vested in and imposed on the Council of the county if this Act were in full force therein." 35