

EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

CLAUSE 2 of the Bill provides—

- (1.) For the establishment of nine education districts. The chief towns of five of such districts are to be in the North Island and the chief towns of the remaining four districts are to be in the South Island. The boundaries of the districts are to be determined by the General Council of Education, established under section eight of the principal Act.
- (2.) For the coming into existence of the new districts on the same date as that on which the new Boards come into office.—The provision in the principal Act is unsatisfactory. It provides for the coming into existence of the new districts on the 1st January, 1916, and the continuance in office of the existing Education Boards until the second Wednesday in August, 1916, when the new Boards are elected. This would involve a continuance of thirteen Boards with jurisdiction over nine districts.

Clause 3 is consequential on the alteration from the first day of January to the second Wednesday in August of the date on which the new districts come into existence.

Clause 4 empowers the Governor by regulations to make all necessary provisions for the first election of Boards.

Clause 5 provides that the first division of the rural areas of districts into wards shall be made by the Minister. The provision is incidental to the first election of members of Boards.

Clause 6: Certain doubts have arisen as to the interpretation of some of the provisions of the principal Act. Pending further legislation the Governor is given power to determine such doubts in accordance with regulations.

Hon. Mr. Hanan.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT (No. 2).

ANALYSIS.

<p>Title. 1. Short Title. 2. Section 13 of principal Act amended. 3. Section 23 of principal Act amended.</p>	<p>4. Regulations as to elections. 5. First division of rural areas into wards. 6. Regulations as to administration of principal Act.</p>
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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Education Act, 1914.

Title.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Education Amendment Act, 1915 (No. 2), and shall form part of and be read together with the Education Act, 1914 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

Short Title.

2. (1.) Subsections one, two, and three of section thirteen of the principal Act are hereby repealed and the following subsections substituted therefor:—

Section 13 of principal Act amended.

“(1.) There shall be nine education districts. The chief towns of five of the said districts, as referred to in subsection *three* hereof, shall be in the North Island and the chief towns of four of the said districts shall be in the South Island.

“(2.) The boundaries of the said districts shall be determined by the General Council of Education, which shall, not later than the first day of January, nineteen hundred and *sixteen*, present to the Minister a report setting forth the name of each education district as so determined, the boundaries thereof, and the chief town included therein. The said boundaries shall be described in the report by reference to the counties, boroughs, and town districts comprised therein.

“(3.) The Minister shall forthwith on the receipt of the report of the General Council cause to be gazetted a notice setting forth the names and boundaries of the districts so determined, and the chief town of each such district, and the said notice shall take effect and the said education districts shall come into existence on the second Wednesday in August, nineteen hundred and *sixteen*. The notice so gazetted shall for all purposes be conclusive proof of the due constitution of the said education districts, and of all matters so set forth in the notice.”

3. Section twenty-three of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “first day of January,” and substituting the words “second Wednesday in August.”

Section 23 of principal Act amended.

Regulations as to elections.

4. (1.) For the purpose of providing for the first election of members of the Boards of the several education districts, the Governor may, by Order in Council, make such regulations as he deems necessary or expedient, and all such regulations shall have the force of law, anything to the contrary in the principal Act notwithstanding. 5

(2.) Subject to such regulations, the first election of members of the said Boards shall take place in all respects in the same manner as if the education districts had already come into existence.

First division of rural areas into wards.

5. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the principal Act, the first division of the rural areas of the education districts into wards shall be made by the Minister by notice gazetted, either concurrently with or at any time after the gazetting of the notice setting forth the names and boundaries of those districts, and the Minister may exercise accordingly the powers conferred upon a Board by section fourteen of the principal Act; and such division of the rural areas shall, for the purposes of the first election of the Boards of such districts, take effect in anticipation of the coming into existence of those districts on the second Wednesday in August, nineteen hundred and sixteen. 10 15 20

Regulations as to administration of principal Act.

6. The Governor in Council may make such regulations as he thinks necessary or expedient for avoiding any doubt or difficulty which may appear to him to arise in the administration of the principal Act by reason of any omission or inconsistency therein, and all such regulations shall have the force of law, anything to the contrary in the principal Act notwithstanding. 25