

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill amends the Electoral Act, 1927.

Clause 2: The effect of this clause is that future divisions of New Zealand into seventy-six European electorates will be made on the basis of the total European population. It replaces the amendment made in 1945 which provided for the division being made on the basis of the adult population only. The clause also provides that in making the division no account shall be taken of persons who spend the night of the census on board ship, as guests in licensed hotels, in military camps, or as patients in public hospitals. This is in addition to the existing exclusion of patients in mental hospitals and prisoners.

Clause 3 increases the allowance for the adjustment of the quota so as to enable an electorate to have a population greater or less than the quota to the extent of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., instead of the present figure of five hundred. This will give the Representation Commission greater latitude in adjusting the boundaries of electorates so as to give due consideration to existing boundaries, community of interest, facilities of communication, and topographical features.

Clause 4 provides that all general elections and by-elections shall be held on Saturday.

Clause 5 provides for the holding of the Maori general elections on the same day as the European elections.

Hon. Mr. Webb

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

Title.	3. Increasing allowance for adjustment of quota.
1. Short Title.	4. Elections to be held on Saturday.
2. Quota for electoral districts to be based on total European population.	5. Maori elections to be held on same day as European elections.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to Amend the Electoral Act, 1927.

Title.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Electoral Amendment Act, 1950, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Electoral Act, 1927.

Short Title.
See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. VI, p. 469

2. (1) Section three of the Electoral Amendment Act, 1945, is hereby amended by repealing subsection one, and substituting the following subsection:—

Quota for electoral districts to be based on total European population.
1945, No. 10

“(1) For the purposes of this Act, the term ‘European population’ means total population with the following exceptions:—

15 “(a) Maoris:

“(b) Persons detained as patients or boarders in any public institution under the Mental Defectives Act, 1911:

See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 743

20 “(c) Persons confined in any prison under the Prisons Act, 1908:

“(d) Persons residing on board any ship:

Ibid, Vol. VI, p. 966

“(e) Persons residing as guests in any licensed hotel:

“(f) Persons residing in any naval, military, or air force camp, station, or establishment:

“(g) Persons residing as patients or inmates in any institution or separate institution under the Hospitals Act, 1926.” 5

See Reprint
of Statutes,
Vol. III,
p. 725

(2) Subsections two and three of section three of the Electoral Amendment Act, 1945, and section four of that Act are hereby amended by omitting the words “adult population” wherever they occur, and substituting in each place the words “European population”. 10

Increasing
allowance for
adjustment of
quota.

3. Section four of the Electoral Amendment Act, 1945, is hereby amended by omitting the words “not exceeding five hundred”, and substituting the words “not exceeding seven and a half per centum”. 15

Elections
to be held
or Saturday.

4. Every poll for the election of a member of Parliament (whether for a European or a Maori electoral district) shall take place on a Saturday.

Maori elections
to be held on
same day as
European
elections.

5. At every general election the polls for the election of members for the Maori electoral districts shall take place on the same day as the polls for the election of members for the European electoral districts. 20