

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Clause 2 of this Bill provides that for the purpose of the general election in any case where Parliament is dissolved before it has been two years in existence, the general and supplementary rolls used at the previous general election, together with a further supplementary roll, may be used if in the opinion of the Chief Electoral Officer it is impracticable to print new general rolls. *Subclause (2)* provides for the use of the same rolls, together with a further supplementary roll, for any by-election occurring before the next following general election.

Clause 3 extends the polling hours in Maori electorates to 7 p.m., instead of 5 p.m., so as to make them the same as the hours in European electorates.

Clause 4 makes provision for the voting at elections and licensing polls of servicemen who are serving with the New Zealand forces overseas.

Hon. Mr. Webb

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

Title.		3. Poll in Maori electoral districts to close at 7 p.m. Repeal.
1. Short Title.		
2. Electoral rolls in case of dissolution of Parliament within two years.		4. Voting at elections and licensing polls by servicemen serving overseas.

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 of the same, as follows:—

- 5 **1.** This Act may be cited as the Electoral Amendment Act, 1951, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Electoral Act, 1927 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).
- 10 **2.** (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section sixty-eight of the principal Act, if at any time Parliament is dissolved before it has been two years in existence, and in the opinion of the Chief Electoral Officer it is impracticable to print a general roll for
- 15 every district for the general election for the new Parliament, the rolls to be used in each district for the purposes of that general election shall be the general

Short Title.

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

Electoral rolls in case of dissolution of Parliament within two years.

and supplementary rolls used at the previous general election, together with a further supplementary roll to be prepared by the Registrar of each district and to include the names of all electors registered by him after the closing of the rolls for the previous general election and remaining on the roll for the district at its closing for the purposes of the general election for the new Parliament. 5

(2) In every district the general roll and every supplementary roll used under this section at any general election, amended as required by the principal Act, together with any supplementary roll prepared after that general election, shall be the roll to be used at any by-election held before the next following general election. 10 15

Poll in Maori electoral districts to close at 7 p.m.
1937, No. 18

3. (1) Section one hundred and eighty-six of the principal Act (as amended by paragraph (a) of section four of the Electoral Amendment Act, 1937) is hereby further amended by omitting from paragraph (x) of subsection one the words "five o'clock", and substituting the words "seven o'clock". 20

Repeal.

(2) Paragraph (a) of section four of the Electoral Amendment Act, 1937, is hereby consequentially repealed.

Voting at elections and licensing polls by servicemen serving overseas.

See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. IV, p. 234

4. (1) Every serviceman who is for the time being outside New Zealand, and is or will be of or over the age of twenty-one years before the date of the election or poll, shall in accordance with this section be qualified to vote at every election of members of Parliament and at every licensing poll under the Licensing Act, 1908, whether or not he is registered as an elector of any electoral district. 25 30

(2) Every such person shall be qualified to vote as an elector of the electoral district (as existing at the date of the election or poll) in which is situated his usual place of residence immediately before he last left New Zealand. 35

(3) Subject to the provisions of this section and of any regulations made under this section, all the provisions of the principal Act and of the Licensing Act, 1908, shall, as far as they are applicable and with the necessary modifications, apply with respect to voting by 40 servicemen and with respect to their votes.

(4) The Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council, make all such regulations as he deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this section.

5 (5) Any regulations made under this section shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in the principal Act or in any other enactment other than this section.

10 (6) All regulations made under this section shall be laid before Parliament as soon as may be after they are made.

(7) The validity of any election or of any licensing poll shall not be questioned on the ground that anything required to be done by this section or by any regulations
15 under this section has been irregularly done, or has been omitted to be done, or that for any reason it had been found impracticable for any serviceman to vote, or for the vote of any serviceman to be counted, or that any person who has voted under this section was not entitled
20 to vote.

(8) For the purposes of this section the term "serviceman" means any person ordinarily resident in New Zealand who is for the time being a member of the naval, military, or air forces of New Zealand, and includes
25 any person ordinarily resident in New Zealand who is attached to or employed by or carries out duties which necessitate his accompanying any such force when outside New Zealand.