

Education (School Boards of Trustees Single Transferable Vote Option) Amendment Bill

Member's Bill

Explanatory note

The purpose of this Bill is to make the single transferable vote (STV) system available for the election of trustees to school boards.

STV is a superior voting system to the current first-past-the-post (FPP) system used for school board elections. It is a fairer system because it enables all significant groupings in the community to elect their representatives, it eliminates the need for tactical voting, and it reduces the level of wasted votes.

STV encourages positive voting. Under no circumstances can a second preference reduce the chances of the successful election of a voter's first choice. In contrast, under the present multiple vote FPP system, it is possible that a vote cast for a less preferred candidate could be the vote that defeats their most preferred candidate.

STV is simple to use. Voters simply rank the candidates in order of preference by placing a "1" beside their first choice candidate, "2" beside their second choice and so on.

Counting of the votes could be carried out manually or by using appropriate computer software. Those school boards which choose to adopt STV would be responsible for educating eligible voters and training returning officers.

Regulations will set the manner in which elections of trustees are to be held and the process by which boards adopt STV.

Clause by clause analysis

Clause 1 relates to the title.

Clause 2 provides for the Bill to come into force on the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

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Explanatory note

Clause 3 is a purpose provision.

Clause 4 amends the principal Act to require that the regulations provide for STV to be an optional voting method for school board of trustees.

Rod Donald

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The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title

- (1) This Act is the Education (School Boards of Trustees Single Transferable Vote Option) Amendment Act **2004**.
- (2) In this Act, the Education Act 1989¹ is called “the principal Act”.
- ¹ 1989 No 80

2 Commencement

This Act comes into force on the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

3 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to make the single transferable vote (STV) system available for the election of trustees to school boards. 10

4 Regulations

- (1) Section 118(1) of the principal Act is amended by repealing paragraph (a) and substituting the following paragraph: 15
- “(a) subject to **subsection (4)**, the manner in which elections of trustees are to be held:”
- (2) Section 118 of the principal Act is amended by adding the following subsection:

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- “(4) The regulations must provide a school board of trustees with the option of adopting the single transferable vote (STV) system for the election of trustees to the school board and the process by which the board adopts this alternative voting system.” 5