

ELECTORAL POLL BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

UNDER section 189 (2) of the Electoral Act 1956, section 12 of that Act, which relates to the duration of the House of Representatives, is not to be amended unless the proposal for the amendment is either passed by a majority of 75 percent of the members of the House or carried by a majority of the valid votes cast at a poll of the electors.

This Bill provides for the taking of a poll of electors of every electoral district on the proposal that section 12 be amended by changing the term of the House.

The form of voting paper is set out in the Schedule to the Bill.

The day to be fixed for the taking of the poll is to be the same day as that to be fixed for the taking of the poll under the Sale of Liquor Poll Bill, and the poll under this Bill is to be taken concurrently with the poll proposed by that Bill.

The poll will be taken in the same manner as if it were a general licensing poll taken simultaneously with a general election of members of Parliament.

The rolls to be used will be the main and supplementary rolls used at the last general election, together with further supplementary rolls to be prepared for the poll.

The result of the poll will be declared and Gazetted by the Chief Electoral Officer.

In other respects the provisions of the Licensing Act 1908 and the Electoral Act 1956 will apply to the poll.

If the result of the poll is in favour of the proposal to change the term of the House, section 12 of the Electoral Act is not to be amended until after the next general election.

Hon. Mr Hanan

ELECTORAL POLL

ANALYSIS

Title	3. Application of provisions of Licen- sing Act 1908 and Electoral Act 1956
1. Short Title	4. Electoral rolls
2. Special poll of electors as to term of Parliament	5. Declaration of result of poll
	6. Term not to be changed until after next general election Schedule

A BILL INTITULED

An Act to provide for a poll relating to the term of Parliament

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

1. **Short Title**—This Act may be cited as the Electoral Poll Act 1967.

10 2. **Special poll of electors as to term of Parliament**—(1) On
a day to be fixed by the Governor-General by Order in
Council, there shall be taken a poll of the electors of each
electoral district, within the meaning of the Electoral Act
1956, on the proposal that section 12 of that Act be amended
by changing the term of the House of Representatives, as set
15 out in that section.

(2) The proposal shall be submitted in the form in the
Schedule to this Act.

20 (3) The day to be fixed under subsection (1) of this section
shall be the same day as that fixed for the poll to be taken
under section 2 of the Sale of Liquor Poll Act 1967, and the
poll under this Act shall be taken concurrently with the poll
under that Act.

3. Application of provisions of Licensing Act 1908 and Electoral Act 1956—Subject to the provisions of this Act and of any regulations made under the Electoral Act 1956 for the purposes of this Act, and subject to all necessary modifications, the poll shall be taken in the same manner as if it were a general licensing poll taken simultaneously with a general election of members of Parliament, and the provisions of the Licensing Act 1908 and of the Electoral Act 1956, so far as they are applicable, shall apply accordingly. 5

4. Electoral rolls—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the electoral roll for each electoral district at the poll shall be the roll as provided by the Electoral Act 1956. 10

(2) For the purposes of the poll the roll in each district shall be deemed to be closed at six o'clock in the evening of a day to be fixed by the Governor-General by Order in Council, which shall be the same day as that fixed for the closing of the rolls under section 4 of the Sale of Liquor Poll Act 1967. 15

(3) The rolls to be used in each district for the purposes of the poll shall be the main and supplementary rolls used at the last 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 last general election and remaining on the roll for the district at its closing under subsection (2) of this section. 20 25

5. Declaration of result of poll—(1) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll in each district the Returning Officer shall count the votes recorded for and against the proposal, and shall reject all informal votes.

(2) Immediately after he has counted the votes he shall send to the Chief Electoral Officer a statement of the number of informal votes, and of the total number of valid votes recorded, and of the number of valid votes recorded for and against the proposal. 30

(3) On receipt of the said statements from all Returning Officers, and on or before a day to be fixed by the Governor-General by Order in Council, the Chief Electoral Officer shall ascertain and declare— 35

- (a) The total number of valid votes recorded at the poll throughout New Zealand for the proposal; and 40
- (b) The total number of valid votes recorded at the poll throughout New Zealand against the proposal.

(4) The Chief Electoral Officer shall notify in the *Gazette* the numbers of the votes as finally ascertained by him and the result of the poll as determined thereby.

5 **6. Term not to be changed until after next general election**—If the result of the poll is in favour of the proposal to change the term of the House of Representatives, section 12 of the Electoral Act 1956 shall not be amended until after the general election of members of Parliament next following the declaration of the result of the poll.

SCHEDULE
VOTING PAPER

Section 2 (2)

.....
[*Consecutive Number*]

Electoral District

POLL ON PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE TERM OF PARLIAMENT

Directions

Strike out the proposal for which you do not wish to vote.

After voting, fold this paper and place it in the ballot box. You must not take it out of the polling booth.

If you spoil this paper, return it to the Issuing Officer and obtain another.

I VOTE FOR A MAXIMUM OF THREE YEARS as at present.

I VOTE FOR A MAXIMUM OF FOUR YEARS.