

*Hon. Mr Mathison*

## **FIRE SAFETY**

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### **A BILL INTITULED**

**An Act to provide for compulsory fire drill and evacuation of buildings, and for the installation of fire alarms**

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 Fire Safety Act 1967.

10 2. **Interpretation**—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

15 “Accommodation dwelling” means a residential building in which accommodation is or is intended to be provided for five or more guests, boarders, lodgers, patients, or inmates, and includes a boardinghouse, hostel, hotel, hospital, home, orphanage, boarding school, barracks, lodginghouse, or similar building,

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and where necessary includes a portion of a building or combination of two or more buildings or parts thereof:

“Building” means an accommodation dwelling or a place of assembly as herein defined: 5

“Place of assembly” means a building or part of a building used or intended to be used as a place of assembly for one hundred or more persons, seated or unseated, whether or not the building is required to be licensed under Part XXII of the Municipal Corporations Act 1954, and includes a theatre, cinema, public hall, concert chamber, school hall, dance hall, lodge room, auction room, shop, restaurant, show building, skating rink, pavilion, grandstand, and any other building of like nature. 10 15

**3. Fire alarms in buildings**—Within a period of one year from the commencement of this Act, fire alarms and bells shall be installed in every building and on all floors of such buildings. Manually operated call points shall be located on each floor, and in buildings of large areas manually operated call points shall be placed one to each one hundred feet of walking distance. 20

**4. Provision of safe egress**—Every building shall be provided with safe egress in accordance with the New Zealand Standard Specification No. 1900 or any amendment thereof. 25

**5. Fire safety warden**—The owner or occupier of any building shall appoint a Fire Safety Warden in that building. It shall be the duty of the Fire Safety Warden to appoint a person on each floor to ensure that all persons on his floor are evacuated from the building in the event of an alarm. 30

**6. Fire alarms to be tested**—All fire alarms shall be tested at such regular intervals as may be determined by the Fire Service Council.

**7. Evacuation Tests**—(1) An evacuation test shall be held in every accommodation dwelling, building, and place of assembly at least once in every period of three months: 35

Provided that the owner or occupiers of any such accommodation dwelling may apply to the local Fire Board for an exemption from the provisions of this section.

(2) The owner or occupier of the building shall, within forty-eight hours, notify the local Fire Board of the result of any test carried out pursuant to this section.

5 **8. Fire Board may require additional tests**—(1) If a local Fire Board is not satisfied with the result of any test of a fire alarm system in a place of assembly carried out pursuant to section 6 of this Act, it may require the owner or occupier thereof to carry out an additional test.

10 (2) If a local Fire Board is not satisfied with the result of any test of a fire alarm system or of evacuation of any accommodation dwelling carried out pursuant to section 6 or section 7 of this Act it may require the owner or occupier thereof to carry out an additional test.

15 **9. Special partial exemption**—Hospitals and such like institutions may apply to the local fire authority for partial exemption from the evacuation provisions of this Act.

**10. Offences**—Any person commits an offence who—

20 (a) Being the owner or occupier of any building, fails to carry out three-monthly alarm or evacuation tests, as provided by sections 6 and 7 of this Act.

(b) Being the occupant of any accommodation dwelling, fails to evacuate the building on the sounding of an alarm.

25 **11. Penalties**—Penalties upon summary conviction under this Act shall be a maximum fine of two hundred pounds for each offence.

**12. Administration of Act**—The Fire Service Council may direct any local Fire Board or Urban Fire Authority to carry out any of the provisions of this Act.

30 **13. Act to bind the Crown**—Except as provided in the Shipping and Seamen Act 1952 and the Civil Aviation Act 1948, this Act shall bind the Crown.