

JURIES AMENDMENT BILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

THIS Bill amends the Juries Act 1908.

Clause 2 provides for the abolition of the distinction between Maoris and Europeans with regard to jury service and trial by jury. New jury lists including both Maoris and Europeans will be prepared next year and those lists will be brought into use on 1 December 1962. Until that date any Maori may claim his existing right to be tried before a Maori jury or to have his case tried before a Maori jury or a mixed jury.

Clause 3 provides that a jury must retire to choose its foreman.

Clause 4 makes the age limits for women jurors the same as those for men. The present age limits are between the ages of 21 years and 65 years for men, and between the ages of 25 years and 60 years for women.

Hon. Mr Hanan

JURIES AMENDMENT

ANALYSIS

Title	3. Foreman
1. Short Title and commencement	4. Age of women jurors
2. Maoris to be eligible as jurors	Schedule

A BILL INTITULED

An Act to amend the Juries Act 1908

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

1. Short Title and commencement—This Act may be cited as the Juries Amendment Act 1961, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Juries Act 1908* (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

10 **2. Maoris to be eligible as jurors**—(1) Every person, whether a Maori or not, shall, if otherwise qualified, be liable and qualified to serve as a juror in accordance with the provisions of the principal Act.

(2) The principal Act is hereby consequentially amended
15 in the manner indicated in the Schedule to this Act.

*1957 Reprint, Vol. 6, p. 745
Amendments: 1959, No. 69; 1960, No. 115

(3) The Maori Jury Regulations 1927 and the Maori Jury Regulations 1927, Amendment No. 1, are hereby revoked.

(4) Nothing in this section shall affect the right of any Maori (as defined in section 2 of the principal Act immediately before the passing of this Act) to be tried before a Maori jury or to have his case tried before a Maori jury or a mixed jury if he has given the requisite notice before the first day of December, nineteen hundred and sixty-two, and the provisions amended and the regulations revoked by the foregoing provisions of this section shall continue in force to such an extent as is necessary for the purposes of this subsection as if this Act had not been passed.

3. Foreman—The principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after section 107, the following section:

“107A. After the jurors have been sworn and before the case is opened or the accused given in charge the jury shall retire to choose a foreman.”

4. Age of women jurors—Section 2 of the Women Jurors Act 1942 is hereby amended by omitting the words “twenty-five years and sixty”, and substituting the words “twenty-one years and sixty-five”.

Section 2 (2)

SCHEDULE

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS OF PRINCIPAL ACT

Section Affected	Amendment
Section 2	By repealing the definition of the word “Maori”.
Section 3	By omitting the words “(not being a Maori)”.
Section 4	By repealing this section.
Sections 141 to 151	By repealing these sections.
Second Schedule	By omitting from the form in this Schedule the words “not being a Maori”.