

Hon. Mr. Bollard.

LAND DRAINAGE AMENDMENT.

ANALYSIS.

- Title.
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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Short Title. | 3. Mode of computing number of ratepayers signing petition under principal Act. |
| 2. Defaulting ratepayers not to sign petitions under principal Act. | |

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to amend the Land Drainage Act, 1908.

Title.

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

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Land Drainage Amendment Act, 1923, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Land Drainage Act, 1908 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

2. (1.) No person shall be competent to sign a petition under the principal Act whilst any rates then due by him to the Board of the district or to any other local authority in respect of the area to which the petition relates are unpaid and have remained unpaid for a period of not less than one year.

Defaulting ratepayers not to sign petitions under principal Act.

(2.) For the purpose of ascertaining whether any petition has been signed as aforesaid by the required proportion of ratepayers the total number of ratepayers in the area affected by the petition, calculated in accordance with the next succeeding section, shall be deemed to be the number on the ratepayers roll, in respect of land within the area affected, less the number whose rates are unpaid, in whole or in part, at the date on which the petition is purported to have been signed and have on that date been unpaid for a period of not less than one year.

(3.) Every such petition shall be accompanied by a statutory declaration by the Returning Officer to the Board or by the Clerk to the local authority concerned, as the case may require, to the effect that the persons signing the petition are qualified to sign, and that the petition has been signed by the required proportion of ratepayers.

3. Where under the principal Act a petition is required to be signed by not less than a certain number of ratepayers, or by not less than a certain proportional part of all the ratepayers in any area, the number of votes which each ratepayer signing the petition is entitled to exercise under the principal Act in relation to the rateable property in respect whereof he signs the said petition, or the number of votes which he would be entitled so to exercise if such rateable property were within a district under that Act, as the case may be, may be set after his name in such petition, and the number of signatures to the said petition shall be deemed to be the total number of rights to vote calculated as herein provided.

Mode of computing number of ratepayers signing petition under principal Act.