

Hon. Mr. Skinner

NEW ZEALAND GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to make better Provision for the Naming of Title.
Places in New Zealand, and to establish the New Zealand Geographic Board.

5 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 New Zealand Geographic Board Act, 1946.	
Interpretation.	2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—	
	“ Board ” means the New Zealand Geographic Board established under this Act:	5
	“ Minister ” means the Minister of Lands:	
	“ Town ” includes any parcel of land outside a city, borough, or town district, divided into areas for building purposes.	10

New Zealand Geographic Board

New Zealand
Geographic
Board
established.

3. (1) There is hereby established for the purposes of this Act a Board, to be called the New Zealand Geographic Board.	
(2) The Board shall consist of—	15
(a) The Surveyor-General:	
(b) Two persons to be appointed as representatives of the Maori race on the recommendation of the Native Minister:	
(c) Two persons to be nominated by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand, Incorporated, and to be appointed on the recommendation of the Minister:	20
(d) Two persons to be appointed on the recommendation of the Minister.	25
(3) The members of the Board, other than the Surveyor-General, shall be appointed by the Governor-General for a term of three years. Any such member may from time to time be reappointed, or may be at any time removed from office by the Governor-General for disability, insolvency, neglect of duty, or misconduct, or may at any time resign his office by writing addressed to the Secretary of the Board.	30
(4) If any appointed member of the Board dies, or is removed from office, or resigns, the vacancy so created shall be filled in the manner in which the appointment to the vacant office was originally made. Every person so appointed shall be appointed for the residue of the term for which his predecessor was appointed.	35 40

(5) Unless he sooner vacates his office as provided in the *last preceding* subsection, every member of the Board shall continue in office until his successor comes into office, notwithstanding that the term for which he was appointed may have expired.

(6) The powers of the Board shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership thereof.

4. (1) The Surveyor-General shall be the Chairman of the Board. Chairman of Board.

10 (2) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board at which he is present. If at any meeting of the Board the Surveyor-General is not present, the officer of the Department of Lands and Survey authorized to attend the meeting in his stead pursuant
15 to the *next succeeding* section shall act as the Chairman in respect of that meeting, and shall have and may exercise all the powers and functions of the Chairman for the purposes of that meeting.

5. (1) Meetings of the Board shall be held at such times and places as the Board or the Chairman from
20 time to time determines. Meetings of Board.

(2) At every meeting of the Board *four* members shall form a quorum.

25 (3) Every question before the Board shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present at a meeting of the Board.

(4) The Chairman shall have a deliberative vote, and in the case of an equality of votes shall also have a casting vote.

30 (5) In the absence from any meeting of the Board of the Surveyor-General he may authorize any officer of the Department of Lands and Survey to attend the meeting in his stead. While any person is attending any meeting of the Board pursuant to this subsection
35 he shall be deemed for all purposes to be a member of the Board. The fact that any person so attends shall be sufficient evidence of his authority so to do.

(6) Except as expressly provided in this Act or in regulations under this Act, the Board may regulate
40 its procedure in such manner as it thinks fit.

Allowances and travelling-expenses of members.

6. (1) There may be paid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purpose to the members of the Board who are not officers in the service of the Crown such remuneration by way of fees or allowances as may from time to time be prescribed by regulations under this Act. 5

(2) There may be paid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purpose to the members of the Board such travelling expenses and allowances as may from time to time be prescribed by regulations under this Act. 10

Secretary of Board.

7. The Board may from time to time appoint an officer of the Department of Lands and Survey, to be nominated by the Surveyor-General, to be the Secretary of the Board. 15

Functions and Powers of Board

Functions of Board.

8. (1) The general functions of the Board shall be—
- (a) To adopt rules of orthography and nomenclature in respect of place-names in New Zealand;
 - (b) To examine cases of doubtful spelling of place-names in New Zealand, and determine the spelling to be adopted on official maps: 20
 - (c) To investigate and determine the priority of the discovery of any geographic feature:
 - (d) To collect original Maori place-names for recording on official maps: 25
 - (e) To determine what alien names, other than those of scientists or explorers of repute, appearing on official maps should be replaced by Maori or British names: 30
 - (f) Subject to the provisions of this Act, to investigate and determine any proposed alteration of a place-name:
 - (g) To make inquiries and recommendations on any matters referred to it by the Minister. 35
- (2) The Board shall have such other functions as are by this Act or any other Act imposed upon it.

9. (1) Notwithstanding anything in any other Act, but subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board may from time to time—

Board may assign or alter certain place-names.

- (a) Assign a name to any place in New Zealand:
- 5 (b) Alter the name of any place in New Zealand, whether by substituting another name therefor or by correcting the spelling thereof, and whether the name to be altered was first applied to the place before or after the
- 10 passing of this Act.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term "place" means—

- (a) Any town, village, village settlement, special settlement, goldfield or mining district, land area, or other district, place or locality whatsoever (not being a city, borough, county, town district, or road district, or a ward of a city or borough, or a riding or outlying district of a county, or a subdivision of a road district):
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- (b) Any railway or railway-station:
- (c) Any post-office:
- (d) Any mountain, peak, hill, pass, valley, glen, forest, lagoon, swamp, creek, stream, river,
- 20 ford, lake, bay, harbour, or other natural feature whatsoever.
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10. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board may from time to time, at the request or with the consent of the local authority of any city, borough, county, town district, or road district, to be signified to the Board by resolution of the local authority passed at any ordinary meeting thereof, alter the name of that city, borough, county, town district, or road district.

Board may alter name of borough, &c., with consent of local authority.

(2) Section twenty of the Road Boards Act, 1908, is hereby repealed.

Repeal.

See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, p. 290

11. (1) This section shall apply with respect to every city, borough, county, town district, road district, town, village, village settlement, or special settlement in New Zealand, whether existing at the passing of this Act or coming into existence at any time thereafter.

Two or more boroughs, &c., with similar names.

(2) No place to which this section applies shall bear a name identical with the name of any other place to which this section applies, or so similar to the name of that other place that it is likely to be mistaken therefor or confused therewith.

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(3) If the names of any two or more places to which this section applies are identical, or are in the opinion of the Board so similar that they are likely to be mistaken for or confused with one another, then, notwithstanding anything in section *ten* of this Act, the Board may by notice in writing require any local authority having jurisdiction over any such place, not being the place to which such identical or similar name was first applied, to submit for the approval of the Board a new name for the place in respect of which the notice is given.

(4) Subject to the provisions of sections *twelve* and *thirteen* of this Act, the Board may—

(a) Approve a name submitted for any place under the *last preceding* subsection, and alter the name accordingly; or

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(b) If in its opinion the name so submitted is so similar to the name of any other place that it is likely to be mistaken therefor or confused therewith, refuse to approve the name so submitted, and alter the name of the place as it thinks fit; or

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(c) If the local authority refuses or neglects to submit a new name within *three* months after the date of the notice requiring it to do so, alter the name of the place as it thinks fit.

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Notice of
intention to
assign or alter
name.

12. Whenever the Board proposes to assign or alter any name pursuant to this Act it shall cause to be published in the *Gazette* a notice of its intention so to do, specifying in the notice the proposed name or alteration. A copy of the notice so published shall, as soon as practicable after its publication, be displayed at every post-office in New Zealand and shall be kept so displayed until the expiration of a period of *three* months from the date of such publication as aforesaid.

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13. (1) Any person objecting to any such proposed name or alteration as aforesaid may at any time within the period of *three* months referred to in section *twelve* of this Act give to the Secretary of the Board notice
5 in writing of his objection, setting out the grounds of the objection.

Objection to proposed name or alteration.

(2) As soon as practicable after the expiration of the aforesaid period of *three* months the Board shall inquire into and dispose of all objections made pursuant to this section, and shall report in writing to the
10 Minister, setting out the grounds of the objections, and its decision thereon.

(3) The Minister, after such inquiry as he thinks fit, may confirm, modify, or reverse the decision of the
15 Board, and his decision shall be final.

14. If no objection is received by the Board within the aforesaid period of *three* months the Board's decision as to the proposed name or alteration shall be final.

If no objection, Board's decision to be final.

20 15. (1) The Board shall cause notice of the decision of the Minister in respect of the proposed name or alteration, or, if there has been no such objection as aforesaid, the decision of the Board thereon, to be published in the *Gazette*. A copy of the notice so
25 published shall, as soon as practicable thereafter, be displayed at every post-office in New Zealand and shall be kept so displayed until the expiration of a period of *three* months from the date of such publication as aforesaid.

Publication of final decision as to name or alteration.

30 (2) Every such decision as aforesaid shall take effect only on such date as may be specified in the notice, being a date not earlier than *six* months after the date of publication in the *Gazette*, under section *twelve* of this Act, of the notice of intention to assign
35 or alter the name.

(3) A copy of the *Gazette* containing any notice published pursuant to this section shall be conclusive evidence that the name or alteration to which the notice relates has been duly assigned or made on the date
40 specified in the notice.

Miscellaneous

Rights or obligations of local authority not affected.

16. No alteration of name pursuant to this Act shall affect any rights or obligations of any city, borough, county, town district, road district, town, or other district or place, or of any Council, Board, authority, or person, or render defective any legal proceedings; and any legal proceedings may be continued or commenced under the altered name.

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Previous decisions of Honorary Geographic Board not affected.

17. (1) All decisions made and approvals given before the passing of this Act by the Honorary Geographic Board of New Zealand and subsisting or in force at the passing of this Act shall enure for the purposes of this Act as fully and effectually as if they had been made and given as final decisions of the Board in accordance with this Act, and accordingly shall, where necessary, be deemed to have been so made and given.

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(2) The Board shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the passing of this Act, cause to be published in the *Gazette* a list of all place-names in New Zealand that have been approved by the Honorary Geographic Board of New Zealand as aforesaid. A copy of the *Gazette* containing the list shall, until the contrary is proved, be sufficient evidence that the names in the list are approved for the purposes of this Act.

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Names in maps, scientific manuscripts, or tourist publications.

18. (1) No person shall publish or cause to be published in any geographic or scientific manuscript or publication, or in any guide-book, handbook, pamphlet, road-map, or other publication intended for the use of travellers or tourists generally, or on any map in any such manuscript or publication as aforesaid, any name purporting to be the name of any place, locality, or natural feature in New Zealand to which any provision of this Act applies, unless the name appears on a map previously published by or under the direction or control of the Surveyor-General, or is a name assigned to or approved for that place, locality, or natural feature pursuant to this Act:

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Provided that nothing in this section shall apply with respect to the printing or publication as aforesaid of any name if it is stated in the manuscript or other publication or, as the case may require, on the map, that the name has not been approved by the Board.

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(2) Every person who acts in contravention of or fails to comply with the provisions of this section commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding *five* pounds.

5 **19.** (1) The Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council, make all such regulations as may in his opinion be necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act and for the due administration thereof. Regulations.

10 (2) Without limiting the general power hereinbefore conferred, it is hereby declared that regulations may be made under this section for all or any of the following purposes—

15 (a) Prescribing any forms or other documents required for the purposes of this Act:

 (b) Prescribing the form of and the method of keeping any records to be kept by the Board for the purposes of this Act:

 (c) Regulating the procedure of the Board:

20 (d) Providing such other matters as may be necessary for the efficient discharge by the Board of its duties and functions under this Act.

 (3) All regulations made under this section shall be laid before Parliament within fourteen days after the making thereof if Parliament is then in session, and, if not, then within fourteen days after the commencement of the next ensuing session.

25 **20.** (1) The Designation of Districts Act, 1908, and the Designation of Districts Amendment Act, 1909, are hereby repealed. Repeals and savings.
See Reprint of Statutes, Vol. V, pp. 519, 522

 (2) All Proclamations and generally all acts of authority that originated under any of the enactments hereby repealed and are subsisting or in force at the passing of this Act shall enure for the purposes of this Act as fully and effectually as if they had originated under this Act, and accordingly shall, where necessary, be deemed to have so originated.

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