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SCHOOL COMMITTEES ELECTION.

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A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to regulate the Election of School Committees.

Title.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make other provision in the matter of the election of School Committees :

Preamble.

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

1. The Short Title of this Act is "The School Committees Election Act, 1882."

Short Title.

10 2. The term "the said Act," wherever in this Act occurring, shall mean "The Education Act, 1877."

Interpretation.

3. Sections sixty-three, sixty-four, sixty-five, sixty-six, sixty-seven, and sixty-eight of the said Act are hereby repealed.

Repeal.

15 4. The Board of every educational district shall, not later than the twentieth day of the month of November in every year, publicly notify, in manner pre-

Nominations.

scribed by section four of the said Act, the times and places appointed for the annual meetings of householders by the next succeeding section of this Act

required to be held, and shall call upon the householders entitled to vote to send to the Chairmen of the respective School Committees written nominations of

persons qualified in accordance with the provisions of section fifty-eight of the said Act to be elected members of the School Committee; and all or any of the

members of any Committee going out of office shall be eligible for re-election. Such nominations shall be signed by the proposer and seconder of the candidate,

and by the candidate himself, and shall be in the form of the Schedule to this Act or to the general effect thereof, and shall be sent to the Chairman of the

25 School Committee, so that he may receive the same not later than the fifth day of the said month of December.

Nominations to be published.

5. So soon as possible after the said fifth day of December such Chairman shall cause a list of the nominations to be displayed conspicuously on the outer door of the main entrance of every schoolhouse within the school district, and shall also cause the same to be published once, at the cost of the Board, in some one newspaper having general circulation in the school district concerned.

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Elections by ballot at public meeting.

6. On the twentieth day of the month of December, or if that date fall upon a Sunday or Saturday, then on the Friday next preceding, a public meeting of the householders in every school district shall be held at the time and place appointed by the Board, as in section *four* of this Act provided. At such meeting a Chairman shall be chosen, and the Committee for the preceding year shall give a full report of its proceedings, and thereupon the election of a Committee for the ensuing year shall be proceeded with.

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If seven persons, and no more, shall have been nominated as hereinbefore provided, they shall be declared by the Chairman to be duly elected as the Committee for the year.

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If three or more persons, but less than seven, shall have been so nominated, they shall be declared duly elected as members of the Committee, and shall proceed at their first meeting to fill up the vacant seats on the Committee under the powers conferred by this section and section *eight* of this Act.

If less than three persons shall have been nominated, the election shall be held to have lapsed, and the Board may take such action as it may see fit under the provisions of sections *twelve* and *thirteen* of this Act.

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If more than seven persons shall have been nominated, a ballot shall be taken, and the seven persons who shall receive the largest number of votes shall be the School Committee for the ensuing year.

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Provided always that no person may vote for more than seven candidates, nor record more than one vote for any one candidate.

Casting vote of Chairman.

7. In the case of a tie between any two or more candidates, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

Duration of office of Committee.

8. Every Committee shall hold office until the appointment of its successors, and if any vacancy shall occur by death, resignation, or otherwise than by effluxion of time, the remaining members of the Committee shall elect a qualified person or persons to fill such vacancy.

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Disqualification.

9. If a member of a School Committee be absent during three consecutive months from all meetings of the Committee, except from temporary illness or other cause to be approved by the Committee, such person shall cease to be a member of the Committee, and his or her office shall thereupon be vacant.

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Vacancies.

10. If by any means the number of members of a School Committee be reduced to less than the number required for a quorum, or if five or more members of any Committee shall signify to the Education Board their desire to be relieved from office, the Board may declare their seats vacant, and may direct an election to be held to fill up the vacancies; and the proceedings in connection with such election shall be the same as in the case of an annual election.

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Settlement of disputes respecting validity of proceedings.

11. If any dispute shall arise respecting the validity of the proceedings at the annual or other election of a member or members of any Committee, the matter in dispute shall be submitted to the judgment of the Board of the district, whose decision therein shall be final and conclusive.

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Provision if election not carried out at appointed time.

12. If in any case the householders in any school district shall, from any cause whatever, fail to carry out any annual or other election at the date appointed for the same, it shall be lawful for the Board, if it shall see fit, to fix another day for such election, and the same notice shall be given and the same proceedings taken thereat as are prescribed in sections *four* to *seven*, inclusive, of this Act.

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13. If after such last-mentioned meeting the householders neglect or refuse to elect a Committee, or, without such meeting having been held, the Board may, if it shall see fit, appoint a Commissioner for the purposes hereinafter mentioned.

In case of neglect or refusal, Commissioner appointed.

5 14. The Commissioner so appointed shall exercise all powers and duties by this Act imposed and conferred on Committees of school districts at any time after he shall have assumed the place and duties of the Committee as aforesaid; and a salary to be paid to the Commissioner shall be fixed by the Board, if it shall see fit, and shall be paid out of any moneys available for distribution in the school district for or to which such Commissioner is appointed.

Duties of Commissioner.

10 But such Commissioner shall only hold office from the date of appointment to the twentieth day of the month of December next ensuing, and he shall be guided in the performance of his duties by instructions to be given him by the Board from time to time.

15 The power to appoint a Commissioner shall include a power to appoint more than one Commissioner, if the Board see fit, and the foregoing provision shall take effect accordingly,

SCHEDULE.

Schedule.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTION.

District of

We, the undersigned, respectively propose and second [*Candidate's name in full*] for election as a member of the School Committee for the District of [*Name of district*].

A.B., Proposer.

C.D., Secunder.

I hereby consent to the above nomination.

E.F., Candidate.

Dated this day of , 188 .