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This PUBLIC BILL originated in the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, and, having this day passed as now printed, is transmitted to the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for its concurrence.

House of Representatives,

15th October, 1920.

Right Hon. Mr. Massey.

STATUTES DRAFTING AND COMPILATION.

ANALYSIS.

Title.	
1. Short Title.	5. Duties of officers of Compilation Department.
2. Law Drafting Office established.	6. Law Draftsman. Compiler of Statutes.
3. Bill Drafting Department and Compilation Department.	7. Salaries.
4. Duties of officers of Bill Drafting Department.	8. Repeals. Schedule.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to provide for the Establishment of a Law Drafting Office, and for the Appointment of a Law Draftsman and of a Compiler of Statutes. Title.

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Statutes Drafting and Compilation Act, 1920. Short Title.

10 2. (1.) There shall be an office of Parliament to be called the Law Drafting Office. Law Drafting Office established.

(2.) The Law Drafting Office shall be under the control of the Attorney-General. If during any period there shall be no Minister of the Crown who is Attorney-General, the office shall during such

15 period be under the control of the Prime Minister.

3. There shall be two Departments of the Law Drafting Office—namely, the Bill Drafting Department and the Compilation Department. Bill Drafting Department and Compilation Department.

20 4. (1.) The duties of the officers of the Bill Drafting Department shall be— Duties of officers of Bill Drafting Department.

25 (a.) To draft such Government Bills as the Ministers of the Crown may direct to be prepared for the consideration of Parliament, and such amendments of such drafts as may from time to time be required by Ministers of the Crown during the passage of such Bills in Parliament :

(b.) To supervise the printing of such Bills and amendments :

(c.) To examine all local Bills and to report to the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General whether and to what

extent the provisions of any local Bill affect the rights of the Crown or of the public, or repeal, extend, or amend the provisions of any public statute, and generally as to the form and effect of each local Bill :

(d.) If and when so directed by the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General, to report as to the form and effect of any Bills other than local Bills introduced by private members into either House of Parliament : **5**

(e.) Such other duties relating to the drafting and preparation of statutes and regulations to be made under the authority of statutes as the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General may from time to time assign to be performed by the Bill Drafting Department. **10**

(2.) In addition to the duties hereinbefore referred to the Law Draftsman shall, if and when so directed by the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General upon the request of a local authority, revise any local Bill proposed to be promoted by such local authority. **15**

(3.) In respect of such revision by the Law Draftsman of any local Bill there shall be payable by the local authority such fees as may be fixed by the Governor-General in Council. **20**

(4.) All fees under this section shall be paid into the Public Account and form part of the Consolidated Fund.

5. The duties of the officers of the Compilation Department shall be—

(a.) As and when directed by the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General, to compile, with their amendments, statutes, amendments whereof have been enacted, and to supervise the printing of such compilations : **25**

(b.) To report to the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General upon verbal or technical alterations of language which may be adopted for the purpose and in the course of any compilation : **30**

(c.) To consider the language and effect of the statutes, compilation whereof is directed, and to state for the consideration of the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General suggestions or proposals for the alteration of the law enacted by such statutes, or for the extension or limitation of the effect of such statutes, or for amendment of the wording of any such statute : **35**

(d.) Such other duties relating to the compilation of statutes and the amendment or extension or limitation of the effect of statutes enacted by Parliament as the Prime Minister or the Attorney-General may from time to time assign to be performed by the Compilation Department. **40**

6. (1.) The Chief Officer of the Bill Drafting Department shall be called the Law Draftsman. There shall also be appointed one or more Assistant Law Draftsmen. The Law Draftsman and his assistant or assistants shall be principal officers of the Law Drafting Office. **45**

(2.) The Chief Officer of the Compilation Department shall be called the Compiler of Statutes, and shall be a principal officer of the Law Drafting Office. **50**

Duties of officers of
Compilation
Department.

Law Draftsman.

Compiler of
Statutes.

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(3.) The principal officers of the Law Drafting Office shall be appointed by the Governor-General upon the advice of the Prime Minister, and shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor-General.

5 (4.) The staff of the Law Drafting Office other than the principal officers shall be appointed by the Speakers of both Houses of Parliament upon the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

(5.) The officers at present holding the offices of Law Draftsman and Assistant Law Draftsman shall be the first principal officers of 10 the Bill Drafting Department.

7. There shall be paid to the principal officers and to the staff Salaries. of the Law Drafting Office such salaries as shall be appropriated by Parliament.

8. The enactments mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are 15 hereby repealed. Repeals.

SCHEDULE.

Schedule.

- 1895, No. 24.—The Reprint of Statutes Act, 1895.
- 1908, No. 186.—The Statutes Compilation Act, 1908.
- 1913, No. 9.—The Amendments Incorporation Act, 1913.
- 1915, No. 6.—The Statutes Compilation Amendment Act, 1915.