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[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1915.

A BILL

To provide for the education of the deaf and the blind.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the “ Education (Deaf and Blind Children) Act, 1915.”

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2.

2. In this Act—

- “Deaf” means incapable, because of defective hearing, of learning in an ordinary class. Interpretation.
- “Blind” means incapable, because of defective sight, of reading the school books ordinarily used by children.
- “Minister” means the Minister of Public Instruction.

Efficient schools and attendance.

3. (1) The Minister may certify any school, not being a school conducted for private profit, to be efficient for the purposes of this Act. Certification of efficient schools.

(2) Such certificate shall remain in force, subject to the provisions of the next following section, for one year from the date on which it was granted, and may be renewed in the manner prescribed.

(3) Where a school is certified to be efficient, the Minister shall so notify in the Gazette.

4. An inspector of schools or other person duly authorised by the Minister shall, when directed by the Minister, inspect any efficient school. If, on the report of such inspection, the Minister is satisfied that the school has ceased to be efficient for the purposes of this Act, he shall so notify in the Gazette and cancel the certificate, and the school shall thereupon cease to be an efficient school. Inspection of such schools and cancellation of certificates.

5. (1) The parent or guardian of any deaf or blind child between the ages of seven and fourteen years shall provide for the elementary education of the said child, either by efficient private tuition, or by placing and keeping it in an efficient school for the deaf or the blind. Duty of parents or guardians as to children who are deaf or blind. cf. 56 and 57 Vic., c. 42, s. 1.

(2) Any parent or guardian who fails to provide for such education in the case of any child shall, unless the child is exempted under the provisions of the next succeeding section, be liable to a penalty not exceeding *forty* shillings for the first offence and not exceeding *five* pounds for any subsequent offence. Penalty.

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6. Any child found by the medical officer attending any school to be suffering from a loathsome, contagious, or infectious disease, or mental incapacity, and any child of such immoral conduct as may be dangerous to other inmates, shall not be allowed to enter, or, if entered, to remain in a school certified for the purpose of this Act. Exemptions.

Fees.

7. The parent or guardian of a child shall pay to the authorities of the school in which it is being taught such amount of fees as may be mutually agreed upon by the said authorities and by the said parent or guardian, or, if a State child as defined in the State Children Relief Act, 1901, by the Minister, or, if the parties fail to agree, as may, on the application of either party, be settled by any two justices in petty sessions. The amount of any fees so agreed on or settled may, without prejudice to any other remedy, be recovered by the authorities of the school summarily as a debt. School fees. 56 and 57 Vic., c. 42, s. 9.

Any sum received by the authorities of a school under this section may be applied in aid of the general expenses of the said school.

The settlement of any amount of fees under this section may be revoked or varied by any two justices in petty sessions.

8. Children whose parents or guardians are unable to pay any fee shall be received by the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, and provided with education, maintenance, and clothing free, on an order signed by the Minister. Free pupils.

Miscellaneous.

9. Where a child, in pursuance of this Act, attends any certified school, it shall not be compelled to receive religious instruction contrary to the written wishes of the parent; and every child shall, so far as practicable, have facilities for receiving religious instruction and attending religious services conducted in accordance with the parent's religion, which shall be duly registered on the child's admission to the school. Provisions as to religious instructions. Ibid. s. 8.

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10. The Minister shall annually lay before both Houses of Parliament a report relating to matters under this Act, and in that report shall give a list of the schools to which he has granted or refused certificates of efficiency under this Act during the next preceding year, with his reasons for any such refusal.

Report to be laid before Parliament. 56 and 57 Vic., c. 42, s. 14.

11. The Governor may make regulations prescribing all forms, and generally for carrying out the provisions of this Act, and in such regulations may impose a penalty not exceeding *ten* pounds for any breach thereof.

Regulations.

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