

No. , 1919.

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 Legis-
lative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South
Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of
5 the same, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the “ Education (Deaf Short title.
and Blind Children) Act, 1919.”

Inter-
pretation.**2.** In this Act—

“Deaf” means incapable, because of defective hearing, of learning in an ordinary class.

“Blind” means incapable, because of defective sight, of reading the school books ordinarily used by children. **5**

“Minister” means the Minister of Public Instruction.

*Efficient schools and attendance.*Certification
of efficient
schools.

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. **10**

(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. **15**

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

Inspection of
such schools
and cancella-
tion of
certificates.

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. **20**

Duty of parents
or guardians as
to children who
are deaf or
blind.
cf. 56 and 57
Vic., c. 42, s. 1.

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. **30**

Penalty.

(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. **35**

6.

6. Any child found by the medical officer attending Exemptions.
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
5 inmates, shall not be allowed to enter, or, if entered, to
remain in a school certified for the purpose of this Act.

Fees.

7. The parent or guardian of a child shall pay to the School fees.
authorities of the school in which it is being taught 56 and 57
10 such amount of fees as may be mutually agreed upon by Vic., c. 42,
the said authorities and by the said parent or guardian, s. 9.
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
15 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.

Any sum received by the authorities of a school under
20 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.

25 8. Children whose parents or guardians are unable Free pupils.
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.

30

Miscellaneous.

9. Where a child, in pursuance of this Act, attends Provisions as
any certified school, it shall not be compelled to receive to religious
religious instruction contrary to the written wishes of instructions.
the parent; and every child shall, so far as practicable, Ibid. s. 8.
35 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.

10.

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

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. **5**

Regulations.

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. **10**
