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[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1916.

A BILL

To submit the question of the abolition of the Legislative Council to a referendum ; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto.

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 "Legislative Council Abolition Referendum Act, 1916."

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967—(2)

2.

2. On the day to be fixed for the taking of the poll at the General Parliamentary Election held next after the commencement of this Act, a vote shall be taken on the question of the abolition of the Legislative Council.

3. Each person qualified to vote at such general election may vote under this Act.

Sections ninety-seven and ninety-eight and sections one hundred and fifteen to one hundred and twenty inclusive of the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the voting under this Act.

4. The following provisions shall apply to the taking of a vote under this Act :—

- (a) The returning officer or deputy returning officer presiding at a polling-booth for the purposes of such general election shall preside at such booth for the taking of the vote under this Act.
- (b) The voting-paper shall be in the form of the Schedule to this Act.
- (c) The manner of voting shall be similar to that followed in the general election.
- (d) The votes shall be placed in a separate box.
- (e) The officer presiding at the polling-booth shall, in the presence of the poll-clerks (if any), count the votes therein given for and against the abolition of the Legislative Council, and shall inform the returning officer of the electoral district as to the result of his count, and forward to him all voting-papers in his possession, and such other documents as may be prescribed by regulations under this Act.
- (f) A voting-paper shall be invalid if not endorsed with the initials of the officer presiding at the polling-booth, or if a cross is not placed in a square in the voting-paper, or if a cross is placed in each square in the voting-paper.
- (g) Sections one hundred and eleven, one hundred and twelve, one hundred and fourteen, one hundred and thirty, one hundred and thirty-five, one hundred and thirty-six, and one hundred and forty-seven of the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912, shall, mutatis mutandis, apply to the taking of the vote.

5.

5. The returning officer of each electoral district shall inform the Chief Electoral Officer of the result of the count of the votes given by persons qualified to vote at the general election for a member for such district, and shall forward to him all the voting-papers and the documents relating to the voting which are in his possession.

6. The Chief Electoral Officer shall add together the numbers of votes respectively for and against the abolition of the Legislative Council as communicated to him by the returning officers for all the electoral districts, and shall publish the result in the Gazette.

7. (1) The Governor may make such regulations as he may think necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, and in particular—

- regulating the printing and supplying of voting-papers ;
- providing for the disposal of the voting-papers and documents relating to the voting ;
- prescribing the duties of officers ; and
- prescribing the forms to be used, including the necessary modification of forms prescribed in the Parliamentary Electorates and Elections Act, 1912, or any regulations thereunder.

The Governor may in those regulations impose any penalty not exceeding *fifty* pounds for their breach.

Such regulations shall be published in the Gazette and laid before both Houses of Parliament within seven days after such publication if Parliament is then sitting ; but, if Parliament is not sitting, then within seven days after the next meeting of Parliament.

(2) Any penalty so imposed may be recovered before a stipendiary or police magistrate, or any two justices in petty sessions.

Legislative Council Abolition Referendum.

SCHEDULE.

VOTING PAPER UNDER THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ABOLITION
REFERENDUM ACT, 1916.

*[Are you in favour of the abolition of the Legislative Council of New
South Wales?]*

	YES.
	NO.

If you are in favour of the abolition of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, place a cross in the square opposite to the word "Yes."

If you are not in favour of the abolition of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, place a cross in the square opposite to the word "No."

